CJ Nowacek

Technical Artist & Pipeline Developer

Cleveland Heights, Ohio (216) 469 0959 ☑ cj.nowacek@gmail.com cjnowacek.com Cjnowacek

Professional Summary

Technical Artist specializing in workflow optimization, asset pipelines, and automation for AAA game development. Proven efficiency gains, cross-department collaboration, and expertise in Python, MaxScript, and Maya API.

Technical Skills

Programming

Python (Maya API, PyQt), MEL Script, MaxScript, Git, Bash, Perforce, CI/CD

3D & Engines

Maya, 3ds Max, Unreal Engine 5, Unity, Substance Painter

Specializations

Character Rigging, Asset Pipeline Development, Workflow Automation

Professional Experience

Mar-Apr 2025

Technical Artist (Contract), Anuttacon via GoDemic, Remote

- O Developed automated asset tools with iterative feedback integration
- O Designed optimized asset development pipelines enhancing efficiency

Nov 2024-Mar 2025

Technical Animator (Contract), Hi-Rez Studios, Alpharetta, GA

- O Ported and reworked characters for Smite 2 in Unreal Engine 5
- Developed Python and MaxScript tools for automatic asset setups in UE5 pipeline

Aug 2023-Oct

Associate Rigging Artist, Hi-Rez Studios, Alpharetta, GA

2024

- Ported characters and cosmetics from UE3 to UE5 for Smite 2 production
- O Developed MaxScript scripts reducing asset processing time by 25%
- o Cross-departmental collaboration (Animation, Design, QA) for milestone delivery
- O Rigged new playable characters and troubleshot complex rig problems

Aug 2022–May 2023

Rigging Intern, Hi-Rez Studios, Alpharetta, GA

- Weight painted cosmetic assets to AAA production standards under tight schedules
- O Developed workflow optimization scripts for common rigging tasks

Education

May 2023

BFA, Animation and Game Design, Cleveland Institute of Art, Cleveland, OH

Senior Project: Automated Rigging System for Game Characters

Key Achievements & Impact

Smite 2 Migration Pipeline, Hi-Rez Studios

Automated rig conversion reducing manual work by 60%. Python tools for batch processing 100+ character assets with cross-platform compatibility testing.

Impact: 25% time reduction, 40% bug reduction in asset processing.

Automated Rigging Toolkit, Internal Development

GUI-driven rig generation system with template-based approach. 25% reduction in rigging time across projects through Maya API integration.

Impact: Improved consistency and reduced repetitive rigging tasks by 60%.

CI/CD Asset Pipeline, Anuttacon Contract

Jenkins-based automation for asset validation with multi-platform build support. 99% success rate for zero-downtime deployments.

Impact: 30% throughput improvement with CI/CD; reduced manual QA time by 40%.