

## Zirao “Zero” Zhang

Mobile: +1 626-861-7642 Email: zzhang4@afi.edu  
Address: 4610 Natick Ave Apt 216, Sherman Oaks, CA 91403

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Dear Disney Hiring Manager,

It's my honor to write this letter to you, applying for the art intern (summer 2021) in Pixar Art Department! My name is Zirao Zhang, my friends in US call me Zero. I'm currently a second-year fellow in American Film Institute, expecting my MFA degree in production design upon graduation in 2021. Before coming to the US, I hold an bachelor's degree in Architecture from Zhejiang University in China. As you might already see, I'm interested in spending my summer with the Set Design discipline within the Pixar Art Department.

During my undergraduate period, I had the opportunities to study in Aalto University in Finland, Westminster University in UK, and Cornell University, exploring architecture design under different cultural background. I also worked for CallisonRTKL Architectural Design Consulting Co., Ltd as a commercial space designer. At the same time, I also worked for Heibai, a local drama troupe as a scenic designer on ORPHAN OF ZHAO, TWELFTH NIGHT, THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO and many other shows. From both architecture and scenic design experiences, I found myself always interested in imagining how the environment where the story takes place should look like and how it could resonate with the story. That's why I came to AFI, the world-wide top ranking film school, to learn the essence of visual storytelling and honing my skills, preparing for a professional path into the industry.

I have a solid amount of knowledge and skill set of computer modeling and rendering from my 5-year architecture study, also knowing the drawing techniques from over 7 years of Photoshop and fine art painting experiences. So far, I've been working on 10 short films as the production designer or the art director and several personal projects creating environment concept art. I'm always enthusiastic about working collaboratively and contributing to the team, it makes me feel accomplished and satisfied.

Growing up watching Disney and Pixar, It would be a dream-come-true to work for you in the Art Department, the professional field that I'm determined to devote my life to.

Thank you for your time and consideration! I'm looking forward to hearing back from you.

All the Best,  
Zero

02/14/2021

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## Works

<b>Intern Architect</b>	Commercial Group, CallisonRTKL Beijing Office			Jul.2018-Sep.2018
	-Participated in the investigation and concept design of two shopping centres			
	-Designed retail scenes for island shop areas in the shopping mall			
<b>Production Design (Films)</b>				Aug.2019-present
	Shabby Hotel Suite	Man in Blue	Sleepwalker	
	The Last Dance	Who’s Lily Chen	A Band of One	
	Blink			
<b>Art Direction</b>				Aug.2019-present
	Mother Surrender			
	Home			
<b>Design Projects</b>				Aug.2019-present
	Broken-Down_Concept Art			
	All That Jazz_Concept Art			
	Folding Beijing_Concept Art			
	The Illusionist_Concept Art			

## Skills

Cinematic Research / Mood Board / Lookbook / Concept Art / Set Design / Set Dressing  
(Softwares: Blender / Rhinocero / Photoshop / Sketchup / Vectorworks / Illustrator / Indesign)

## Awards

### Academic

2017 Art Specialized Scholarship of Zhejiang University  
2018 Student Membership of Architectural Society of China (4/82)

### Theatrical

2016 First Prize (25/102), Drama Group, University Students Art Festival, Zhejiang Province  
2017 First Prize (2/75), Drama Group, University Students Art Festival, Zhejiang Province

## Education

<b>American Film Institute</b> Production Design   Los Angeles, USA	Aug.2019-Present
Major: Production Design (MFA) Courses: Set Design and Art Direction: Craft and Practice in the Art Department, Production Design: From Script to Screen, Fundamentals of Visual Storytelling, Introduction to Set Sketching	
<b>Aalto University</b> School of Arts, Design and Architecture   Espoo, Finland	Sep.2017-Jan.2018
Major: Architecture Courses: Housing in Urban Context-Housing Design, Spatial Design-Design of Structures Independent Study, UWAS Currents	
<b>Design Workshop (Aalto University) in Cooperation with Westminster University</b>   London, UK	Oct.2017
-Researched into the planning of the area of Mount Pleasant, considering geography, transportation, people, culture and other issues -Mapped all the information within a 3m*3m city map	
<b>Design Joint Studio (Zhejiang University) with Cornell University</b>   Ithaca, US	Apr.2018-Jun.2018
-Investigated future learning environment with the Department of Design and Environmental Analysis of Cornell University students -Designed a urban area featuring combination of educational buildings and landscape with ZJU and Cornell group	
<b>Zhejiang University</b> College of Civil Engineering and Architecture   Hangzhou, China	Sep.2014-Jun.2019
Major: Architecture (BA) Courses: Descriptive Geometry, Art, Architecture Design, Architectural Rendering, History of Western&Chinese Architecture, Art Practice, Architecture Art, Computer Aided Architecture Design, Basic Architectural Model	

## Activities

<b>Heibai Drama Society (Official Troupe) of Zhejiang University</b>   Hangzhou, Zhejiang	Oct.2014-Jul.2019
-Engaged in theatre in various ways, as actress, producer, script holder, prop master, scenic designer and photographer -Performed with the crew of <i>In Pursuit of Truth</i> in other cities (Xian, Chongqing, Beijing) -Assisted the head of the society with scenic design and costume design of <i>Orphan of Zhao</i> and <i>Twelfth Night</i> -Assisted the director of <i>the opening video for the 5th World Internet Conference</i> with costume design and played a role in it	
<b>Personal Scenic Design</b>   China, Europe and US	Oct.2014-present
-Designed scenes (unrealized) for plays and operas independently	