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Dear Disney Internship Hiring Manager,

As an artist, I often ask myself how to unite my passion for storytelling with my skills as an artist into a professional career. Perhaps there is no better place to look than revisiting the Disney films I have watched in childhood. My name is Grace Dixon and I expect to graduate with a BFA in Animation/Illustration, with a dual major in Art History from the State University of New York at Fredonia in May 2023. I offer my talent, enthusiasm, and positive attitude to the Walt Disney Animation Studios for the CGI animation internship.

Emotion is essential when constructing a convincing narrative. As an artist, this is most important when giving characters the right expressions to convey. I didn't truly understand the importance of this point until I was on stage performing the fictional characters myself. In high school, I took part in musical theatre productions, most recently as Belle in *Beauty and the Beast* for my senior year. *Beauty and the Beast* is what got me interested in the animation field: how did it all work? How did they make these 2D drawings so believable? It wasn't until I performed the character onstage myself that I realized these ideals: you have to *believe* what you are saying to have the audience believe it is real. As I entered college, I took this lesson into my works of art; if I manipulated my drawings and animations to illustrate certain emotions that effect would stick with the viewers. With practice and confidence, I learned to convey these emotions: mischievous in my Exquisite Corpse assignment, haunting in my Stop Motion, and mysterious in my debut album "Zatrikion". Those emotional responses drove me to improve my artmaking skills, and even more so, my determination to become part of Disney's future.

These ideals of storytelling solidified my determination of achieving my goals, and for that I have enthusiastically developed myself to become a well-rounded artist. I have gained experience from working on a team, taking on commissions, giving back to the community and further exercising my artistic abilities. As a Disney College Program alum, I interacted with multiple Disney Fine Artists, seeking their advice on my creative career while upholding courtesy, safety, and satisfaction as a cast member. Being a part of the program amplified my passion for magic making and bringing joy to others, which only made future career goals stronger. I am proficient in multiple Adobe softwares, including After Effects, Premiere Pro and Photoshop, for which I have used to create on-air graphics and posters for the local Fredonia TV station, WNYF, as well as building experience in Maya when creating 3D models, rigs, and walk cycles. Most recently I took part as a participant in *24 HOURS, animation contest for students*, sponsored by the Walt Disney Animation Studios. My team from Fredonia submitted the animated short *Golden* for which I discovered the effort required when working as a team, and the physically demanding aspects of animation.

Incorporating my skills into Disney's message of visual storytelling and seeing the magic in everyday scenarios would be more than a dream come true; fueling my passion of storytelling and artmaking to a company known for its visual masterpieces, innovative design, diverse community and telling wonderful stories would make my artistic career all more worth the hard work I've been doing for the past decade.

Just like Belle, I hope to "find my adventure in the great wide somewhere" with the Walt Disney Company once again. For a more detailed illustration of my background, qualifications, and many experiences as a young artist, please refer to my enclosed resume and visit my portfolio website: <https://theartofgracie.weebly.com/>.

I look forward to hearing from you soon and possibly being part of Disney's incredible community. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Grace Dixon

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