

# PORTFOLIO REFLECTION

*My overall capstone experience here at SNHU reflects over a decade's worth of work, experience, failure, learning, and most of all love for the craft. I am a student of the world whose language happens to be in the arts and the last four years have empowered me to be bold and strong, knowing that I can accomplish great things just as I have achieved the Bachelor's degree I will receive upon the completion of this course. Looking back over the pieces I've produced and the skills I have learned over the last four years, I have set a rhythm and pace for myself that I believe will be the foundation of my future success as a professional animator and designer.*

*This graphic design portfolio class has been one of the most fulfilling and important to me on my journey as a student and an artist. It has given me the insight and recognition of self that I feel will be incredibly important in cutting my own path and developing my own style within an industry that can be cutthroat and competitive. I have come to believe that the portfolio is critical to an artist's success, not only because it showcases their best works, but also because it is a chance for artists of any discipline to tell their story and sell themselves in a way we aren't often given the time, space, or agency to do so. I have become enamored with the process of creating annotations and truly thinking deeper past the completion of a project to how I am able to use these pieces and elements to present and pitch my future works and projects.*

*My academic programs between the two institutions of Bergen Community College where I completed my Associate's degree in Science, and Southern New Hampshire University, my current place of study have been a patchwork of foundational skills over a wide range of disciplines that ultimately help me to not only to realistically complete the projects I have running around in my head and my heart but also to seek gainful employment in a field where I am passionate. I have enjoyed learning about the masters of painting, animation, graphic design and so many other areas of art and hearing their stories and how their own portfolios and capstone experiences went on to change their lives.*

*Feedback has been paramount to any success I've had as an artist, whether doing freelance work for a client or personal projects as a student. Working in a vacuum without input or feedback from the objective observer just makes that work that much harder to do because you only have the benefit of your own perspective and you may eventually miss a crucial component because you don't have that specific piece of insight. Reasons like these are why collaboration has always been at the core of any creative endeavor I've ever undertaken, art is better when you make it together.*

*I believe the greatest common denominator between all the classes I've taken in the last four years is the importance stressed upon good habits and organization. I have always found it calming to work within a well-organized system, whether it be a screen printing shop with a well-organized inventory or a well-coached basketball team, I feel a good workflow and good communication are key to executing any project successfully. This is the key element I want to bring to every project I work on and one that will further enhance the hard-working mentality, creativity, respect, and energy I feel already bring to the table.*

*As this adventure to go back to college and get my degree had started, the goal was to actualize something I have had in my head and in my heart for over a decade now, to learn the skills necessary to start an animation studio based on the East coast of the USA. Siempre began as a way to creatively showcase my personal brand of imagination but soon snowballed into a vehicle for growth and empowerment for all my fellow artists. This idea has rooted itself in me and has dictated a lot of how I have grown these past few years and I took that energy into this portfolio. Siempre means always in Spanish and is often expressed as "para siempre" meaning forever. I chose this name ultimately because as an Afro-Dominican I have always felt the stories from my culture are often ignored in mainstream art and media and I wanted to build something that shed light on all underrepresented artists and their respective stories. My personal belief is that everything can be art with the right perspective and I wanted this body of work to be the first step of many that expresses the power that we all have to reframe how we see the world and how we make art out of it.*

**ALBERTO BERROA JR**