

# Alec Chechik

## Achievement Award

### Freestyle Academy

#### May 2021



<https://freestyleacademy.rocks/~AlecC/>

It is a great pleasure to announce Alec Chechik as the recipient of the Award for Advancement for 2020-2021 at Freestyle Academy.

Alec has been an incredible student, his maturity and positivity help my class get a broader perspective and deeper peer feedback away from traditional and digital arts in our animation projects. Alec always brings a smile to the class and tries to help his peers. I have seen his commitment and perseverance have been awe inspiring. He has shown a great sense of color and composition with great drawing, painting skills and also he is excellent at learning digital art applications, such as Adobe suite and many other 3d essential applications like Maya, Zbrush, Substance Painter and more. Especially with Autodesk Maya and Zbrush, he did a wonderful job creating fine detailed 3d characters and amazing animation. I am very proud that he is the recipient of the Award for Advancement for 2020-2021 at Freestyle Academy.

~Tommy B Cho, MFA, Animation Instructor

Alec's growth in these unprecedented times has been tremendous. In the past few months, his project work has blossomed to be quite stunning. His work may become models for future students, especially his [Narrative 2 projects](#). His skills have truly improved since joining in 2019. Alec was the obvious choice for this award.

~Leo Florendo, Program Coordinator and Digital Media Instructor

Alec Chechik is a courageous and dedicated Freestyle student who has grown considerably over the last two years. Since Alec joined our English class at the start of his Junior year, he has worked hard to improve as a writer and digital communicator. In addition, it has been a pleasure to see him become an increasingly outspoken participant in our class discussions, especially as we shifted to distance learning. This year, I have been able to rely on him consistently as a leader in Zoom breakout sessions, where he gracefully commands the respect and cooperation of his peers through his creativity, sense of humor, compassion, and sincerity. Furthermore, he has shown great courage in speaking and writing about issues of gender identity; indeed, several of his first semester essays explore the experience of coming out and coming to terms with being a trans person. His personal essays convey an impressive level of emotional honesty, punctuated by moments of humor and intellectual insight. Alec's writing often illustrates vulnerability as a sign of personal strength. In his lyrical essay, he experimented with an unconventional essay topic (the Furby), turning it into an extended metaphor for gender fluidity and a call to respect and celebrate diverse bodies. A playfully intellectual effort, the essay completes its message through footnotes that feature both research source citations and creative commentary on the main text. Earlier this semester, Alec continued to take risks in his project work when he collaborated with a classmate to create a funny and well-researched podcast parodying popular ASMR programs. His intellectual sense of humor has also found fertile ground in our most recent discussions of Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Eugene Ionesco's *Rhinoceros*, and other forms of satire. Alec is the quintessential Freestyle student who constantly seeks personal growth by immersing himself in every project and in every opportunity to engage in our creative community.

~Jason Greco, English Instructor