

**Ariel Baron-Robbins**

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Department of Art + Art History  
Florida International University

Dear Members of the Search Committee,

I am writing to apply for the Tenure Track Assistant Professor of Animation position within the Department of Art + Art History at Florida International University. Having served as a Visiting Assistant Teaching Professor at FIU from 2023 to 2026, I have developed a deep investment in this institution's student body and its trajectory within the Miami art community. I hold an MFA in Interdisciplinary Studies from the University of South Florida and a BFA in Painting and Drawing from the University of Mississippi.

With fifteen years of teaching experience, I offer a pedagogical approach that empowers a diverse student body to master art-making fundamentals while navigating the rapidly changing landscape of contemporary art. I ensure students understand how to research precedents, maintain professional submission standards, and teach themselves in an era of constant software and hardware evolution. FIU students are uniquely positioned in a global art hub, and I actively leverage our proximity to major museums and the international art events that transform Miami each December.

My research has reached a significant level of international visibility. My primary project, Loop Art Critique (Loop), is a long-duration artwork conceived as a spatial internet gesamtkunstwerk. Founded in 2022, Loop evolved into a global interdisciplinary metaverse and was inducted into the Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami Art + Research Center in 2025. In 2026, I received the Knight Foundation Tech + Expansion grant to further develop Loop as a tech-inclusive, multilingual space for global critique. This project connects over 200 artists, curators, and scholars to the FIU academic environment. If hired in a tenure-track role, I plan to create a customized version of this digital space for FIU students to support interdisciplinary collaborations and virtual exhibitions.

My commitment to the Miami art ecosystem informs my teaching and service. As a member of the Board of Trustees at ICA Miami, and through mentorship with Kathryn Mikesell of Fountainhead Studios, as well as collaborations with the MUD Foundation and

Locust Projects, I provide students with direct access to key institutions. A recent example is the six-week partnership I initiated with Locust Projects, where advanced animation students relocated their studio practice into the exhibition space, culminating in a public presentation of VR and AR animation works during Emerge week. The event featured music selected by FIU Music Professor Jacob Sudol, a longstanding pedagogical collaborator.

Despite a high teaching load during my visiting years, I have maintained active research and service. I have curated four years of exhibitions as Curator of the Lynn NFT Art Museum and chaired panels with major figures in digital art. A tenure-track position would provide the stability to deepen these contributions, expand curriculum development, mentor graduate students through thesis committees, and secure external partnerships that elevate the visibility of the College of Communication, Architecture + The Arts.

I bring a distinct professional vision to the FIU Art Department that positions animation as a forward-thinking and rigorous fine art discipline. I would welcome the opportunity to continue serving our students and contributing to the department as a tenure-track colleague. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Ariel Baron-Robbins