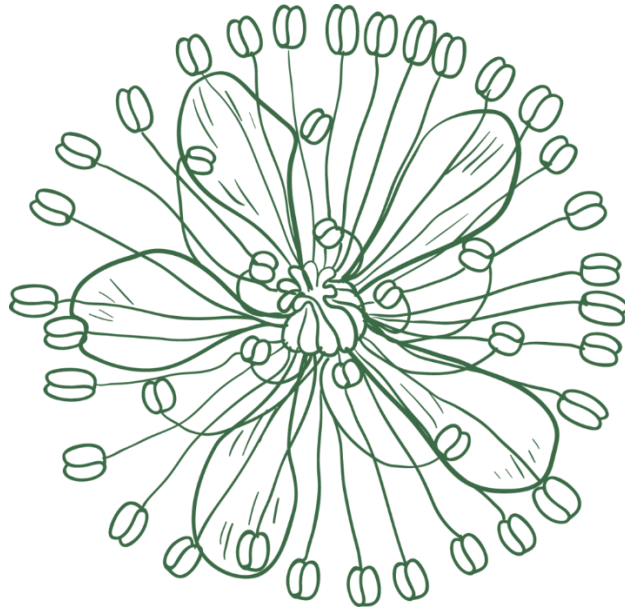


Flowerface



Blodeuwedd

Huāliǎn

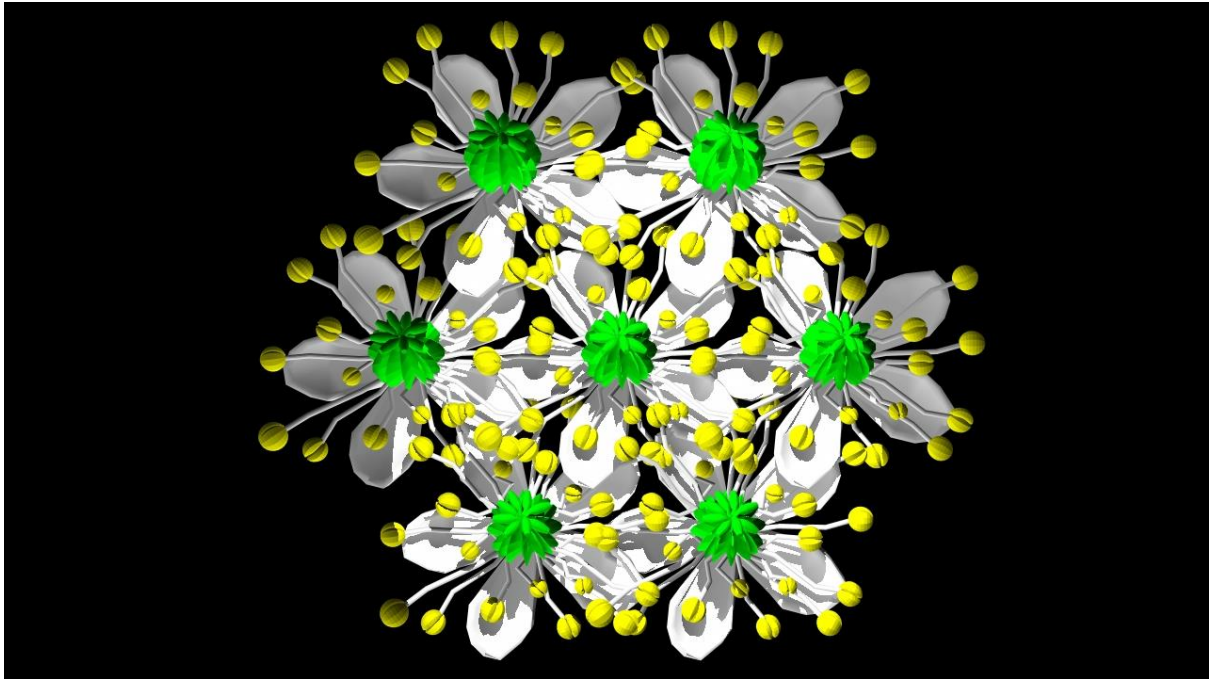
花脸

CATRIN BRADLEY

UWTSD – MA 3D Computer Animation

FEBRUARY 2019

The mythical tale that flies in the face of
anger, revenge and destiny.



**An animation of 90 seconds with a story to die for
and a soundtrack to live for!**

A face of flowers - release her powers ...

Concept

A re-telling of the story of Blodeuwedd – Flowerface from the collection of Welsh oral tales and myths The Mabinogi – which have kings, queens, magicians and shapeshifters, golden ships, magic cauldrons, giants and dragons and behind them it's possible to sense something far more ancient, darker, more dangerous and more powerful.

Blodeuwedd was created by magic to be a wife for a human who had been cursed by his mother. Blodeuwedd was beautiful and made of the summer flowers from the oak, broom and meadowsweet. She committed adultery and her punishment by her creator was to be turned into an Owl, banished to the night where all animals would fear her.

This film imagines the scenes where Blodeuwedd's husband takes revenge and kills her lover and she is stunningly changed into an owl.

The design style of the film will be 3D animation, using character sculpting, environment and prop modelling. The mythical nature of the Mabinogi will be conveyed through the action of the film in particular the transition of Blodeuwedd from a woman to an owl. The environments will include a pleasant rural scene and have a fort like structure (based on early medieval architecture) for the early scenes, and an oak tree silhouetted against the dusk sky for the later scene. Props include a window frame, spear, a large stone monolith and flowers and feathers. There will be three characters - Blodeuwedd, her husband and her lover.

The tone is set within the first scene by an image of Blodeuwedd looking sad, which moves quickly on to her kissing her lover, which is followed by the horror of him being killed. The action within these scenes happen at a pace and slows when Blodeuwedd's physical state changes – an explosive and enchanting conversion. As the film concludes an element of hope is portrayed as Blodeuwedd albeit transformed as an owl, is free and winks to a more positive future.

The target audience is anyone who has an interest in mythology. A sub-culture would be those who know this well-known tale within the Mabinogi, including school children across Wales who are introduced to the tales. It is deemed suitable for a younger audience as the tone does not attempt to be dark and heavy, but that of sympathetic and hopeful. There is potential for the film to have an enchanting artistic quality what with the modelling of Blodeuwedd with flowers and her transitioning to an owl.

Principle Character descriptions and designs

Blodeuwedd – ‘Flowerface’

Then they took the flowers of the oak, and the flowers of the broom, and the flowers of the meadowsweet, and from these they conjured up the fairest and the most beautiful maiden that anyone had ever seen. And they baptised her in the way they had at that time, and named her Blodeuedd.

The Mabinogion, 2007 Sioned Davies

Created magically as a wife for Lleu Llaw Gyffes, Blodeuwedd is beautiful and made from the sweet smelling flowers of summer; gold for beauty, white for purity. Her punishment for her infidelity is being changed into an owl.



The creation



The transition

There is scope to illustrate with beautiful artistic detail both her ‘human’ and bird form, focussing on the facial elements of each form. It is acknowledged that the texturing with flowers and feathers may prove a challenge, but it is this visualisation which could give the short a distinctive feature. Her eyes, by way of shape and colour, could be consistent throughout for continuity.

Lleu Llaw Gyffes – ‘The fair-haired one with the skilful hand’

A fair-haired young man who is strong and skilful. He is described as ‘Perfect in feature, appearance, growth and size’. His mother Arianrhod refuses to acknowledge his birth and indeed him. She does not name him, refuses to give him armoury and curses him that he will never have a wife of the human form. He is special in that there is only one way that he can be killed; neither within a house, nor outside a house, neither on horseback nor on foot, but with one foot on a trough and one foot on the back of a goat and being struck with a spear that has been only on Sundays over the period of a year. He is betrayed by his wife who with her lover try to kill him, but do not succeed.



In the short film Lleu discovers his wife’s betrayal and seeks revenge on her lover Gronw Pebr. He is angry and hurt and determined to kill his enemy. His power and strength is demonstrated when the spear he throws at Gronw smashes through a stone monolith, creating a hole, and still having enough force to hit and kill the target.

Gronw Pebyr – ‘The Radiant Lord of Penllyn’

He is a lord on the neighbouring lands to where Lleu and Blodeuwedd have their court. He is hunting one day and is invited in by Blodeuwedd while her husband is away. He falls in love with Blodeuwedd and over a period of a year he plots to kill Lleu in the only way that he can be killed. When the attempted murder does not succeed and Lleu goes away to recover, Gronw takes control of the court and land that was once Lleu and lives as though it was his. Whilst he is handsome and strong he seems somewhat cowardly in requesting to be shielded by the stone monolith when Lleu launches his deadly spear.



Backstory and Setting

Whilst it would seem that Blodeuwedd may have an idyllic life married to a handsome, skilful man who has land and status, with her only responsibility to produce an heir. However, some would say she needed to be loved for who she was and it is believed that this may be the context for why she fell in love with another man who did seem to reciprocally love her. The strength of love between them seems to be emphasised by the extent to which they planned over a year, and implemented the attempted murder of her husband, who could only be killed in a certain way. They failed to slay him, but he was wounded and when he recovered he sought revenge.

Location

The short is based in the hills, bordering Snowdonia in North Wales, as set within the Mabinogion story. It's a green and pleasant land and to this day there is remains of a fort, Tomen Y Mur. Within the tales it is referred to as 'Mur Y Castell' – and it is the marital home of Lleu and his wife, and it is where Blodeuwedd commits adultery.

Time period

The short is set within the medieval era, with the architecture of a building within an early scene hinting at this, together with the costumes of the characters.



Some artistic licence and interpretation will be drawn upon for the architecture of the building, with the fairy tale castle of Castell Coch, Cardiff providing a reference. It is not intended that the visual is an authentic representation but merely supporting the association with the medieval era and providing a nod to the mythical and mysterious nature of the Mabinogion tales. With this in mind, the environment, together with the male characters, could be presented as mystical. In contrast Blodeuwedd could be presented as the most 'realistic' form as a means to contrast and challenge the perception and expectation that she is the one made by a magical force.

Premise

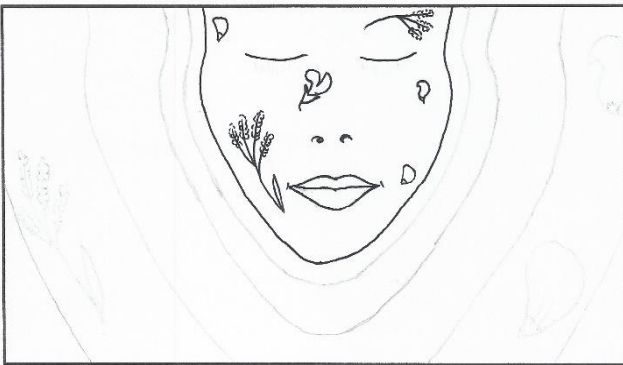
The short begins with a view of the environment - a landscape with green hills and a flowing river and blue sky, a tower with windows, together with an oak tree and a stone monolith. Blodeuwedd appears in the window with a sad face.

A scene cuts to an image of Blodeuwedd and Gronw embracing lovingly. Lleu appears and sees them, and looks angry. He draws his spear and takes aim at Gronw who is the other side of the stone monolith. Lleu launches the spear which hurtles through the air, shatters a hole in the stone and continues through to hit Gronw in the back and killing him.

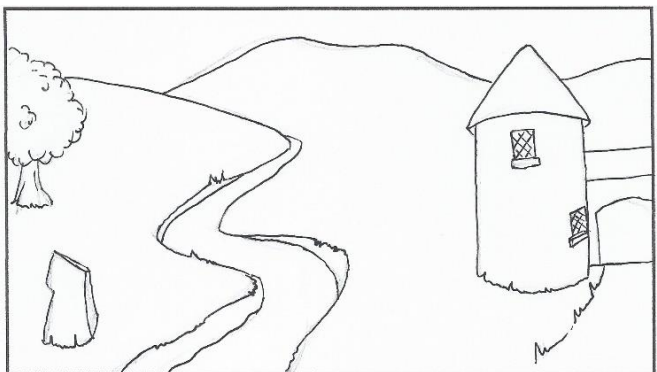
Blodeuwedd screams and falls to the ground, with an explosion of flowers which turns into a whirlwind of flowers and feathers and from within an owl emerges and flies up to settle on a tree. The story ends with a close up of Blodeuwedd the owl who gives a wink.

Storyboard

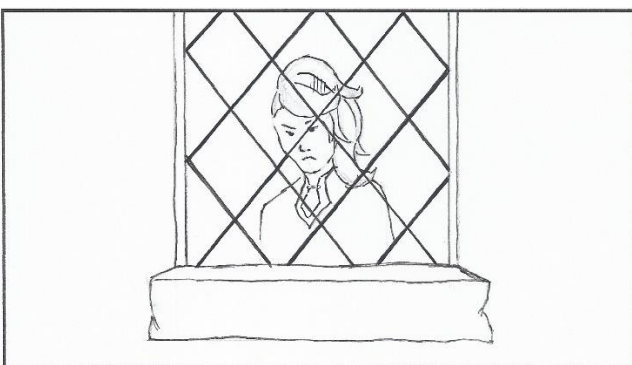
SCENE 1



SCENE 2



SCENE 3a



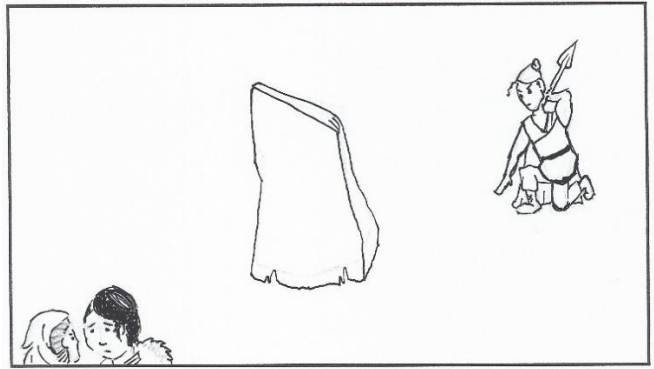
SCENE 3b



SCENE 4



SCENE 5



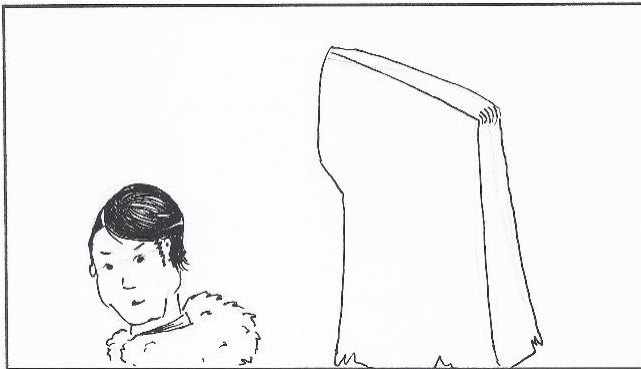
SCENE 6



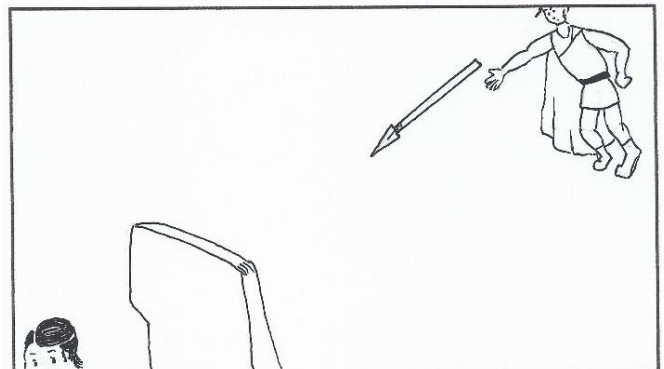
SCENE 7



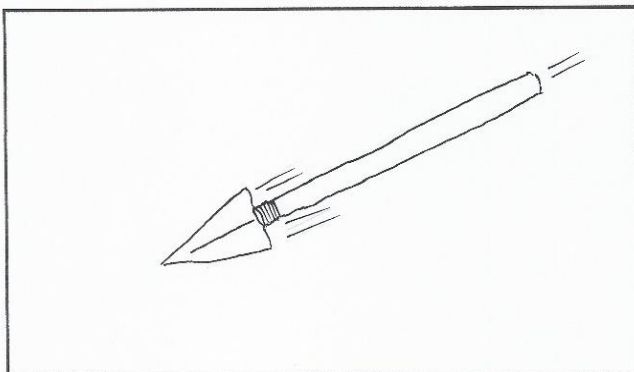
SCENE 8



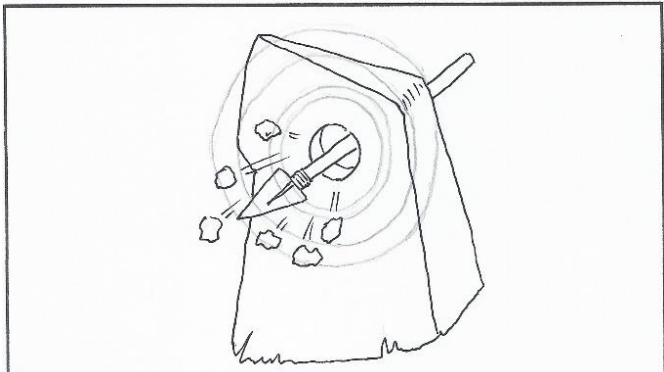
SCENE 9



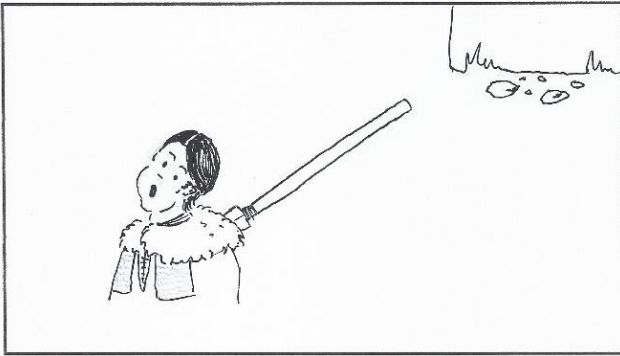
SCENE 10



SCENE 11



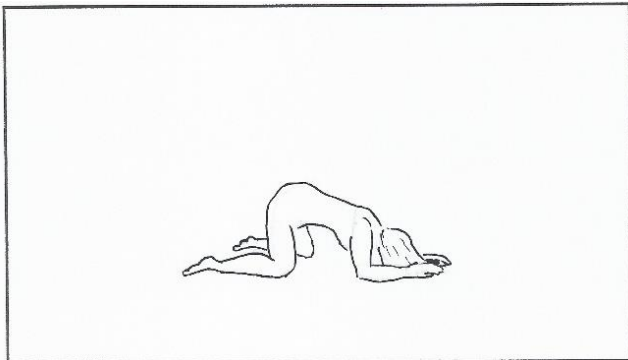
SCENE 12



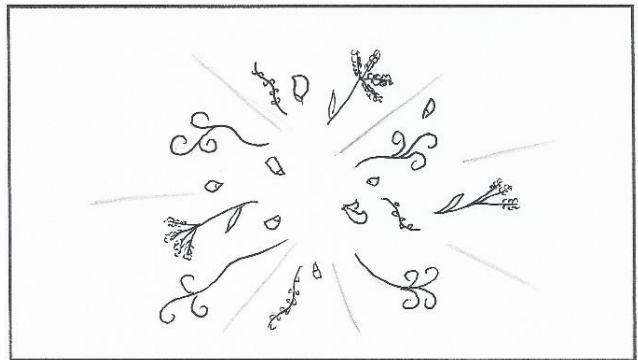
SCENE 13



SCENE 14



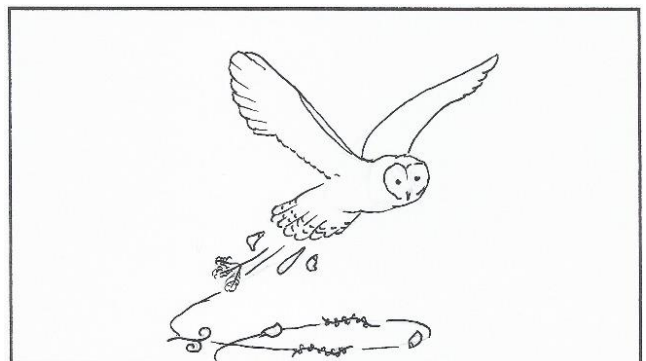
SCENE 15



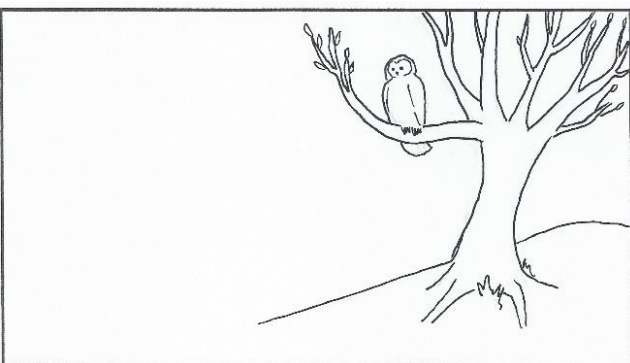
SCENE 16



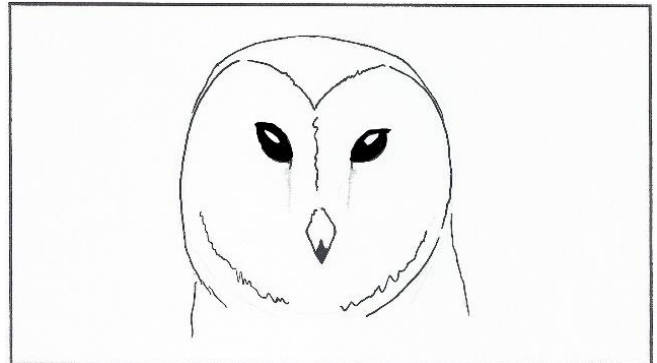
SCENE 17



SCENE 18



SCENE 19



Screenplay

NO DIALOGUE. (*Soundtrack*)

FLOWERFACE

(*Instrumental*)

SCENE 1 - Titles

Close up of Flowers.

PAN OUT

Blodeuwedd face

SCENE 2 - Full environment scene with Blodeuwedd in tower window. Standing stone and tree in scene.

PAN IN

To medieval window with lead bars.

(*Coming out of my cage*

Because I want it all)

SCENE 3a & b - Reveal face of Blodeuwedd. She is sad.

PAN OUT

(*And I've been doing just fine*

Gotta gotta be down)

SCENE 4 - Blodeuwedd and Gronw outdoor near standing stone.

Blodeuwedd and Gronw embracing and kissing.

PAN OUT

(It started out with a kiss

How did it end up like this?

*It was only a kiss, it was only a
kiss)*

SCENE 5 - Lleu sees them.

CUT

(Now I'm falling asleep

And she's calling a cab)

SCENE 6 - Close up of Lleu - horror - revenge

PAN OUT

(While he's having a smoke

And she's taking a drag)

SCENE 7 - Lleu draws his spear.

PAN OUT

(Now they're going to bed

And my stomach is sick)

SCENE 8 - Gronw stood behind stone.

(And it's all in my head

But she's touching his chest now

He takes off her dress now)

SCENE 9 - Lleu throws spear towards stone.

(Let me go)

SCENE 10 - Close up of spear hurtling through air.

SCENE 11 - Spear hitting stone - debris flying. Hole in stone.

SCENE 12 - Spear hitting Gronw in back.

SCENE 13 - Blodeuwedd screaming.

(And I just can't look)

SCENE 14 - Blodeuwedd falls to floor.

(It's killing me)

SCENE 15 - Explosion of flowers.

(And taking control)

SCENE 16 - Whirlwind.

(Jealousy, turning saints into the sea)

SCENE 17 - Owl emerges. Fly's up.

(Swimming through sick lullabies

Choking on your alibis)

SCENE 18 - Lands on Tree.

(But it's just the price I pay

Destiny is calling me)

ZOOM IN

SCENE 19 - Close up of owl face. Winks.

(Open up my eager eyes

'Cause I'm Mr. Brightside)

FADE

Mood Board & Visual Design Scoping

Environment



Stylized

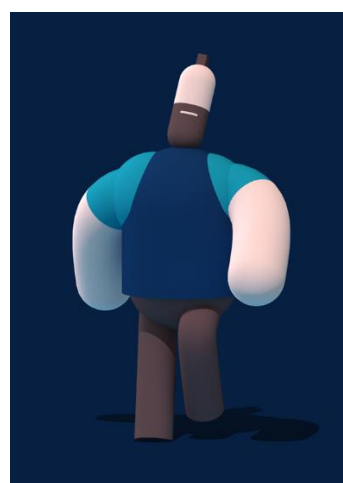
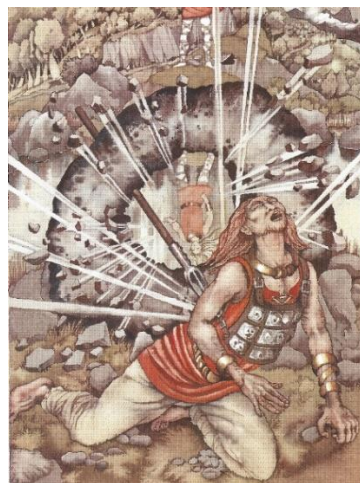


Characters

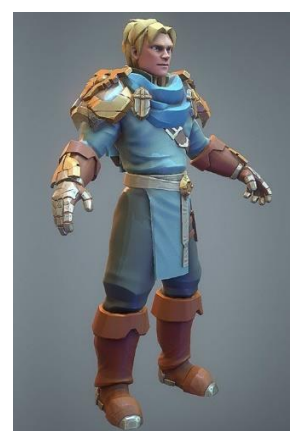
Stylized



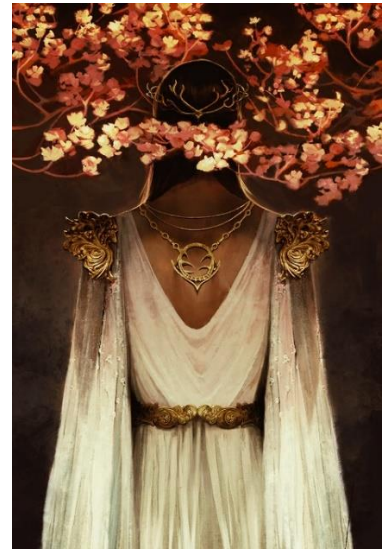
Gronw



Lleu



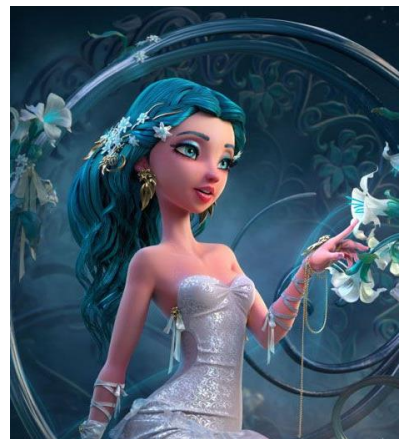
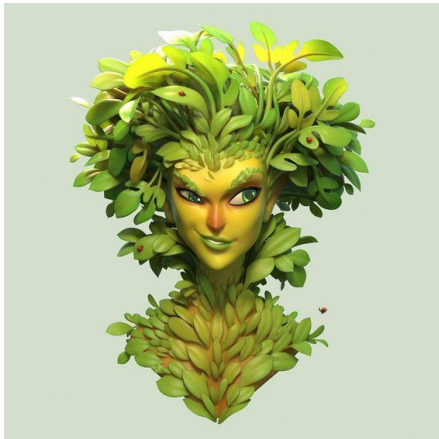
Blodeuwedd – Flowerface



Stylized



Stylized (Continued)



Blodeuwedd was made of:



Oak Flowers



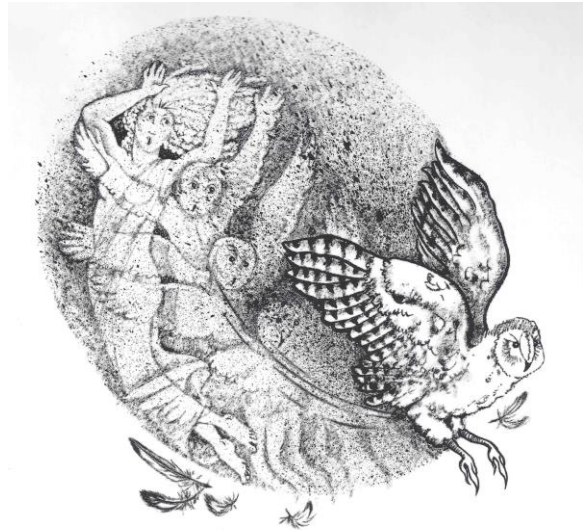
Broom Flowers



Meadowsweet Flowers



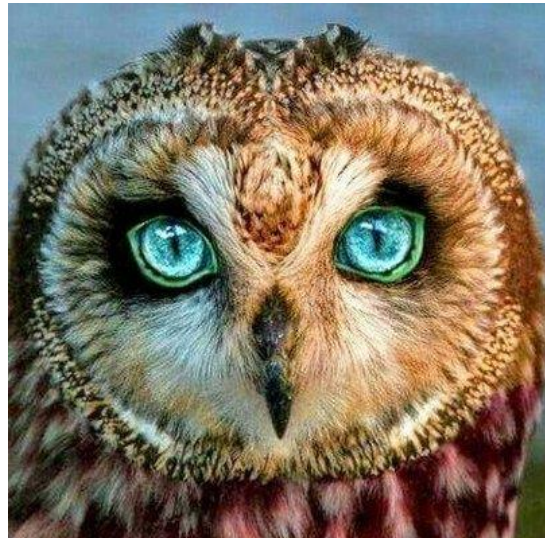
Transition



Explosion



The Owl



Stylized



Scenes



Props



Credit

Sion Evans – Story Board artist

Soundtrack – Mr Brightside by The Killers. Version by Boyce Avenue

The Mabinogion

For an introduction to the Mabinogion refer to these Podcasts:

- The Essay - The Mabinogion Revisited - Sioned Davies - An intro to Mabinogion - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b082kd7n>
- The Essay - The Mabinogion Revisited - Jon Gower on the Role of Nature - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b082kzdw>

Also, this link shows a video of an open air drama presented at Tomen Y Mur in 2013: <http://theatr.cymru/portfolio/blodeuwedd/?lang=en>

‘In ancestral cultures, such stories and story cycles as the Mabinogion were regarded as sources of insight, wisdom, inspiration, and precedent. This consciousness of the sanctity of traditional legends is found in all primal cultures.’

R. J Stewart 2019

