

Supernova Director's Picks: Ivar Zeile on the Best of the Best

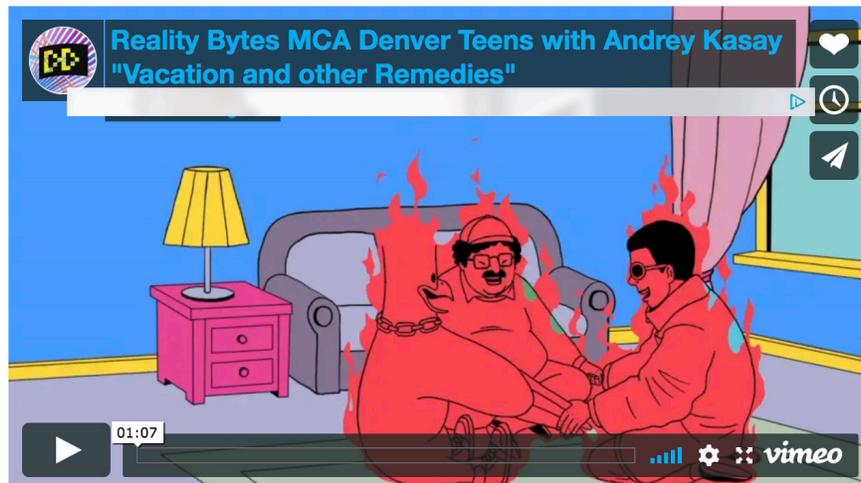
by Susan Froyd



As Supernova returns for a third year, Ivar Zeile, the director of the downtown digital animation, is seriously jazzed. After spending two years of running a major festival with unconventional parameters (and hosting outdoor LED screenings on street corners for several years before that), he thinks he's got it right. That means more content on more screens, some technical streamlining and a concerted nod to recognizing the sometimes difficult medium of digital animation as art for art's sake, as opposed to mere entertainment.

"It does seem like everything is making sense, and things are flowing better this year, and I'm glad there is this much content this year, but it's harder to manage," Zeile admits, noting that recognition for the event has been growing throughout the global digital animation community. "I think we've reached the point where 75 percent of our entries are from submissions. People are paying attention, and we're getting a variety of new artists and good content."

Reality Bytes MCA Denver Teens with Andrey Kasay "Vacation and other Remedies" from Denver Digerati on Vimeo.



And in recognition that experimental media is art, Supernova is supporting several satellite gallery exhibitions in 2018, with a knockout centerpiece group show at RedLine (see more below), and solo gallery showcases for Supernova guests Jonathan Monaghan (Philip J. Steele Gallery) and Robert Seidel (Understudy), as well as Russian animator Andrey Kasay in a show curated by MCA Teens (MCA Denver Idea Box).

For better access, some festival programs will air simultaneously on multiple screens around the Denver Theatre District, including a new indoor LED monitor inside the Ellie Caulkins Opera House, after weather rained on Supernova's parade in 2017. "Last year, part of the programming suffered," Zeile says. "People had to stand in the rain. The way I view it, some people love standing outside on a corner, and others will like being inside in the Ellie."

Supernova's main event is a noon to 10 p.m. marathon Saturday, September 22, in the Denver Theatre District, with additional programming, from gallery openings to an educational forum, scheduled between now and September 23. With so many offerings, it's hard to self-curate a plan of attack for this year's spread, so we asked Zeile to share some overall festival picks.

While he's happy with everything, from beginning to end, he did provide some not-to-miss selections, arranged by date.



Jonathan Monaghan, "Disco Beast," 2016.[EXPAND](#)

Jonathan Monaghan, "Disco Beast," 2016.[Jonathan Monaghan](#)

Housing Complexes: Eight experimental short films curated by Robert Seidel

Jonathan Monaghan, Synthetic Mythologies

Sie FilmCenter, 2510 East Colfax Avenue

Thursday, September 20, 7 p.m.

Admission: \$12 to \$15

Two experimental animation trendsetters with international cred bring serious work to an art-cinema screen, Seidel as a curator and Monaghan as an artist; Seidel is a guest juror and Monaghan a guest artist at Supernova 2018. This is the only paid event during the festival.