

A TATTOO OF SPAIN: USING ANTHROPOLOGY TO INFORM STOP-MOTION ANIMATION

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Abstract

Following the Spanish Civil War in 1939, fear and poverty dominated life under Franco's fascist regime, which controlled Spain until 1975. Because of the great loss suffered under his brutal reign and the rules imposed restricting families from acknowledging the loss of loved ones, many still have missing loved ones in unmarked mass graves all over Spain. I saw this pain embedded deeply in the history, art, and landscape of the country and was inspired to dig deeper. Traveling to Spain to work with the Center for Field Sciences in their Forensics program allowed me to aid in the cataloging of a soldier from the Spanish Civil War and visit places of significance to this era, to gain perspective on the truth. Based on my research, I am producing a short stop-motion animation utilizing hand-modeled elements to portray this period and spread awareness to honor the human emotion and loss involved in this crisis.

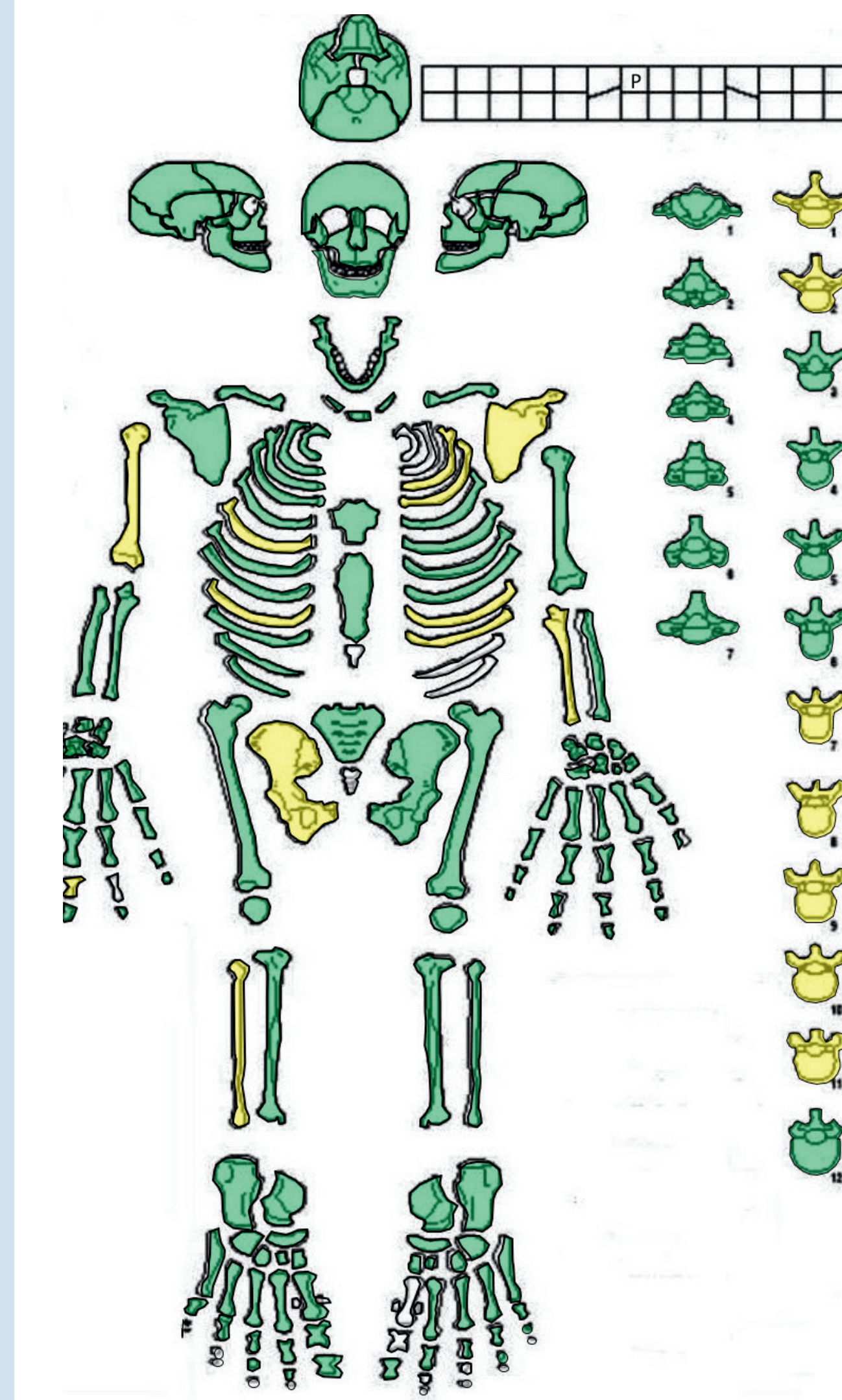


Fig. 6 Osteological worksheet.

Methods

- I joined the Center for Field Sciences Bioarchaeology program in Spain to gain a deep understanding of the gravity of the Spanish Civil War and Repression on the people of Spain.
- Studied the osteological remains which revealed demographic, morphological, and trauma which shows up in the bone.
- Traveled to various historical places of Spain that marked the scars of the Repression of fascist Spain.
- Using the qualitative information I learned in Spain, I began working on the construction of my stop-motion animation using influences of Spain, from aesthetic to historical.
- Constructing the set and puppet, and shooting the frames in Dragonframe which makes movement happen.
- Editing with Adobe Premiere Pro for the final product.



Fig. 1 & 2 Process of puppet construction.



Fig. 3
Execution
wall
outside of
Spanish
cemetery.

Background

- Studying in Valencia in 2024 taught me about the struggle and cultural triumph Spain endured during the fascist regime under Franco.
- Observing different media about the emotional and physical torment of this time moved me to investigate it more, as it is often overlooked in world history.
- 'Tatuaje' by Conchita Piquer set the emotional scene for this project from it's grieving mood and story of a lost love with no closure on where they went, echoing the emotional scape of 1940s Spain.
- This historial period is harder than others to gain information on due to the fascist erasure of data and the 'Pact of Forgetting' that hindered information after the end of the regime.



Fig. 4 & 5 Workspace for stop-motion.

References



Fig. 4 Mass graves in Spain being excavated.

Fig. 7
Memorial
tomb for
Spanish
Civil War.



Conclusion

- Learning anatomy from anthropology can immensely inform figurative art.
- Studying osteological remains can inform the viewer of the story of the individual and can give a sense of the life lived.
- Historical places, art, and text are able to form an emotional picture of a time forgotten.
- It is more important than ever to share the stories of individuals from times of hardship in order to learn from their experiences.