

Major Project Rvj

“To ashes, and ashes to”

Deepraj Basu

Starting with Pre viz

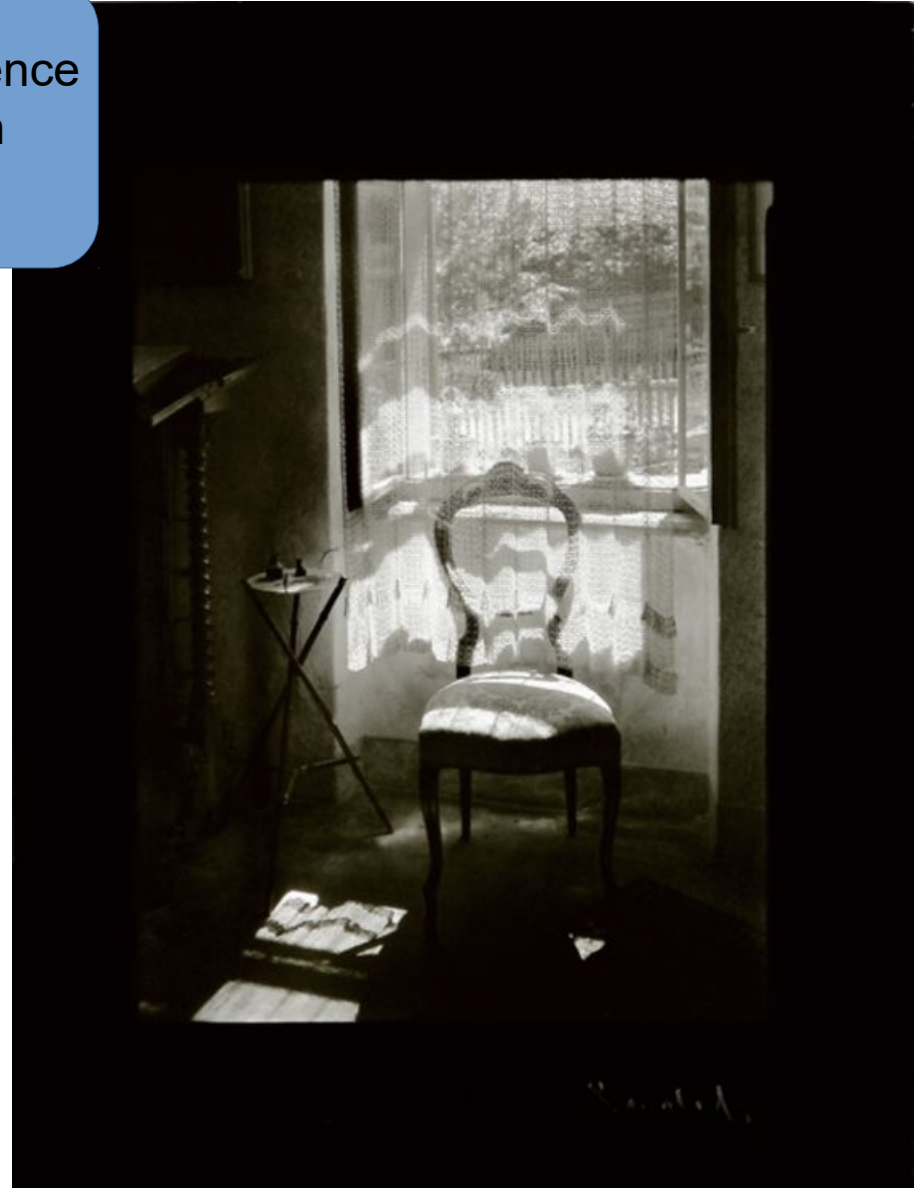
- I started this project by closely analysing the output of the previous visualization module,
- I realised that some of the scenes and shots needed tweaking and more generally the amount of content was too much to produce within the short allocated time
- Also there many repetitive ideas, which could be used as a communication device but also could make the output monotonous.

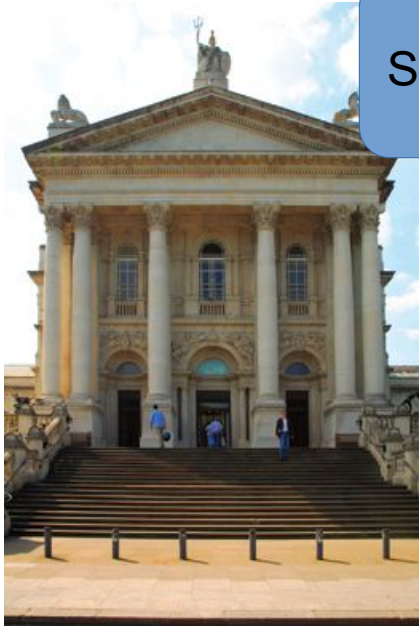
Taking a look back

- As a refresher i arranged the references collected for the vmp module and studied them once again

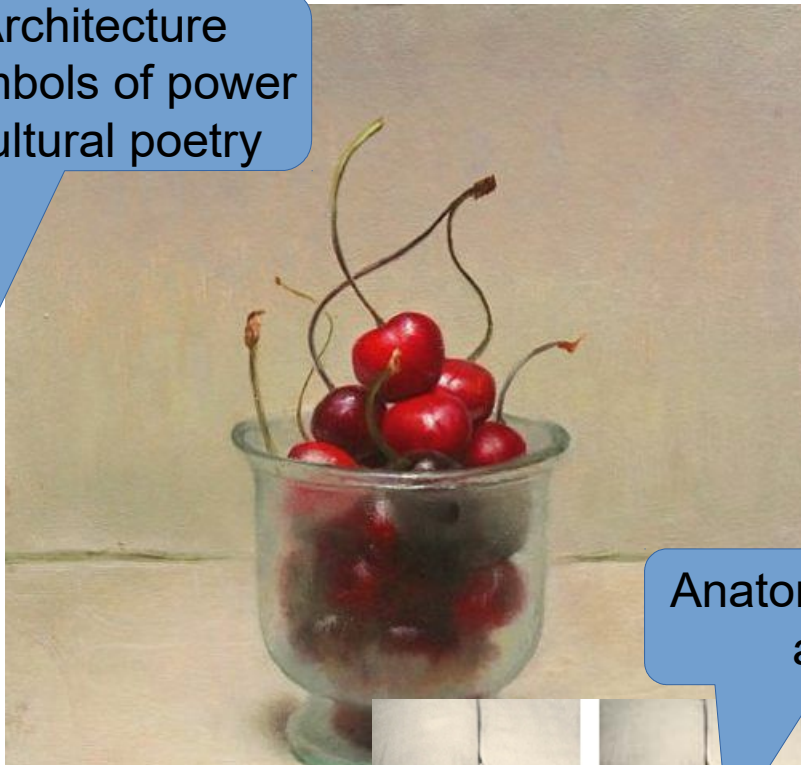
Initial Visual references

Communicating ambience
And moods through
The quality of light





Architecture
Symbols of power
Cultural poetry



Anatomy , symbolic
abstract



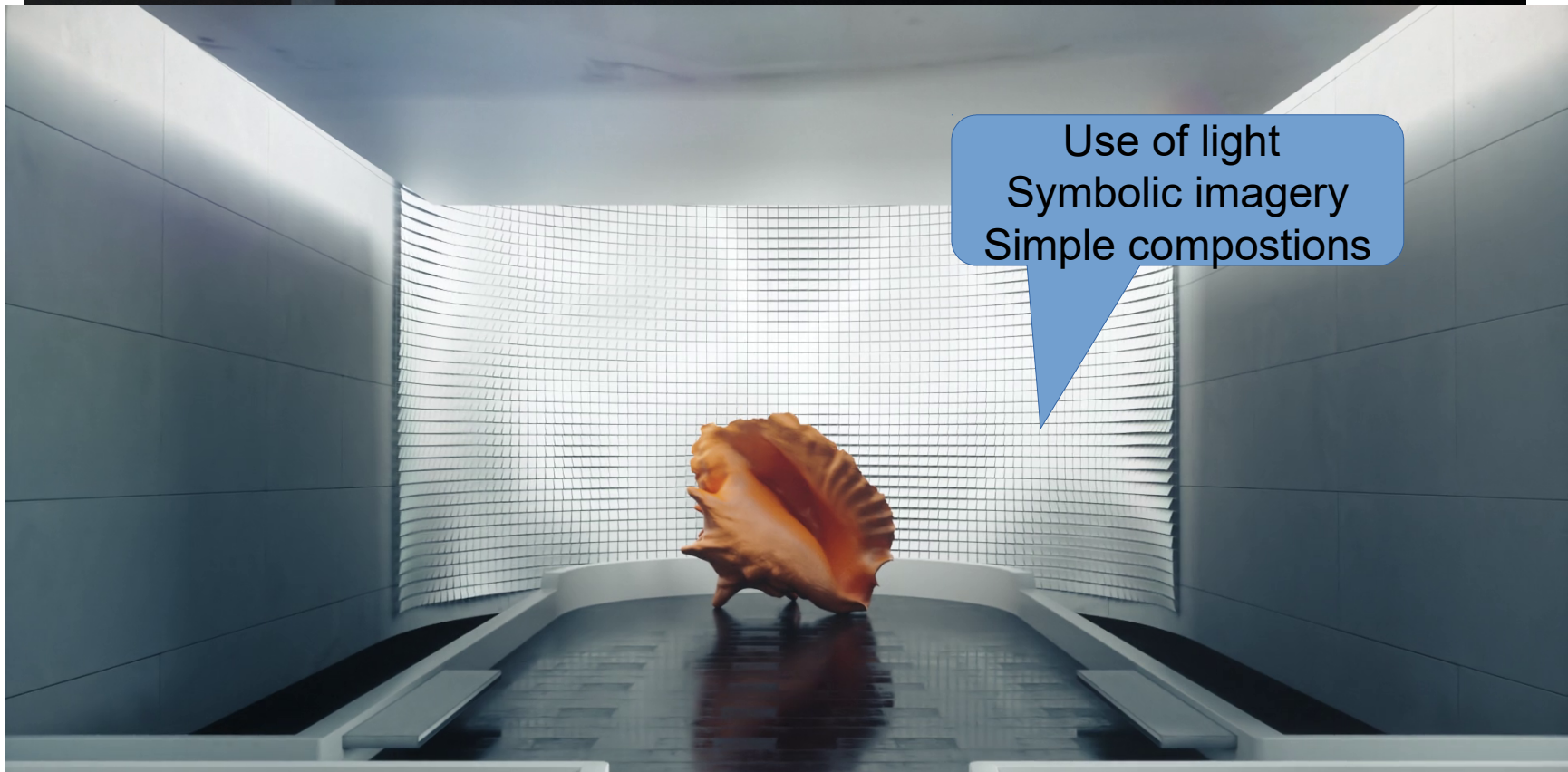


Allowing the content
To speak for itself
Using textures colour
Stillness and movement
to communicate



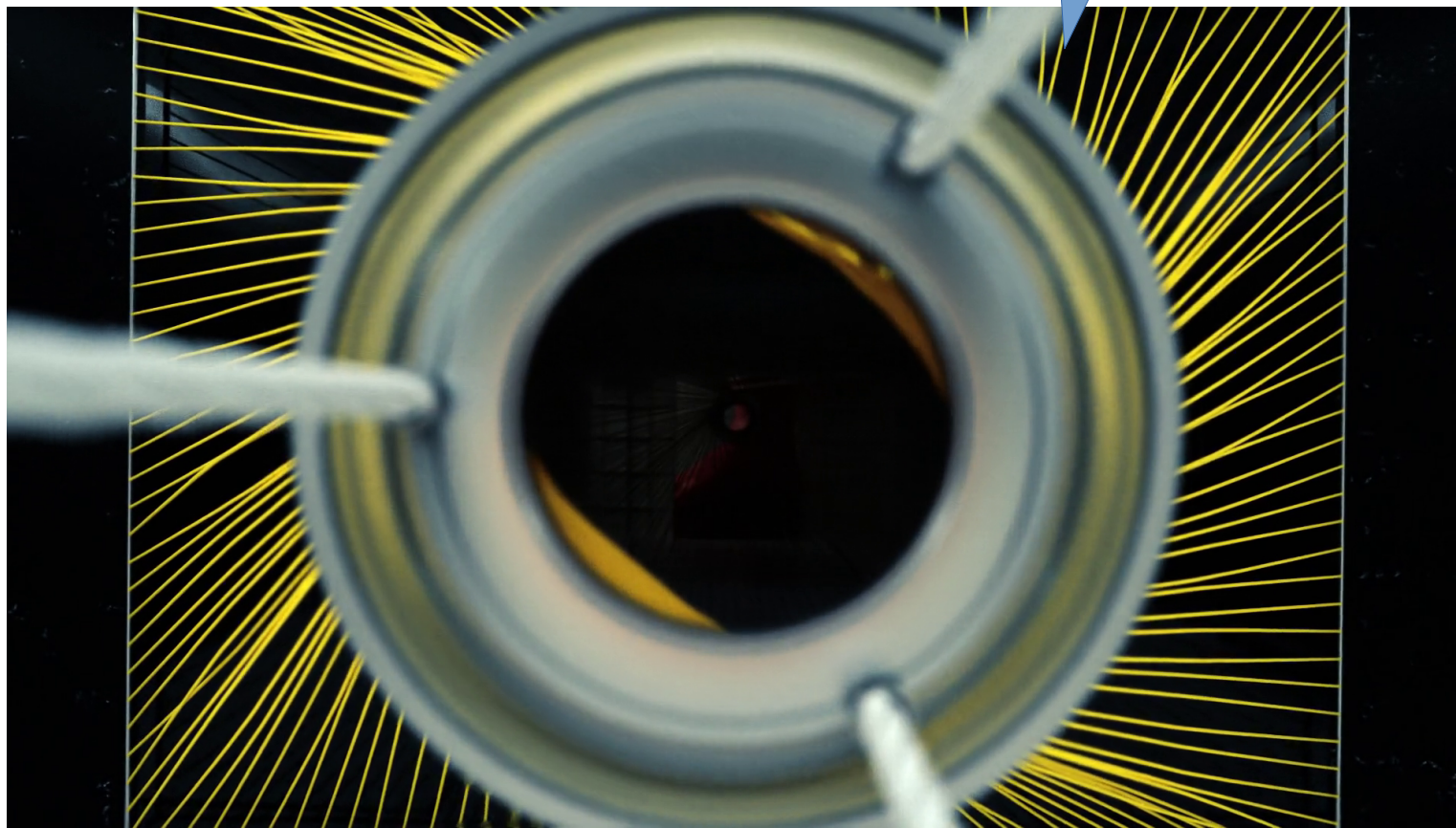
/'mondegreen/

[A misunderstood or misinterpreted word
or phrase resulting from a mishearing]





Repetition in ideas





Use of the surreal





Textures and
general ambience
Speaking to
the audience
Sculpture imperfection
textures



Nature
Natural materials
Communicate a rough
Earthy vibe





Inherent complexity
Of flowers



Framing +
Abstract shapes
Created by grouping
Realistic objects



Window as a
Framing agent



The natural draw of an open window
framing+lighting
Note: refraction through liquid



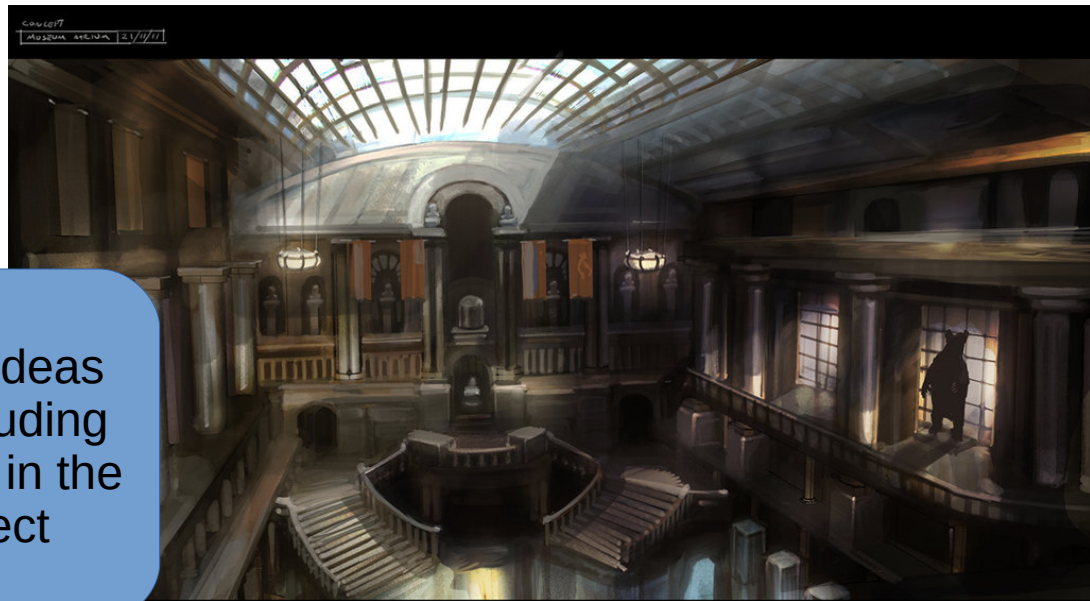
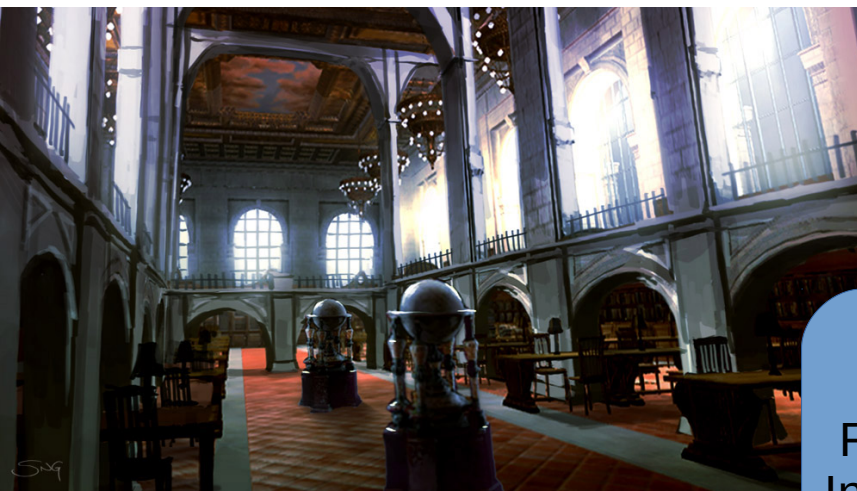
Directing the gaze at something that isn't given much attention
Or importance



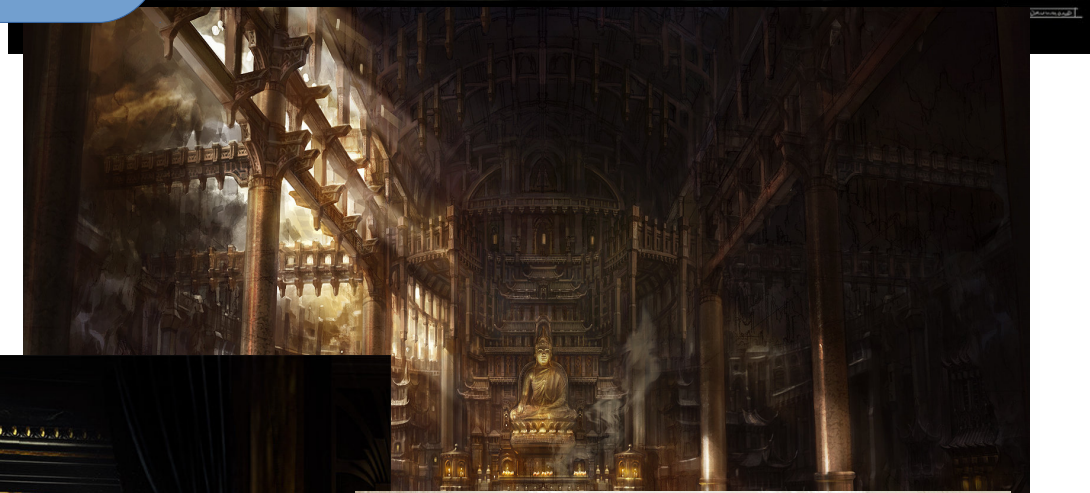


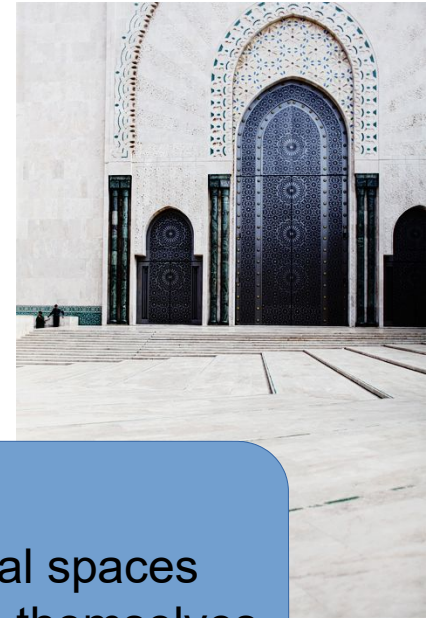
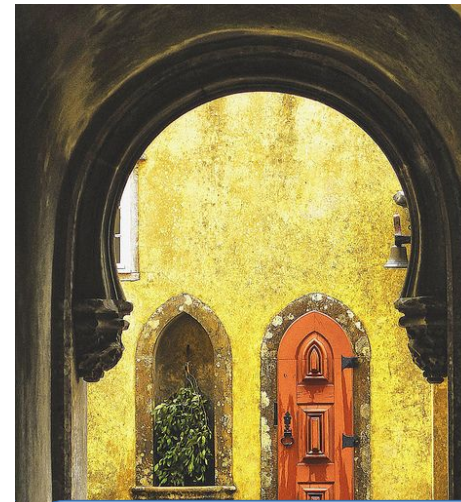
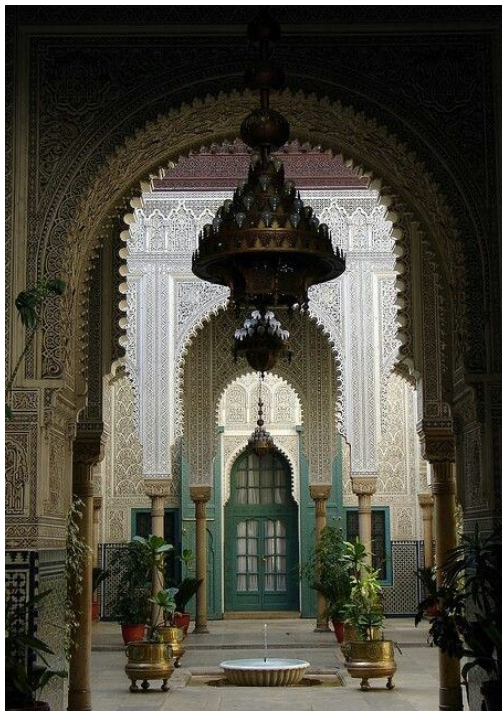
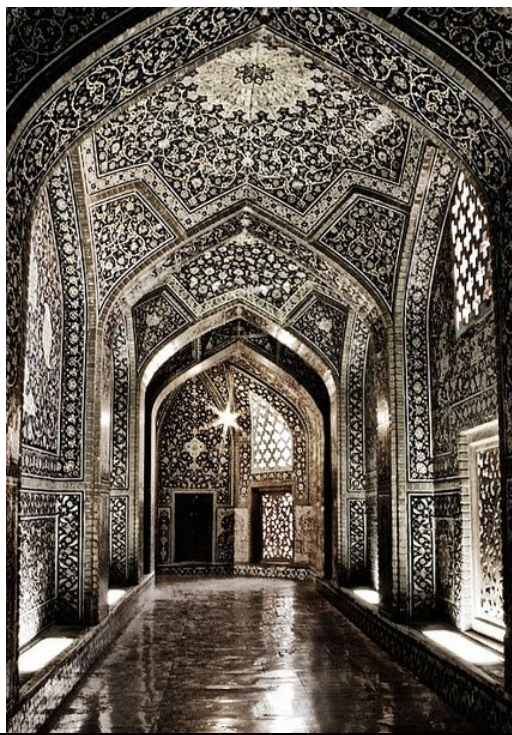
Objects of power
Strength
Hu'man' resilience
Against violent nature



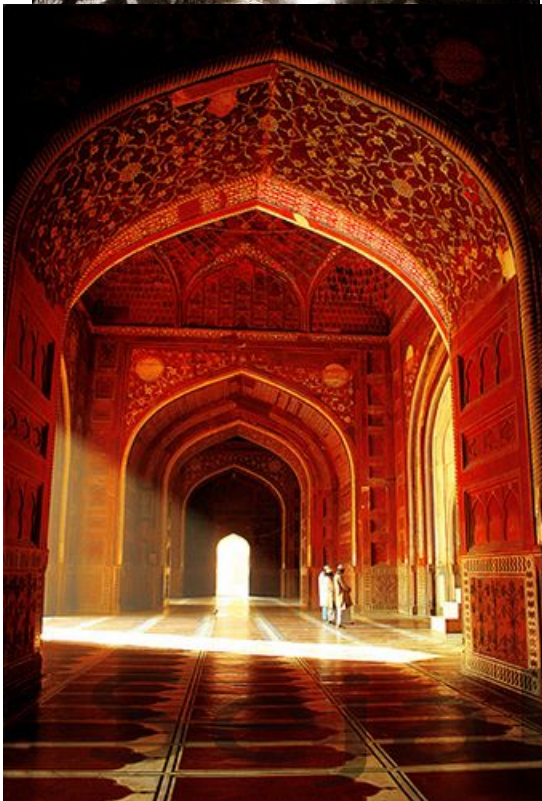


Some ideas
For including
Interiors in the
project





Architecture, physical spaces
Communicate through themselves



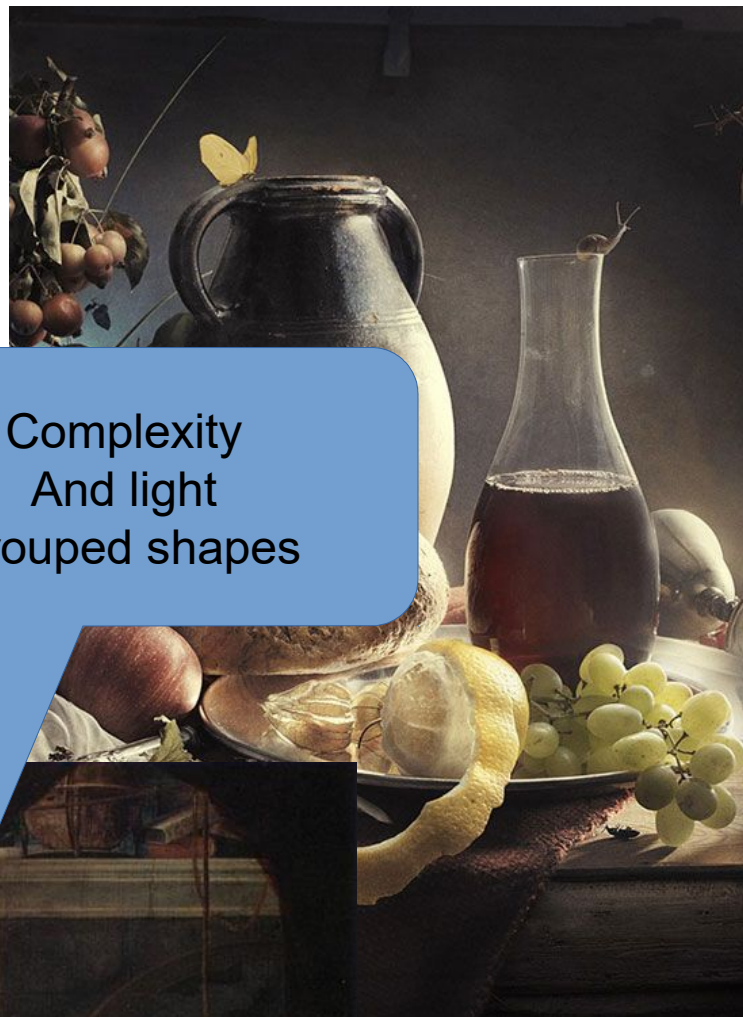


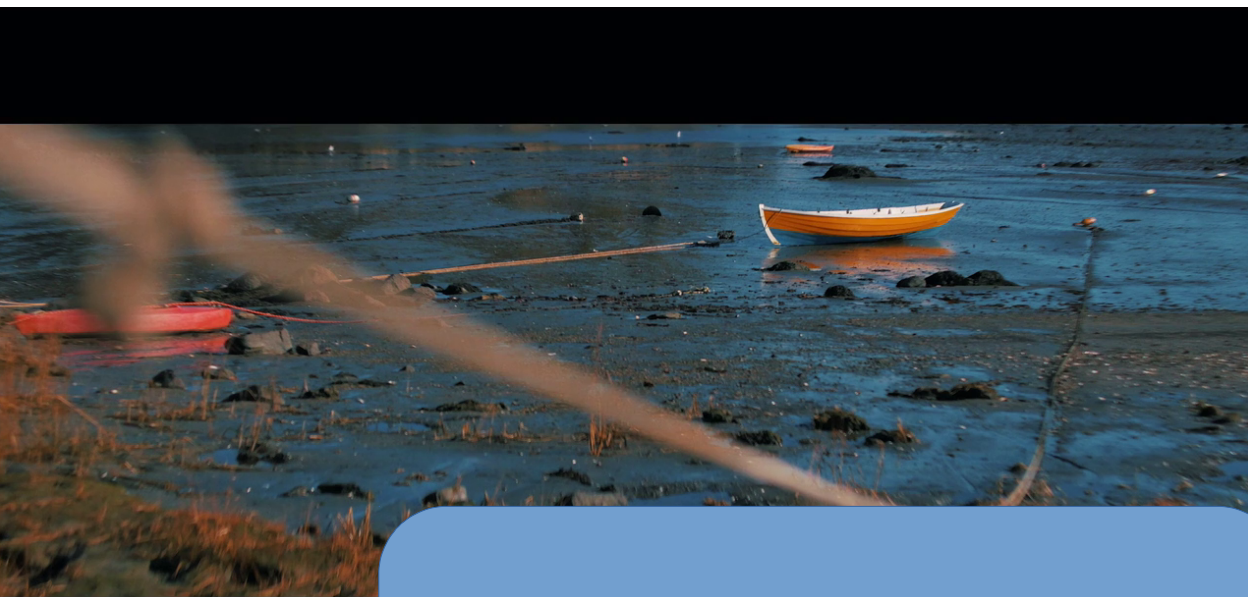
Complex nature
Unpredictable
Mixed with man made
Aesthetics some
Support it some go
against





Complexity
And light
Grouped shapes



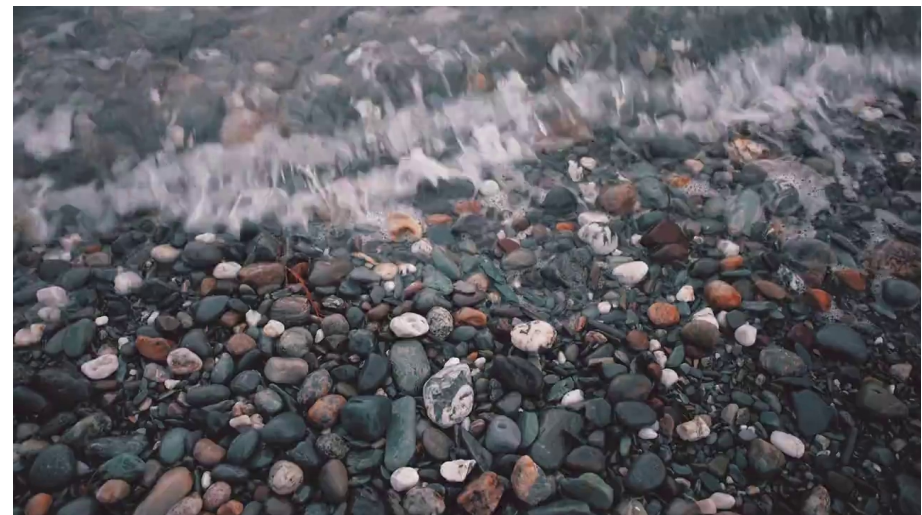


Materials , nature parts of life
Communicate things abstract and deep





Colour
Texture
Camera movement





Physically intimate close ups

Poetic communication through visuals

Notes on progress

- At this point i am just collecting all the necessary information to get started with the project.
- So I am organizing all the references, creating a clear folder structure so that I can organize all the data properly without any room for confusion.
- Also i'm re-thinking and clarifying all the shots and seeing how can improve upon my ideas

Name	Date modified	Type
1	09-04-2017 15:58	File folder
buildings1	21-06-2017 18:54	File folder
Coffin	21-06-2017 20:10	File folder
crown	16-05-2017 17:01	File folder
Forest	21-06-2017 20:27	File folder
hands	21-06-2017 21:31	File folder
indoors	14-05-2017 23:45	File folder
library	21-06-2017 23:48	File folder
Renders	16-05-2017 20:11	File folder
smokeBustFlower	14-06-2017 13:36	File folder
Still Life	13-06-2017 10:24	File folder
sTOVE	23-06-2017 21:04	File folder
audio.mp4	23-06-2017 14:12	MP4 File
mainaudio.wav	23-06-2017 14:08	WAV File

Folder structure created to arrange
All the data properly
And make work easier and more efficient

Scenes folder
Contains all the files for
Separate scenes of the project

finalRvj
reference
rocks
rvjpics
Scenes
Vmp
forPrint.zip
reference-book_1(1).pdf
RefHuman.mtl
RefHuman.obj
storyboardthumb.psd

Using reference

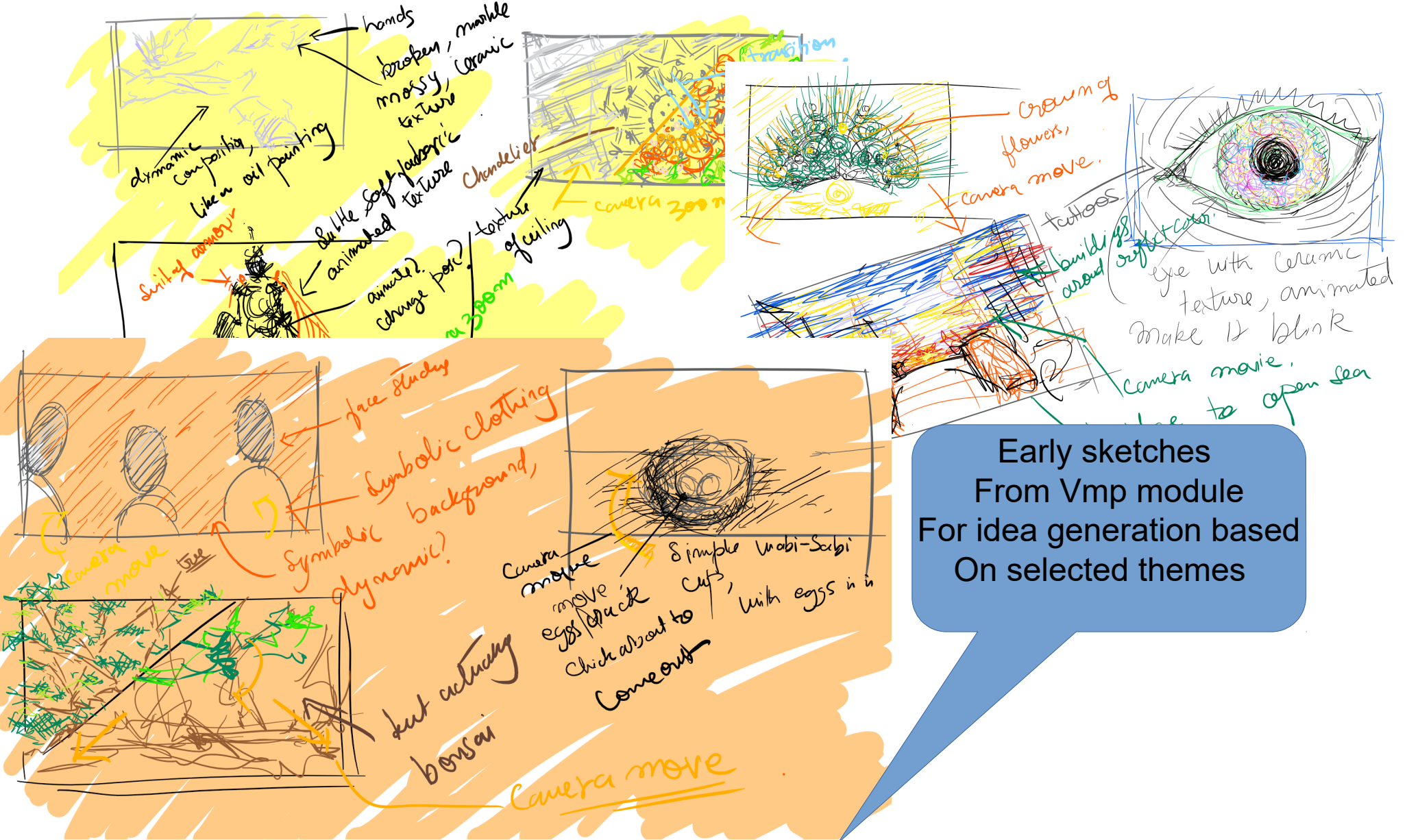
- How i am treating the collected references right now
 - The available references are categorized and collected in different folders that i will be refereing to while making my scenes
 - Apart from helping me form the general mood and style of the project ill also use these references for specific information that ill implement in the objects that i will be creating

Note on overall references and ideas

- These are the initial references that helped me develop the basis of the project in the vmp module.
- I wanted to capture a sense of abstract beauty like the references above do
- I started this project by revisiting these images to make sure i start off in the right direction

Early sketches

- The following are some of the sketches developed by me by the end of the vmp module
- I wanted to use them throughout the project to guide me in the proper directions

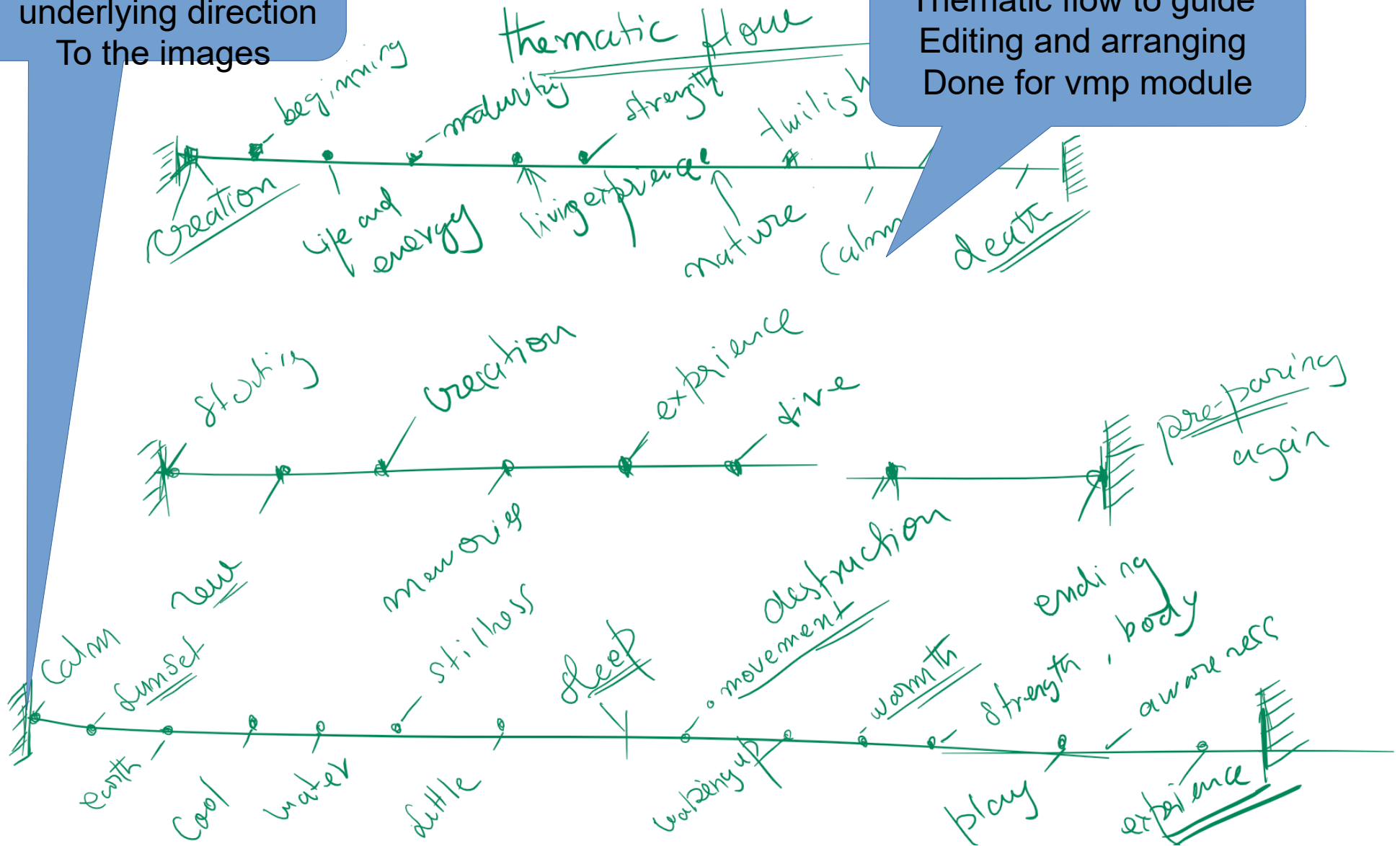


poetry

- I want this project to be an attempt in creating something that could be described as visual poetry, even though it sounds pretentious i think its accurate
- Abstract expression hand in hand with a intimate physical experience or the experience of the physical
- I want to explore that through this project

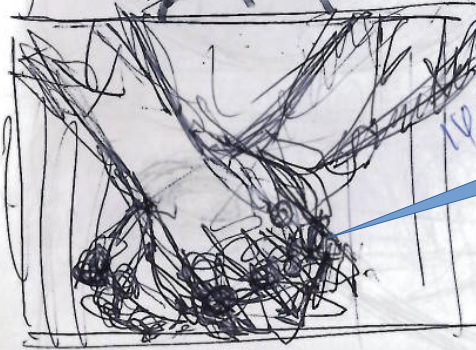
Want to use this to
Guide the flow of shots
So there is some
underlying direction
To the images

Thematic flow to guide
Editing and arranging
Done for vmp module





bloody cuts statues,
with a glass of water and
two bowls.

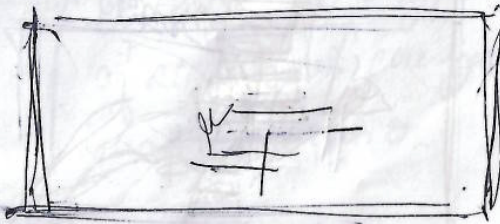
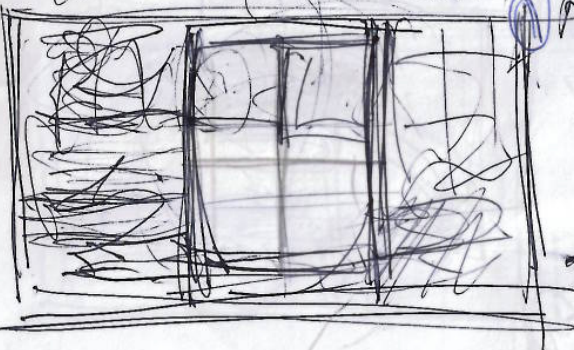


— dwell, with me
I want a glass of flowers
fire at dead flowers or
other bowl.
Cure for doors feel feel



marble statue is a
forest, wind, birds.

Red eye. Card face.



Sketches
Setting up
Expectation for
Complex and
Dark vibe

good
came
visual

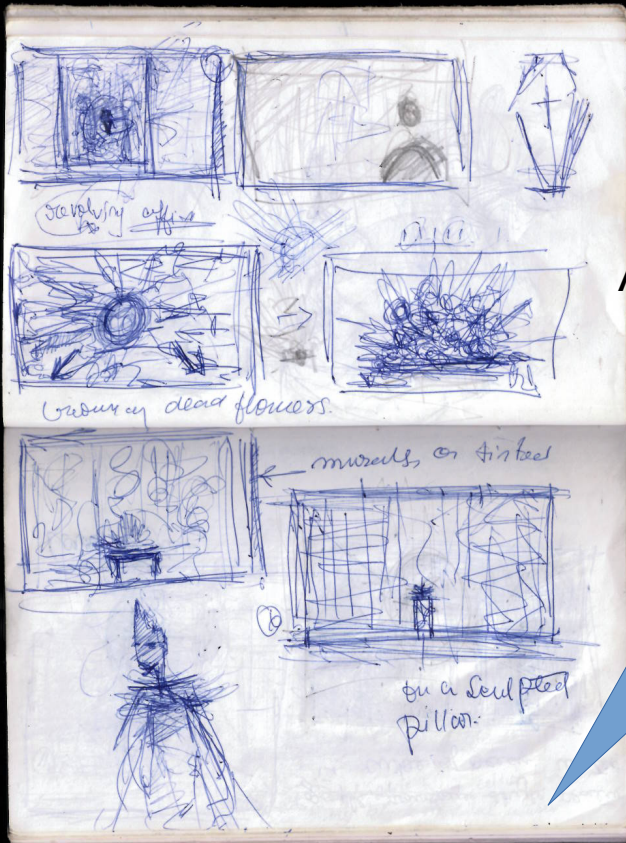
do something working with
sitting hands

Many scenes were rejected
Some stuck like the hands

focus on
hands



animated
texture or
spin?



Early ideas that were changed
A lot during the progress of the project

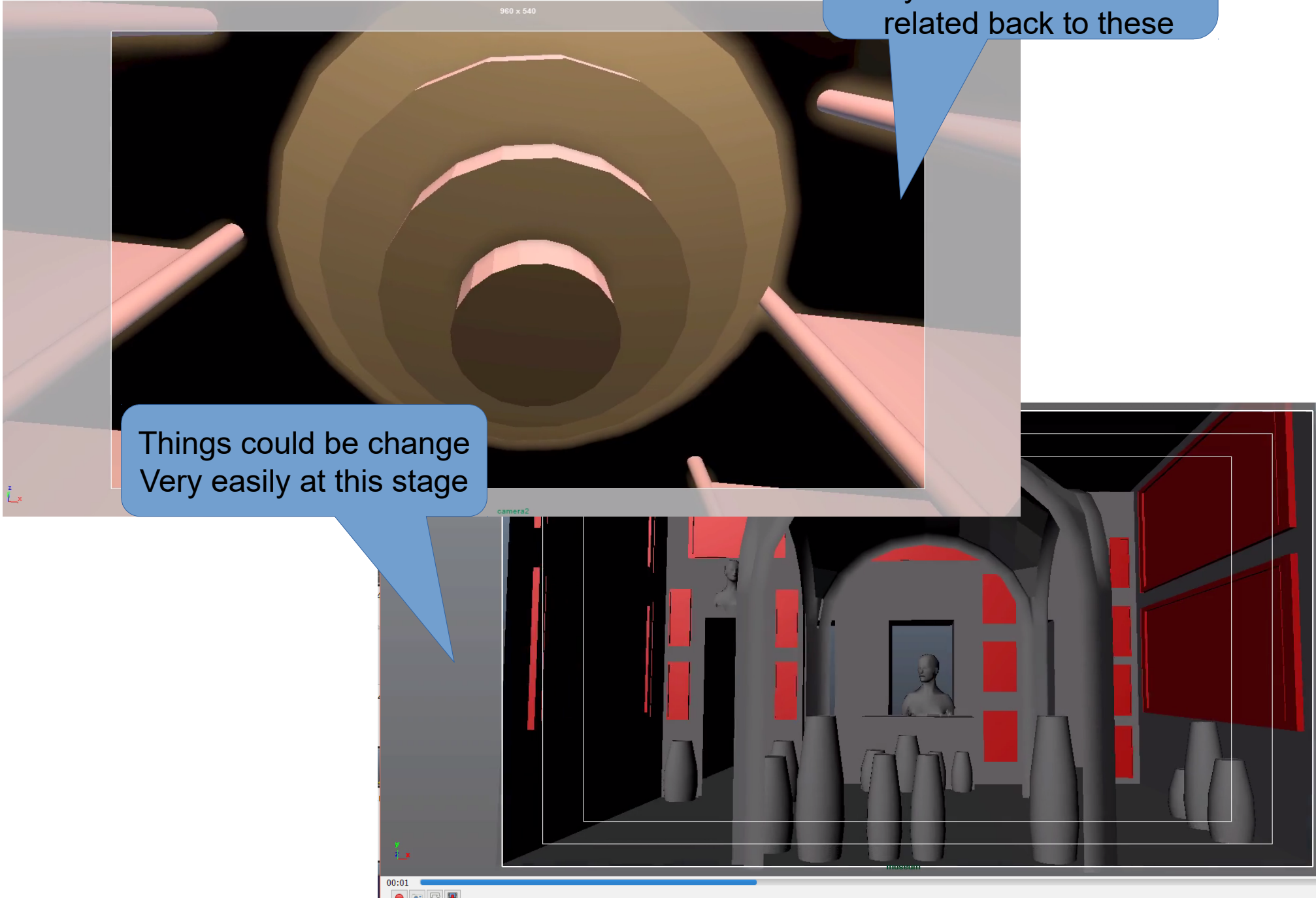
Notes on progress

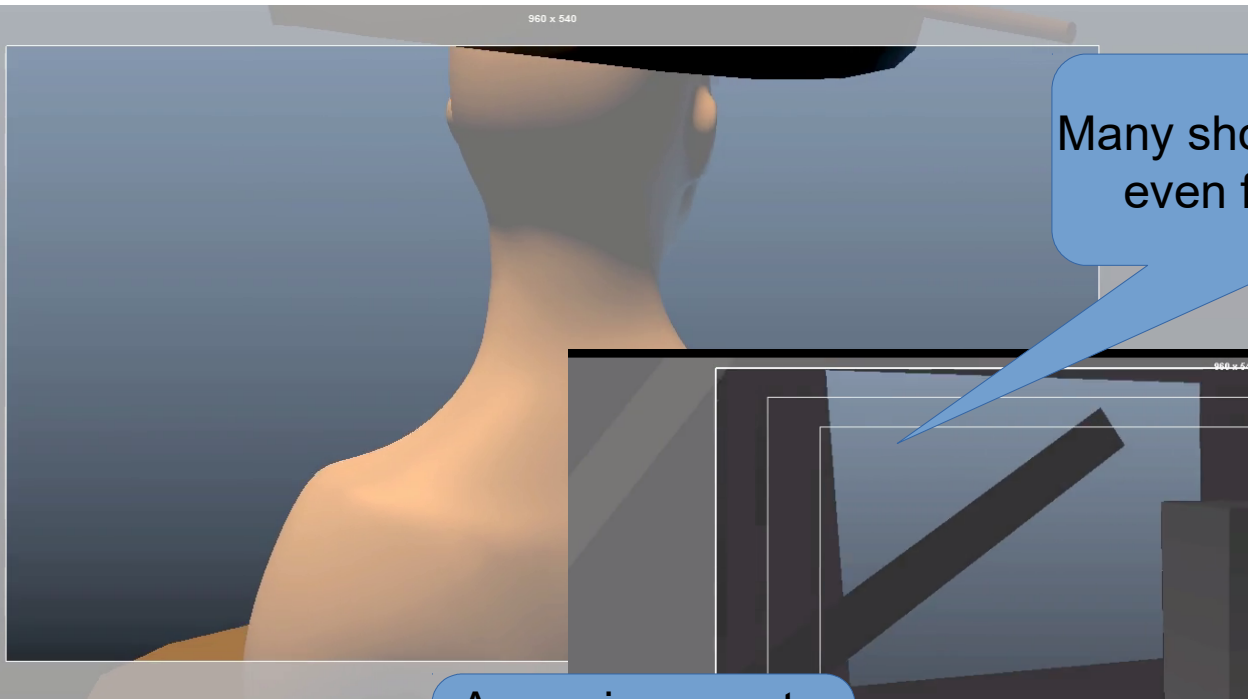
- Moving away from the photo references a while im looking back at my sketches
- Revisiting the original raw ideas that i had generated just making sure that i have these ideas in my mind and haven't disconnected from any of them
- Just reminding myself that its important to keep the mood dark, the ambience mysterious and add even a little bit of a horror vibe.
- The sketches are full off details so I have to keep that in mind also

Basic 3d blocks

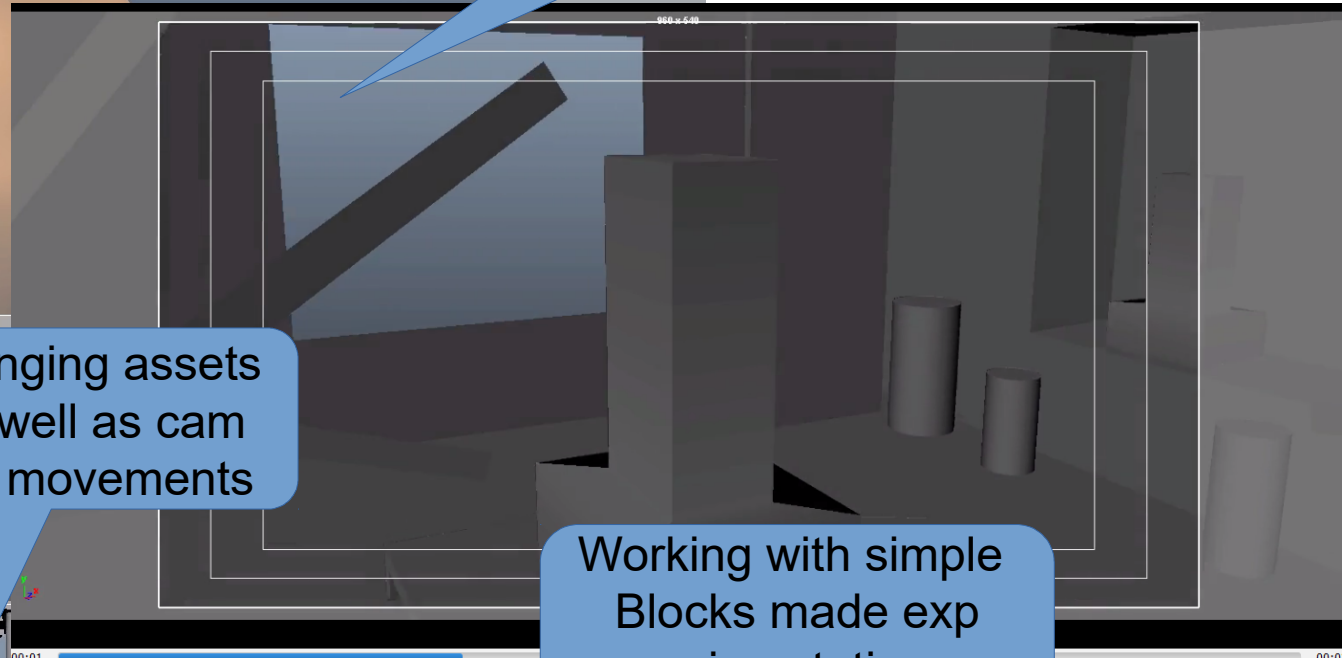
Blocking shots of several scenes
Many shots of final can be related back to these

Things could be change
Very easily at this stage



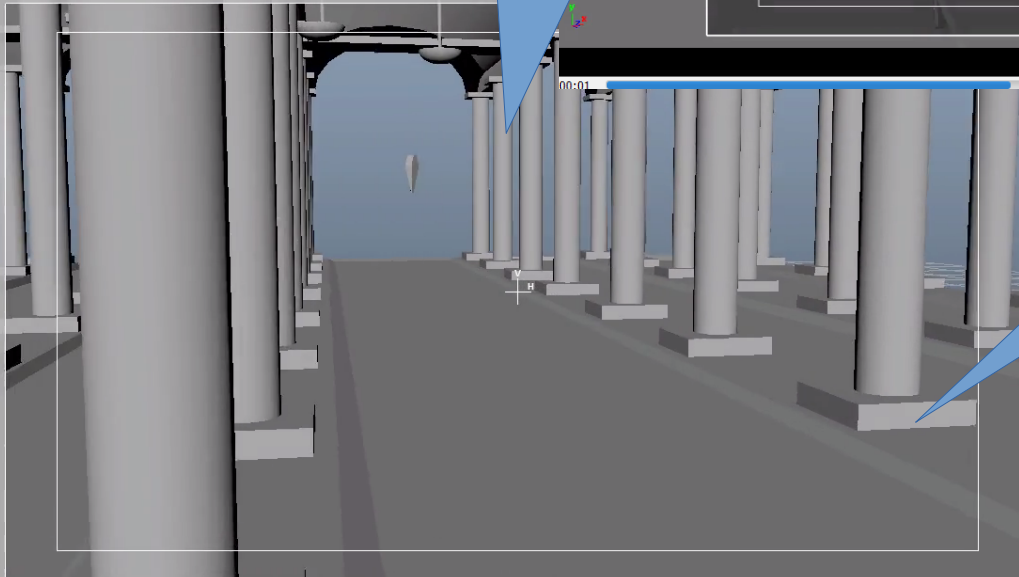


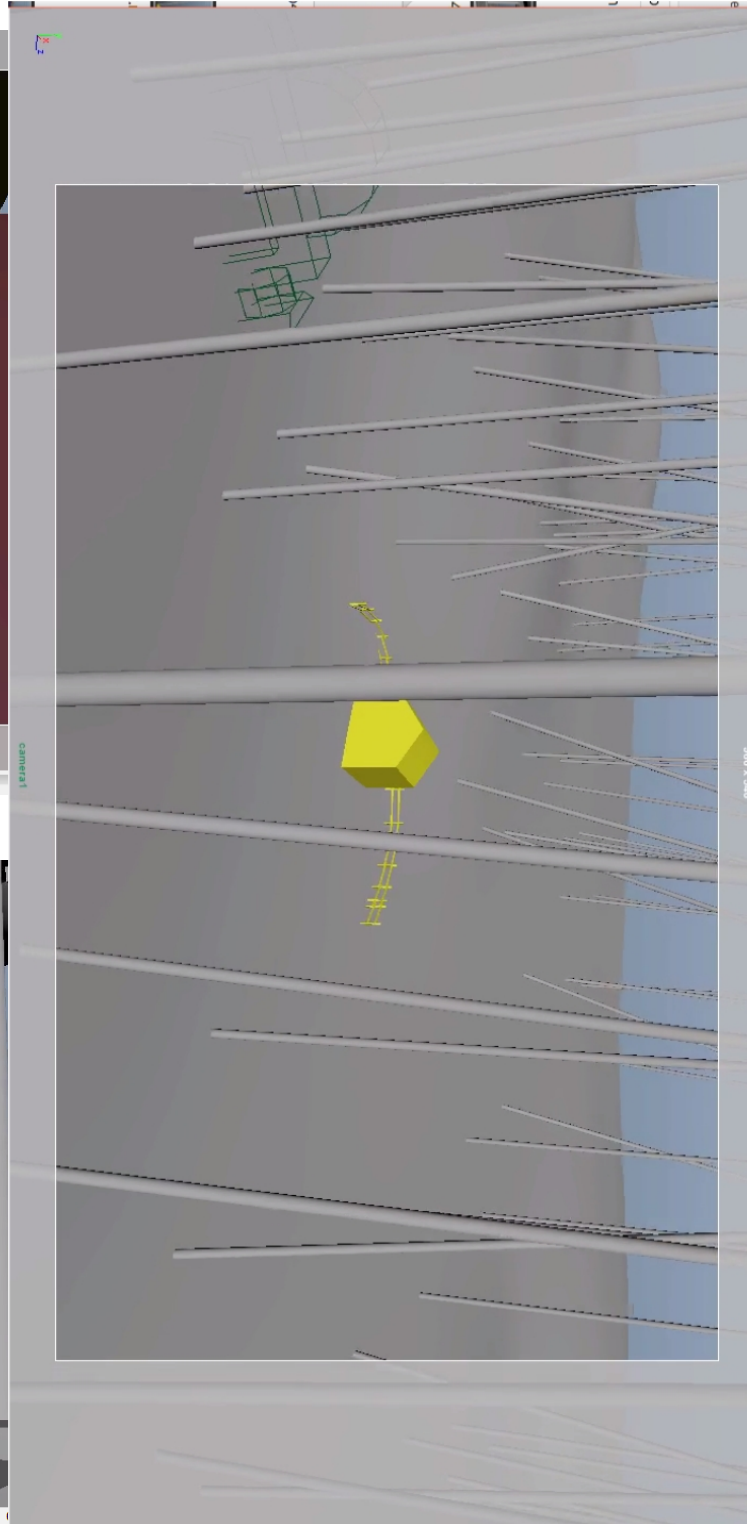
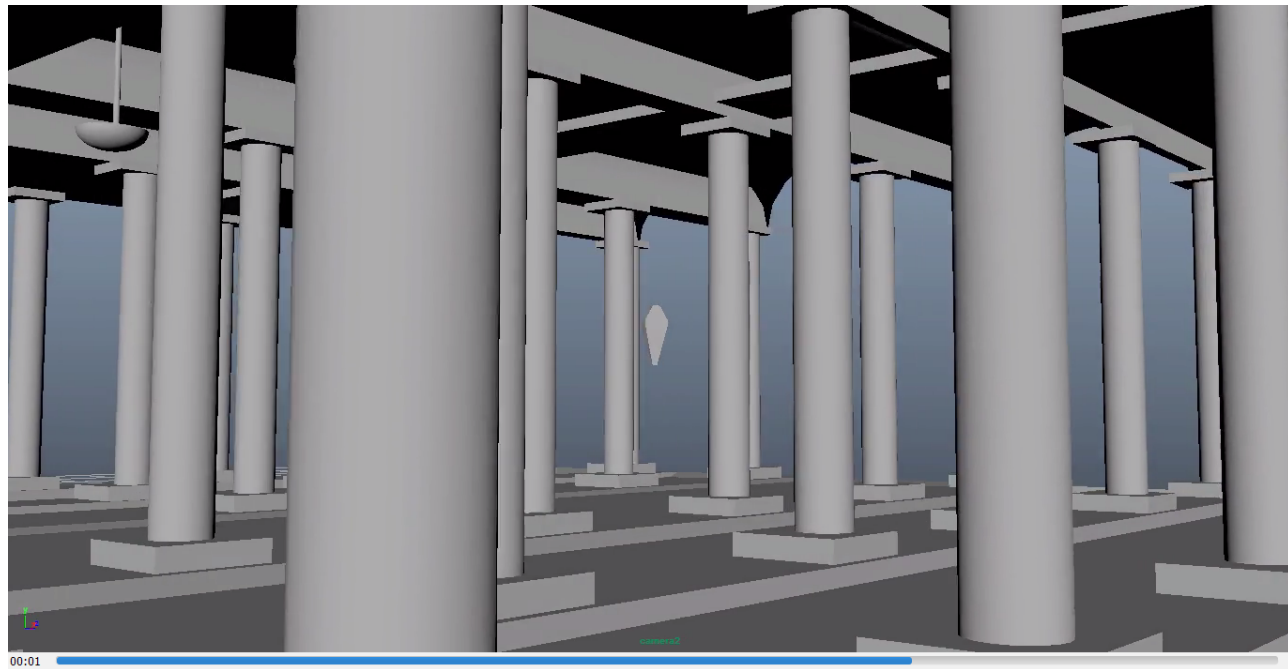
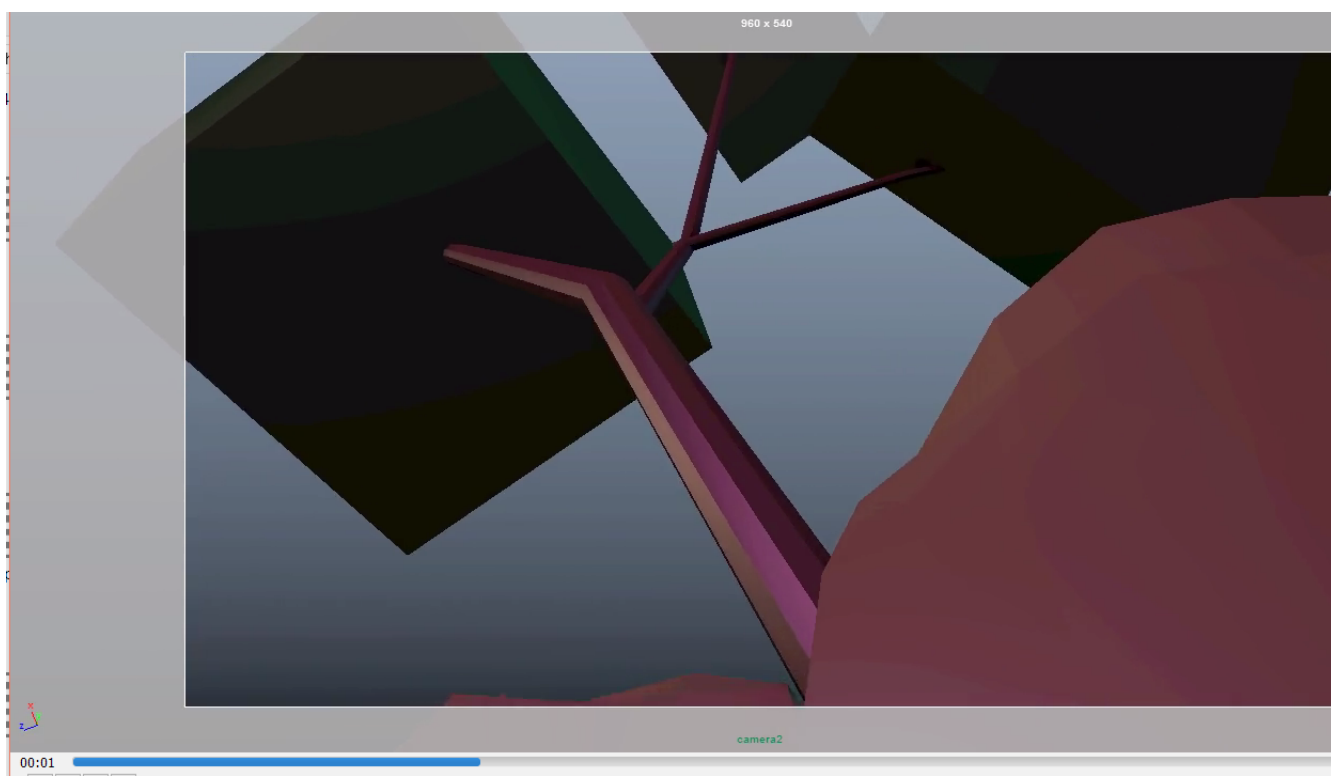
Many shots were dropped even from this stage

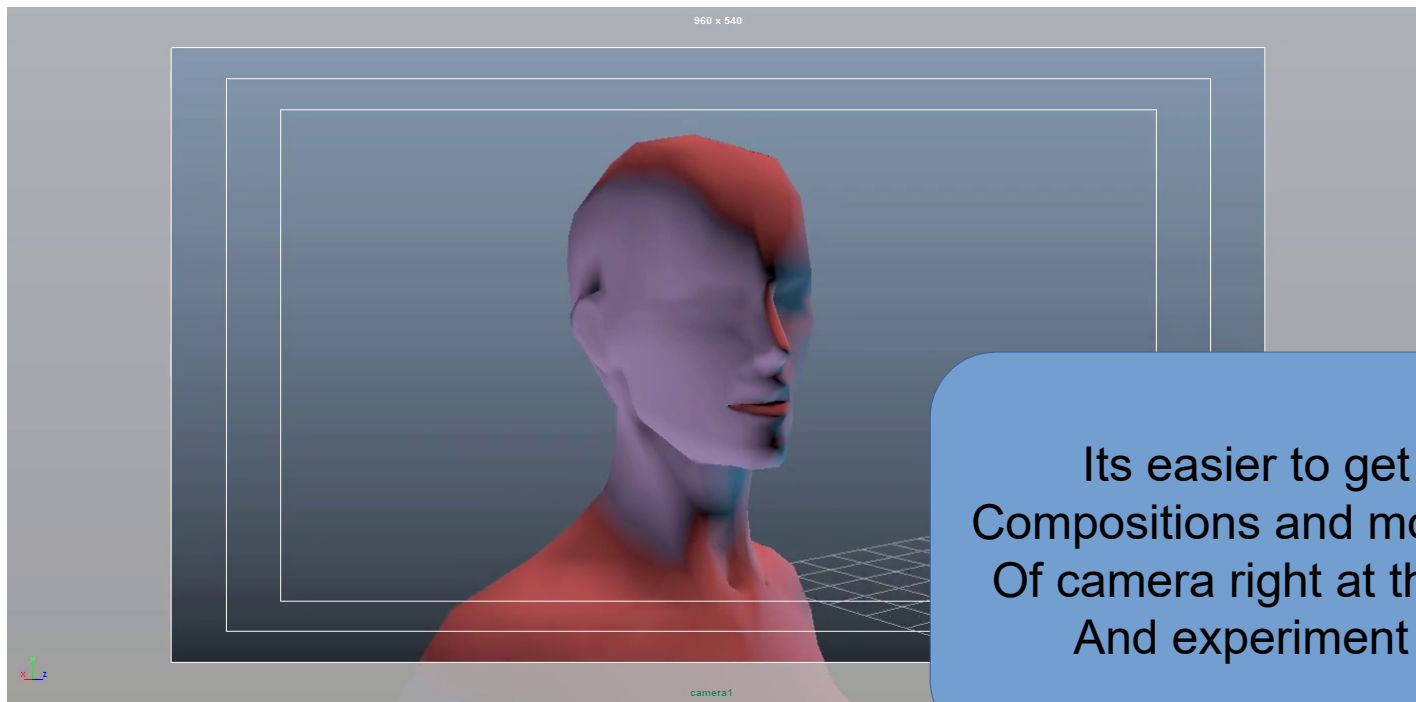


Arranging assets as well as camera movements

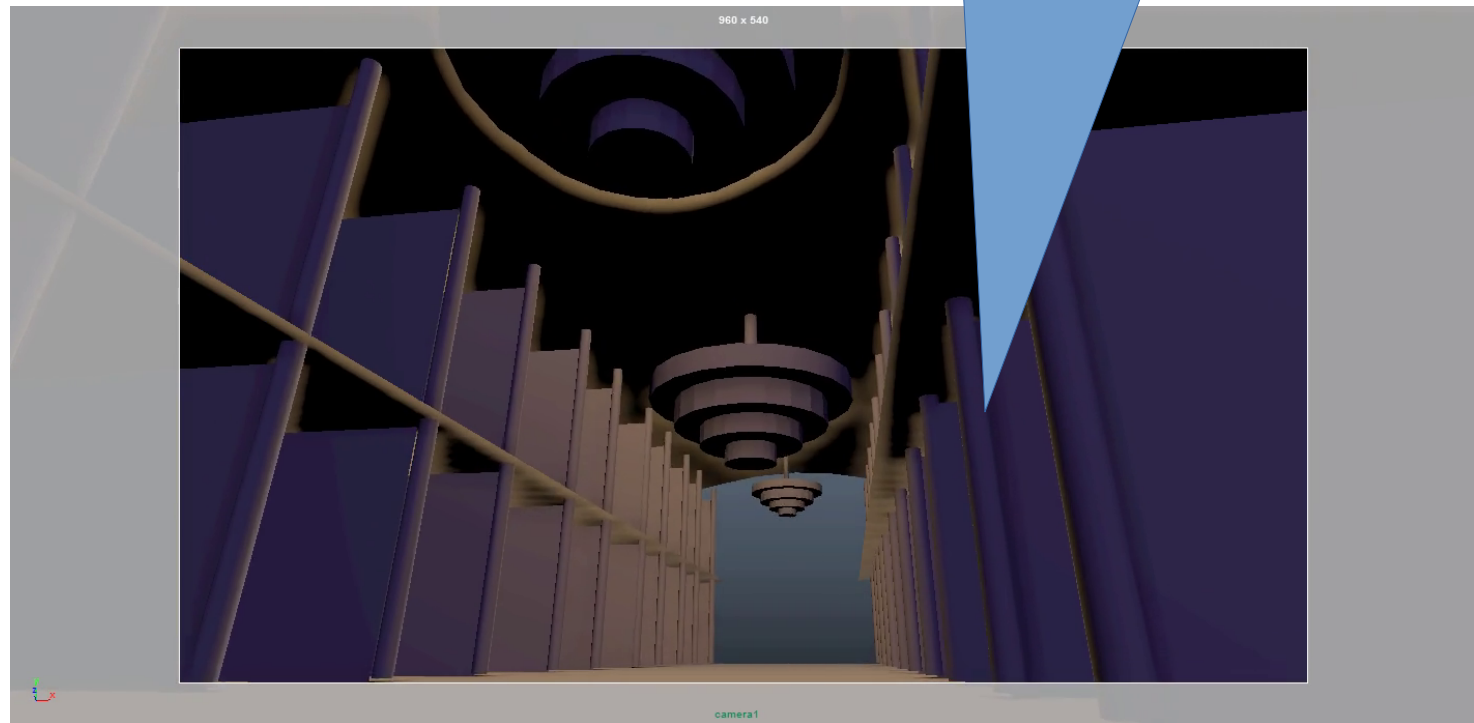
Working with simple Blocks made experimentation Very easy







Its easier to get the
Compositions and movements
Of camera right at this stage
And experiment a lot



- I had developed these 3d blocks by the end of the vmp module to create a rough image of what some of the scenes might look like
- I used them and referred to them again and again throughout the project make the scenes more accurate to my original ideas

Purpose of project

- The idea behind the project was to explore a non-narrative visual experience similar to a poem that may or may not have a story
- I wanted to explore themes of death, creation time, and experience
- I wanted to go beyond a presentation of happenings or events and explore the ability of 3d animation to communicate abstractly
- I wanted to explore different types of shots and camera movements to present ideas in a fresh way

Choice of medium

- I chose the medium of 3d animation as that supports the creation of abstract ideas like the ones i developed.
- It would also allow me to learn many things which will help me in the future as im looking at 3d animation as a career.
- Playing with lights, architecture, etc would be easier than doing stopmotion of live action etc
-

Choice of software

- Maya- as that is what we have been using for a long time, also it would be most streamlined for rendering and getting help from our teachers.
- Zbrush- it is best for sculpting, it makes it easier to create detailed surfaces, also merges easily with maya workflow, can also paint textures using it
- Substance painter- relatively new texture painting software. Want to try it out to paint textures for some of the models,
- After-effects- most comfortable with this software for post production which is a essential part of the process
- Photoshop – most comfortable with this software to paint textures etc.

Pipeline

- This is the general pipeline that i will be going through for each scene
- Start with references, primarily use the vmp module concept,
- Start modeling in maya, and uv unwrap
- If needed take it to zbrush
- Set up scene in maya , set up cameras
- Set up lighting in maya
- Get textures on the models
- Do test renders
- Render all needed passes
- Do post work in after effects
- Render out final video

Over All look and feel

- Based on the pre vis i wanted to go for a dark and mysterious look high contrast lighting for the most part
- I also want to create a uncanny unreal atmosphere so bringing together ideas, imagery that doesn't belong etc.
- But for the most part i want things to look old, damaged, bent etc.

Goals for the Project

- Should look professional
- Should be engaging
- Should look different and out of the box
- Should express energy

Expected learning from project

- Create a variety of types of models
- Know how to develop textures to make things look professional
- Learn how to set up scenes, explore experimental shots and scenes,
- Engage with a complete 3d workflow
-

Ideas behind editing

- I want to use a variety of editing ideas as appropriate for the shots,
- I want to use dynamic transitions stark cuts and fades
- I want to jump between distant shots and create continuity whenever necessary,
- But on the whole it should be generally disorientating and confusing

Scene by Scene Analysis

- Analyse every scene from the pre-viz and see what can be changed, condensed , combined or removed.
- This was essential too fit the completion of the project within the given time frame and make it more concise and impactful

Coffin Scene

- I want to keep this scene pretty much as it is, instead of one bit long shot i will explore the artistic possibilities a little more
- I want to keep a pov shot in the beginning that slowly turns into a smooth non pov shot
- I also want to cut away and into the scene multiple times
- Apart from this i want to keep the low key lighting as it is but decrease the openness of the scene and make it a little more claustrophobic but keep the architectural setting grand
- Moving away from a general hall type setting i want to resemble a church or cathedral so it connects more thematically with the coffin itself



Flower crown

- I want to make some big changes to this
- I want to combine it with the busts scene conceptually and instead of making a big crown i want to explore tHE dead flowers imagery in a more non localized way by including it generally as a prop for the busts
- This way i can combine scenes and save time and bring the smoke idea closer to these dead flowers and human head
- I can also explore flowers in other areas of the body as props etc

Bonsai Scene

- I do want to include this bonsai scene but within another scene as a individual idea i think its not very strong
- But within another scene its worthy of acting like a focal point
- I think adding it to the large library scene will be a good idea as it will enrich it with a focal point
- And ill save a lot of time as i wont need to make a separate interior for this scene as well
- I want to include coniferous trees in it rather than more branching out non coniferous trees as per my painting, this will link it to the forest scene maybe i can even cut between these two scenes to link them
- These changes will enrich the possibility of this bonsai idea

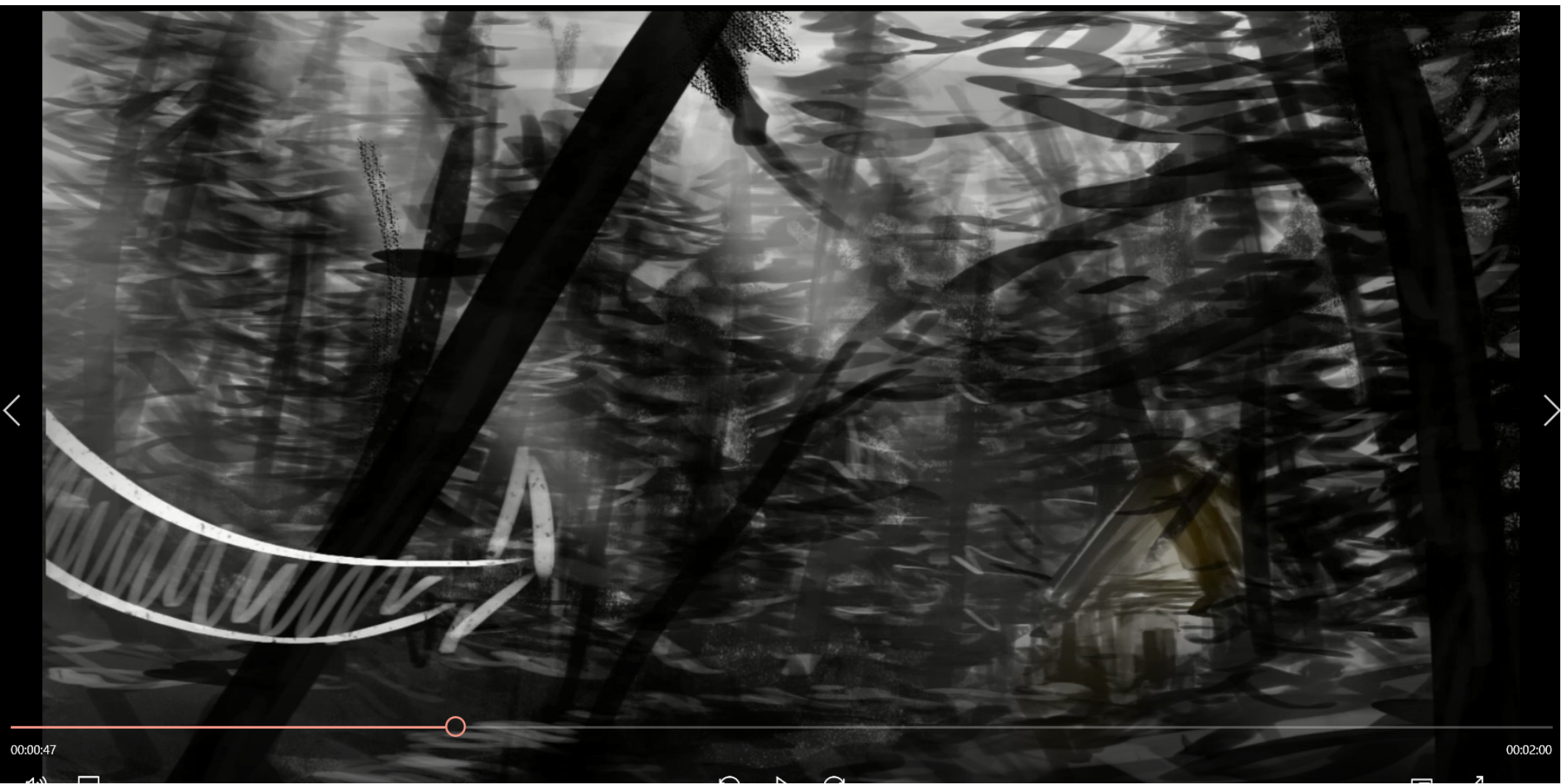
Forest Scene

- Forest scene should be keep pretty much the same
- Not may changes to be made hear
- I think instead of just sticking with one lighting i should move It so that it looks more and more stark as time goes within the scene.



Stove Scene

- Want to change the look of the stove so that it looks more of a common usable used stove
- With pots and pans around it i want to make it look like its been used
- Other than that everything else will remain the same
- The primary source of lighting should be the flames from the stove itself



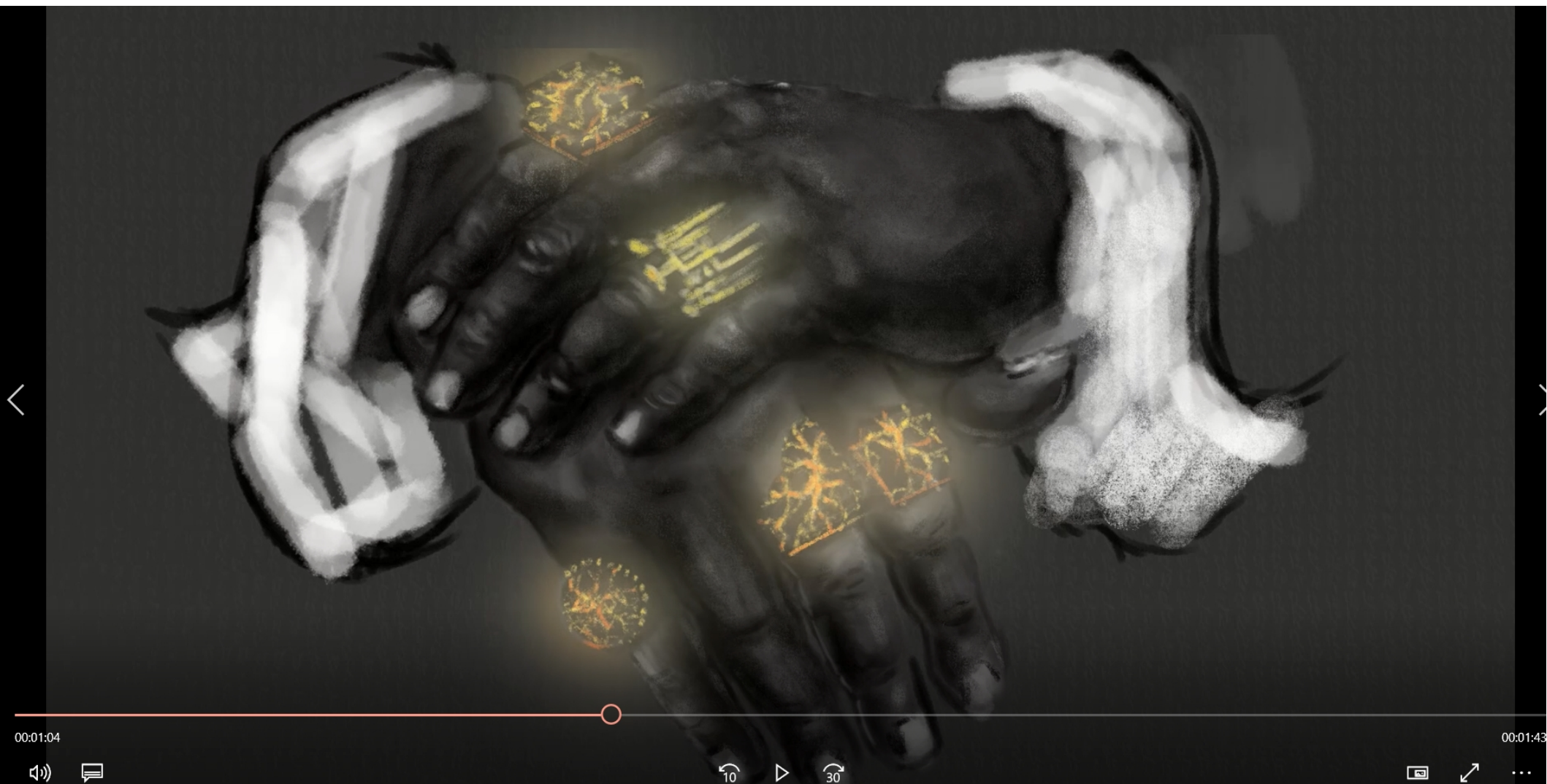
00:00:47

00:02:00



Hands

- This scene wont have any major changes
- The camera should be brought closer to the /hands
- The hadns shoul;d be a little less fatty and more wrinkled
- Other than that this scene can stay the same



Busts

- Instead of switching between many busts i think ill condense it into one sculpture which can also House the flower idea,
- Instead of making hyper realistic humans i want to play with surface detail and texture more
- They can look more like marble sculptures
- Need to focus more on the texturing process
- The flowers can be eyes too
- Need to figure out a goood pose for the sculpture
- Include the smoke as well
- This scene if done as i imagined would be boring long and take too much time

buildings

- I need to reduce the buildings in number
- Doing this portion of the project itself would take more time than i have
- Instead of 10 i should do only one or two and juice these scenes as much as possible
- Using this scene as quick repetitive cuts would be a good idea or even one stark long shot with a still camera this i will figure out when im piecing together the project post modeling
- Which building to make ? I think a more bland looking one that can house more of the highlighted architectural ideas at once would be a good option
- A more generic looking building face
-

Sculpted details

Symbol of power
Achievement
Happenings of history

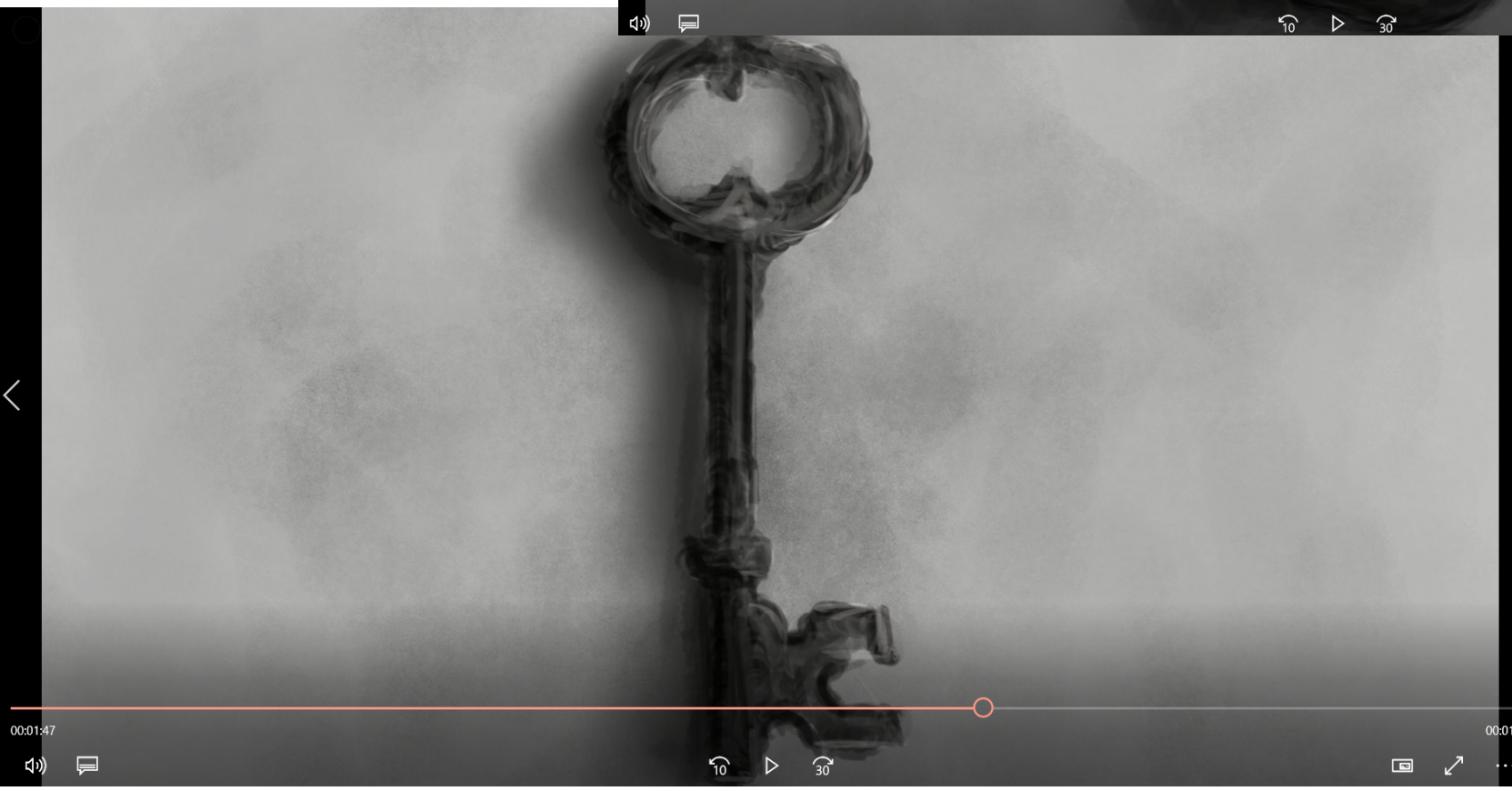
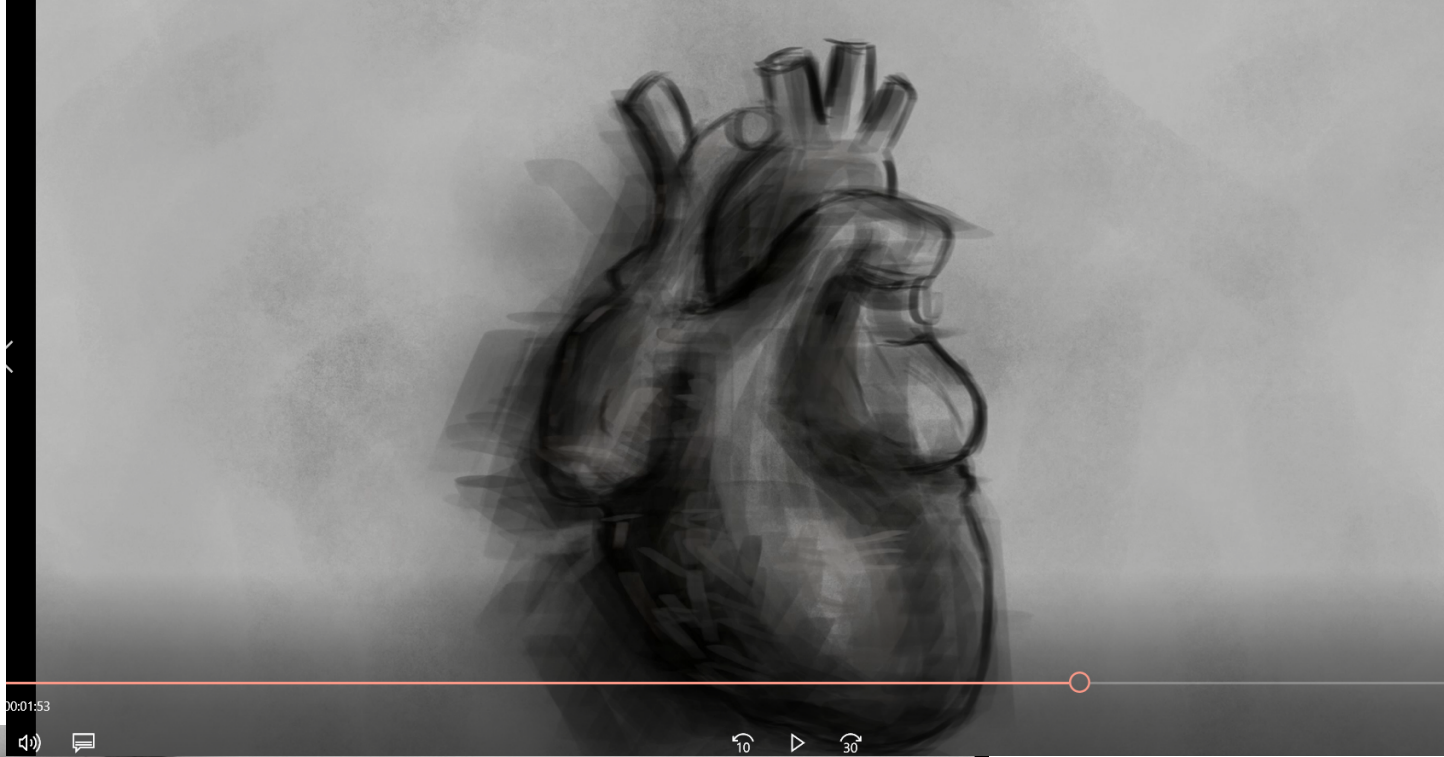
01:29

00:01



Still life scene

- Will reduce the number of pieces in this sequence as well
- The watch , key , the little inkpot with the plants idea seems good
- I should also definitely do the heart





00:01:00

01:39

Notes on progress

- Working with my main sketches and concept video to figure out the possibilities of new scenes or modifying the scenes somehow
- Realised that the video needs to be tighter and more condensed
- Grouping things and bringing scenes close together based on new ideas generated
- Sticking to same mood and feel just arranging the content a little differently

Interior sequence

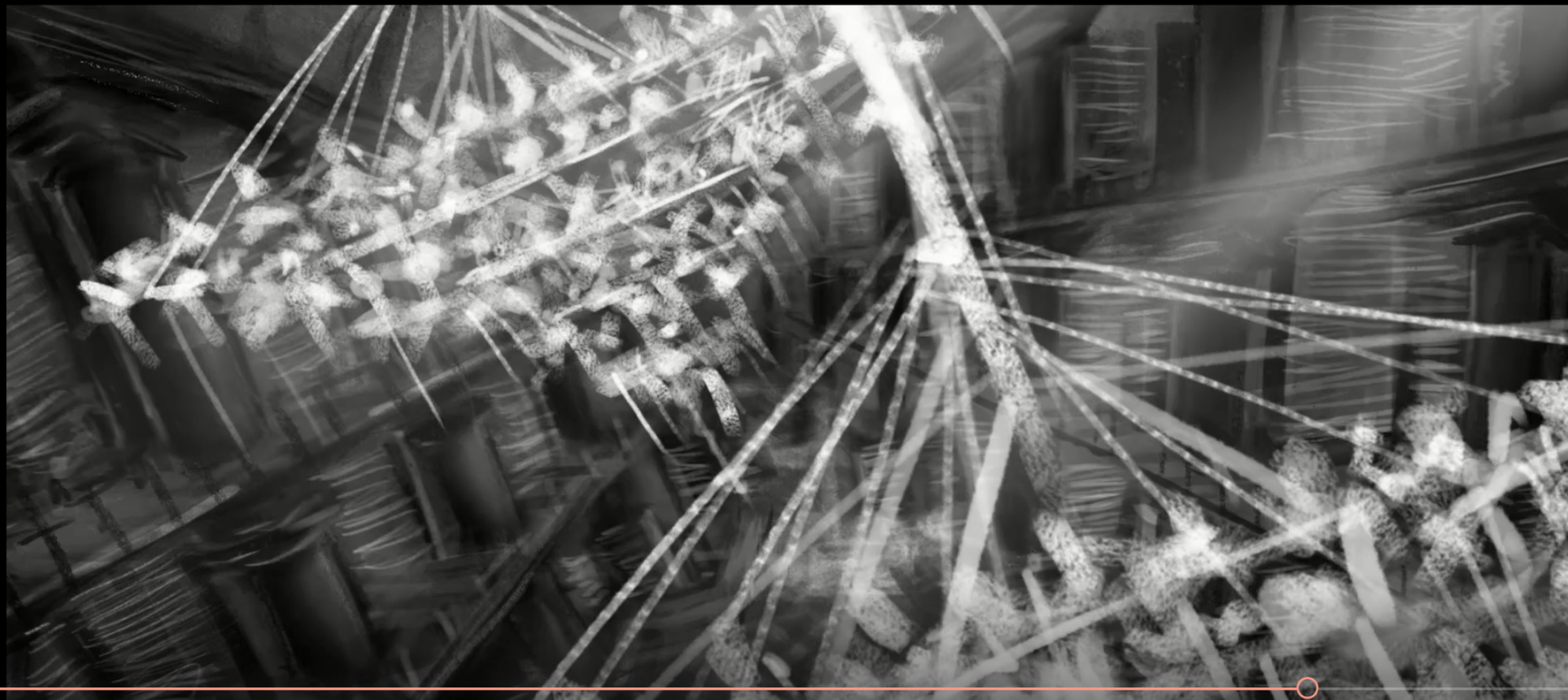
- I want to combine the green house with the buddha scene
- And include the open window shot
- If i have time i will include more ideas from here but given the time i should focus on doing this much

Notes on audience

- Just to mention again i want the project to be directed to audiences who will be more inclined towards abstract art, poetry things of that nature
- So mature audiences dont think children or younger ppl will enjoy it much as im not trying to make exciting or thrilling things

Library Scene

- Want to keep the scene as it is include the bonsai within this scene
- Again instead of rendering one long shot i want to use it more and as i scene to cut into and out of many times throughout the project.
- Instead of coming into it throug the large window i can find some more impactful ways of introducing this scene like coming into from the coffin scene etc.



00:02:17

00:00:30



Last flower still life

- The last flower motif also seems like its hanging in thin air
- So to combat this im going to dissolve this scene into other scenes keeping the dead flower motif alive but condensing it into the rest of the project in general.

Combining and condensing ideas

- I combined many ideas to reduce amount of work repetition and creating a more condensed project idea
- Instead of travelling linearly i want to jump between scenes and come back to areas again and again
- Instead of just having more content

Starting production

- At this point i was ready to start production
- The way i want to do is to go from rough to detailed
- But instead of doing one scene at a time i want to start and work all or more than one scene together so that i can develop relationships between them whenever i want
- But for simplicity i will present them linearly in this document

Grouping and categorizing

- This is how i created my folder structure
- Have different folders for each scene where i will start developing the assets
- When times comes to include textures in the projects i will create project folder that will be a part of this greater structure

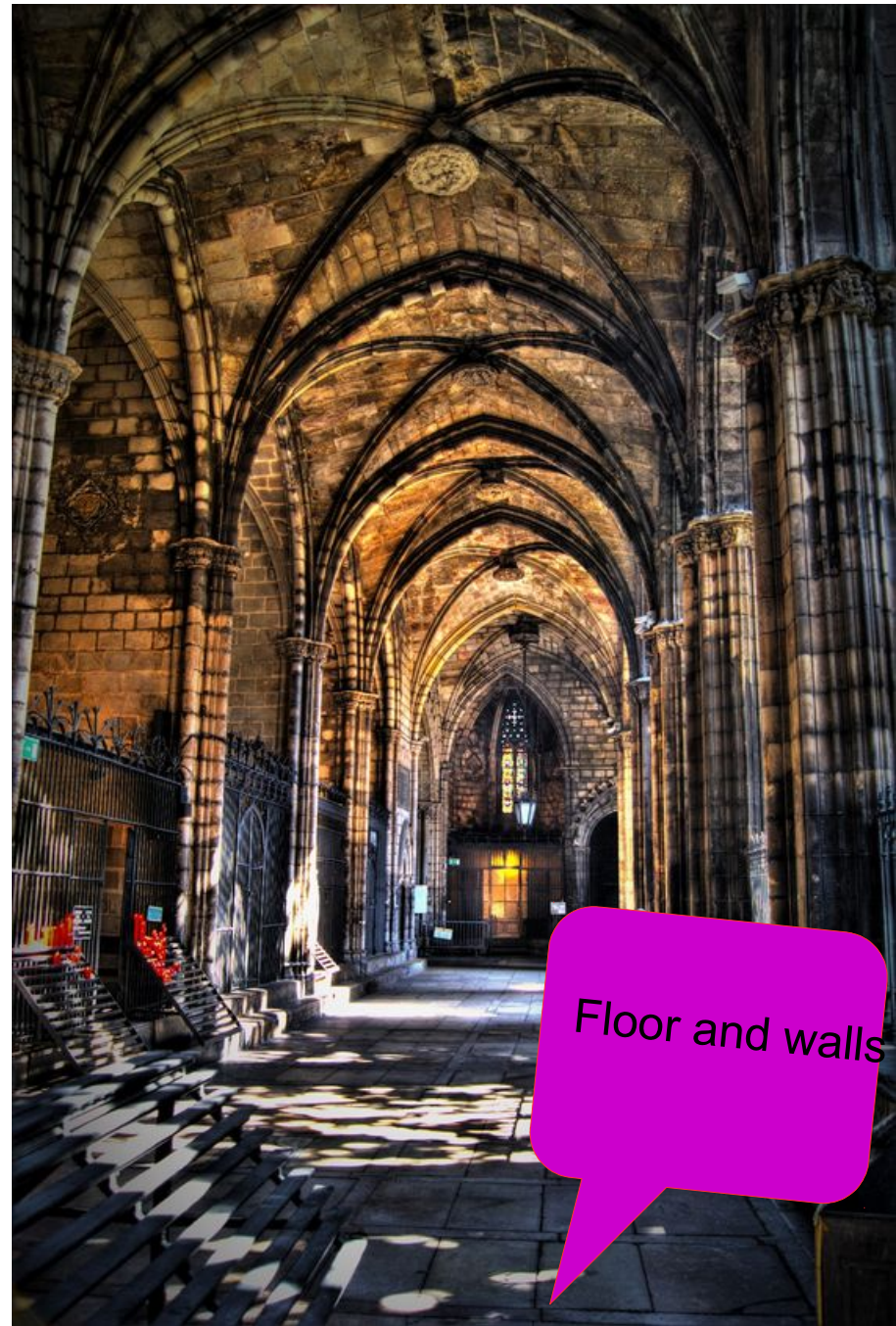
Translating reference into 3d

- I think there is value in using reference to guide my work in many cases, especially with highly technical architectural designs, sculpt designs etc
- But there is always ways of modifying especially in the 3d world
- Copying also helps in the learning process,
- But i have to constantly judge weather what im including through reference and make sure it fits the entire attitude of the scene ,
- In sculpting reference can be used as an preliminary guide after which the sculpt should usually develop on its own much like a poem.

Details on the pillar

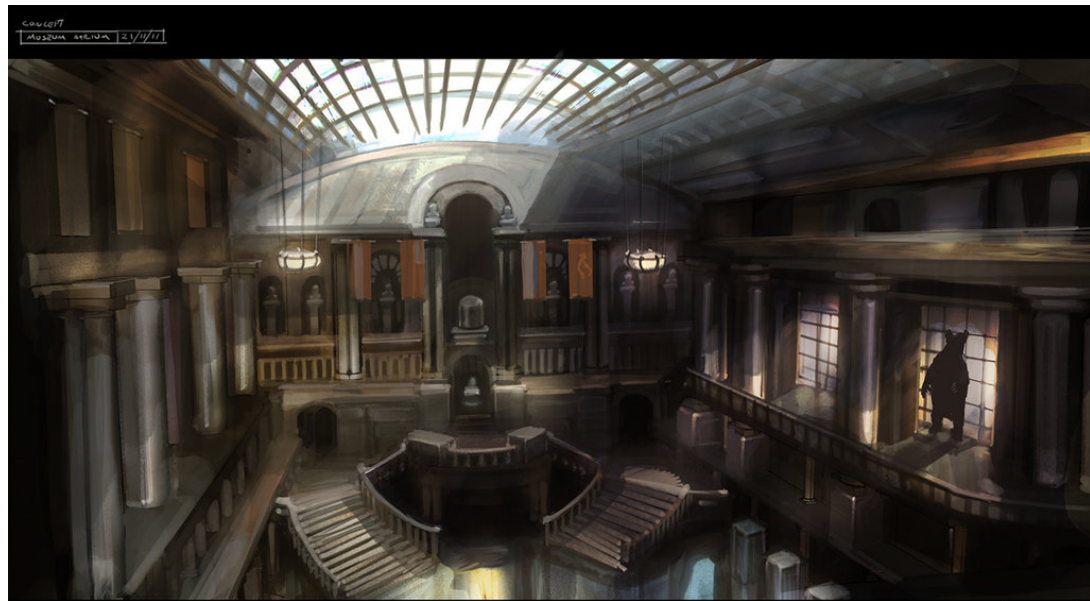


Windows



Floor and walls





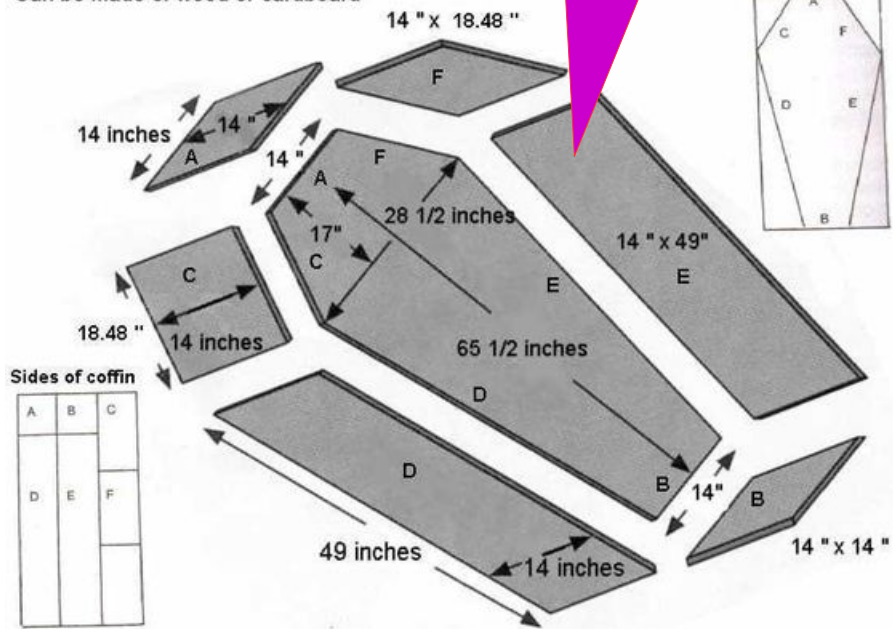
Large amount of
Visual detail



Coffin Dimensions
Can be made of wood or cardboard

Use 2 board
Three board

Sides only.

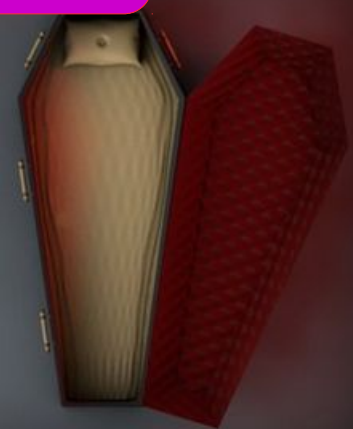


Study the
shape

FURNITURE - COFFIN



Example of
3d coffin
Soft lighting



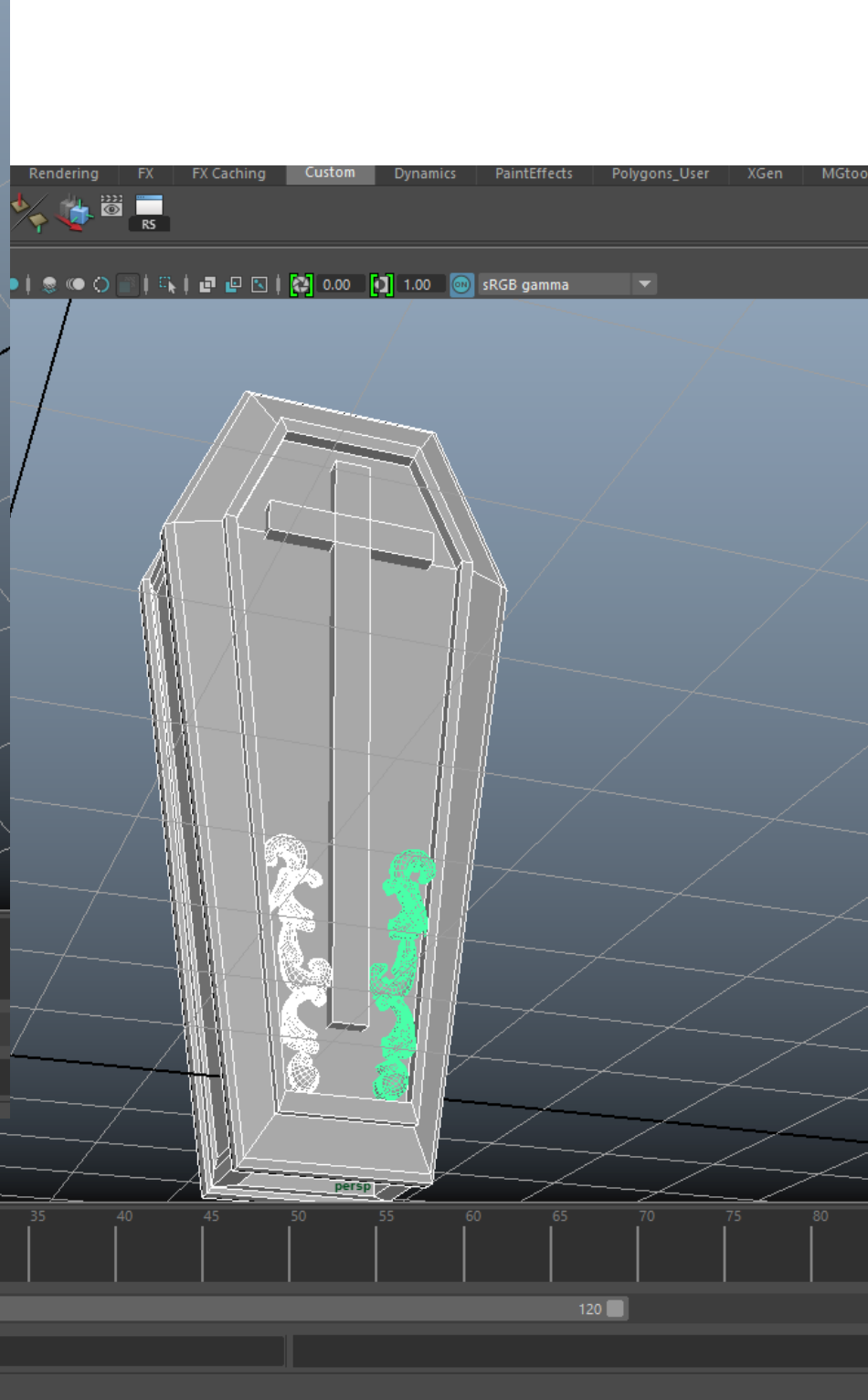
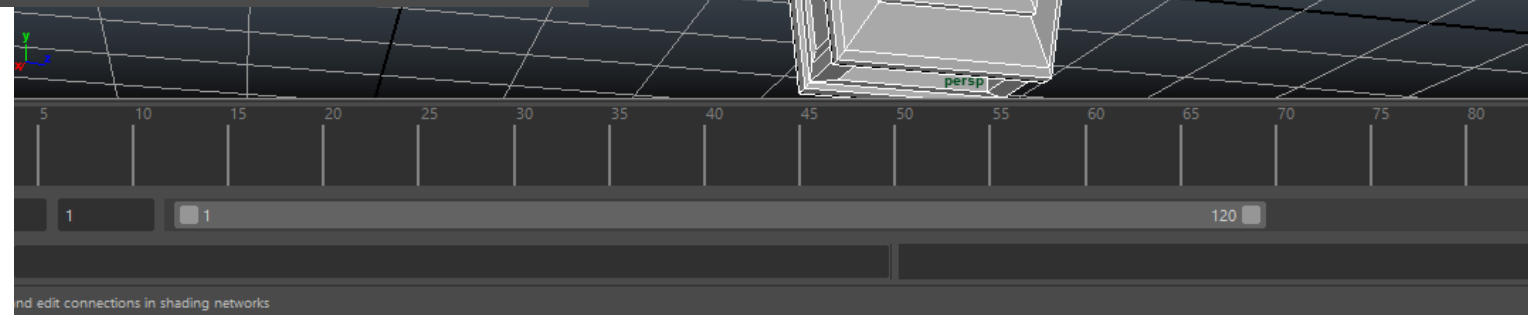
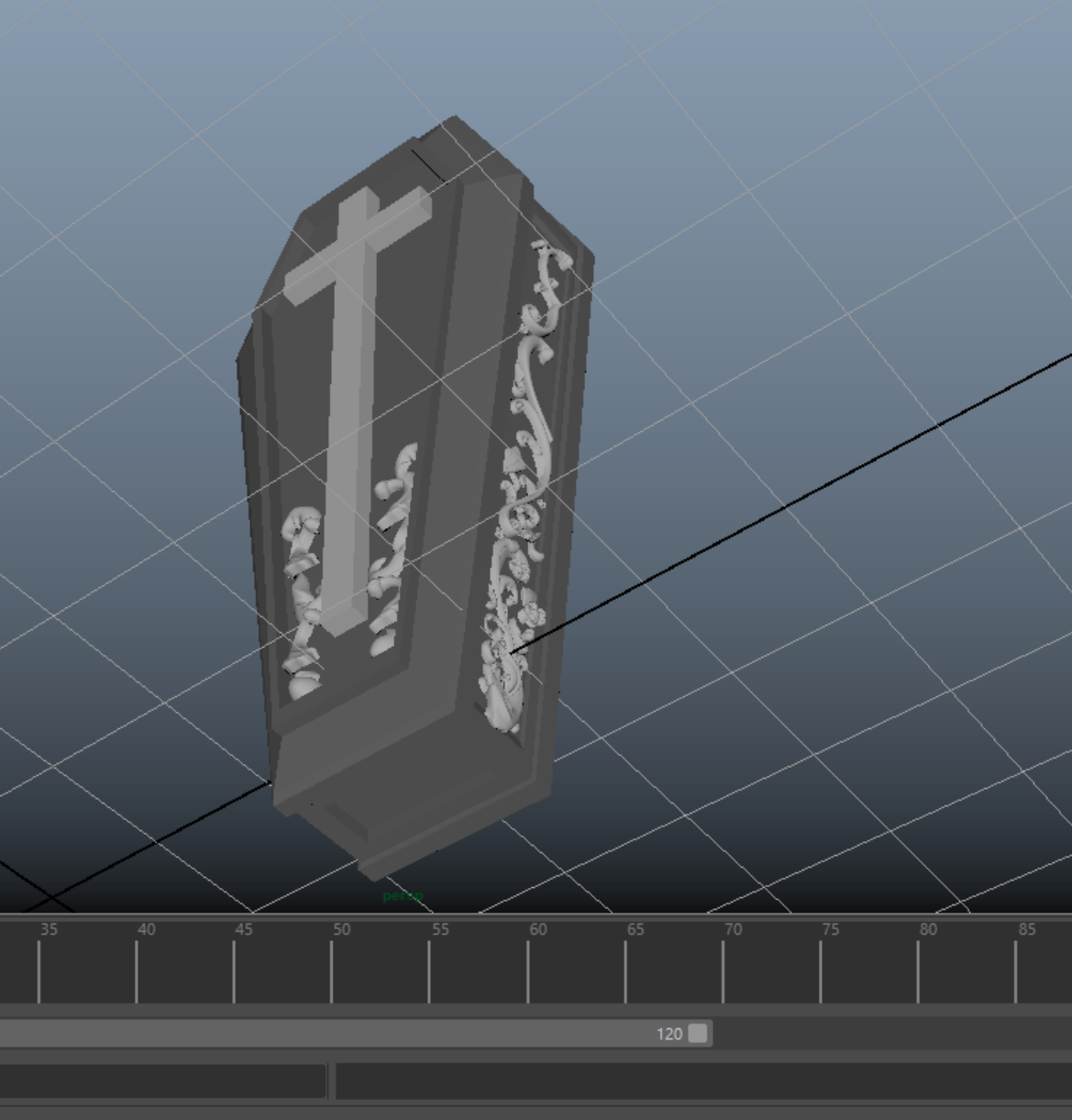
POLYGONS: 3908
OBJECTS: 52

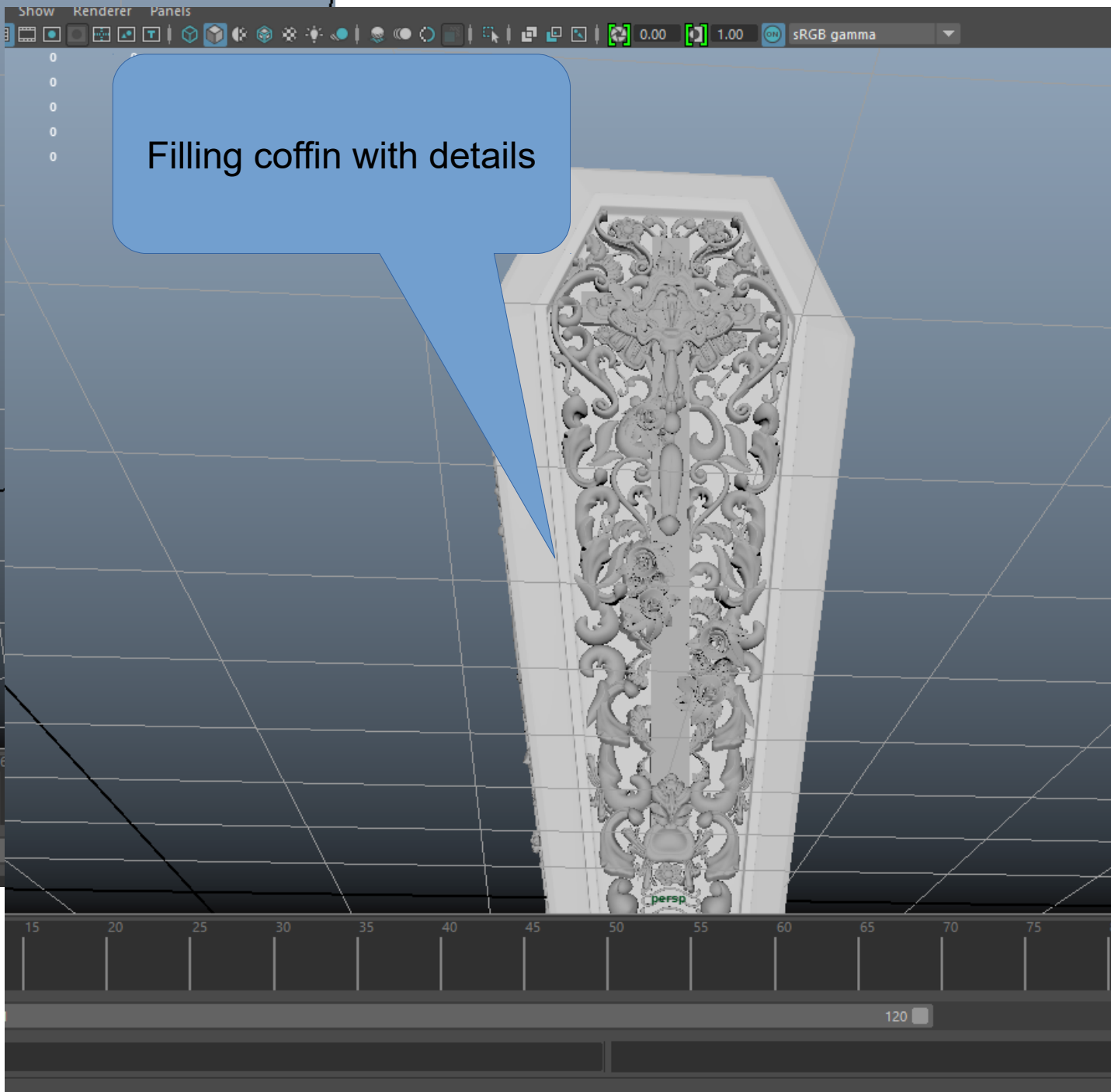
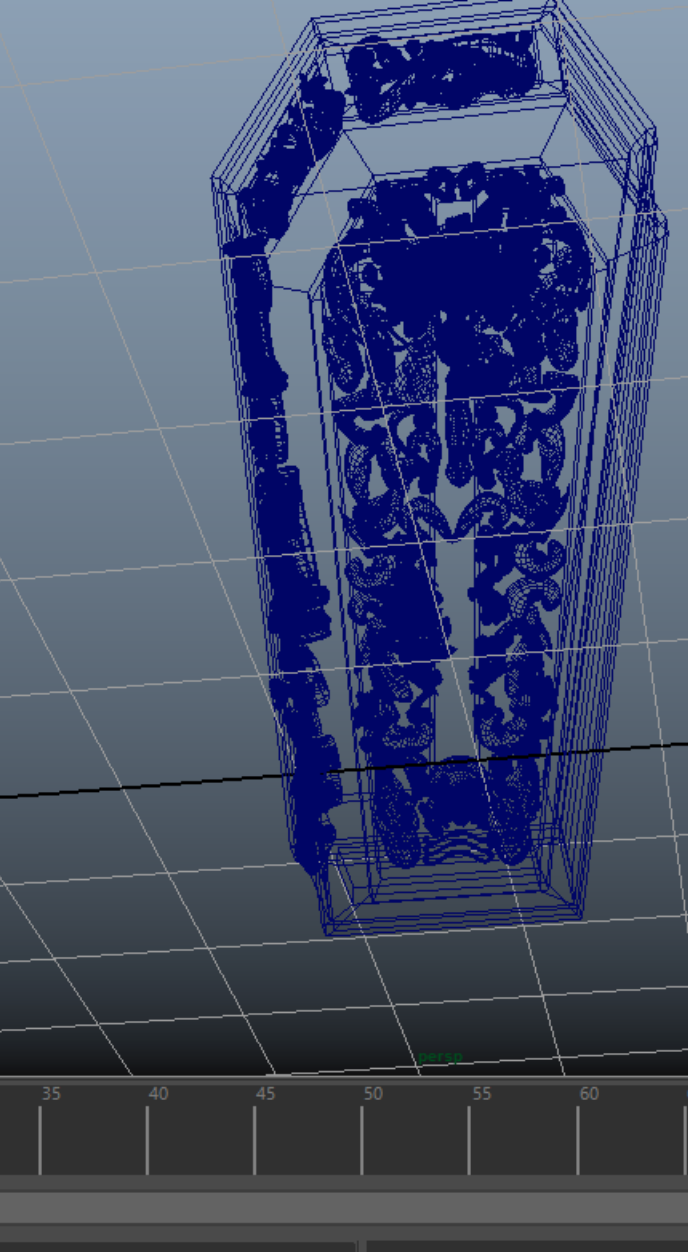
Old wooden feel



Sculpted details





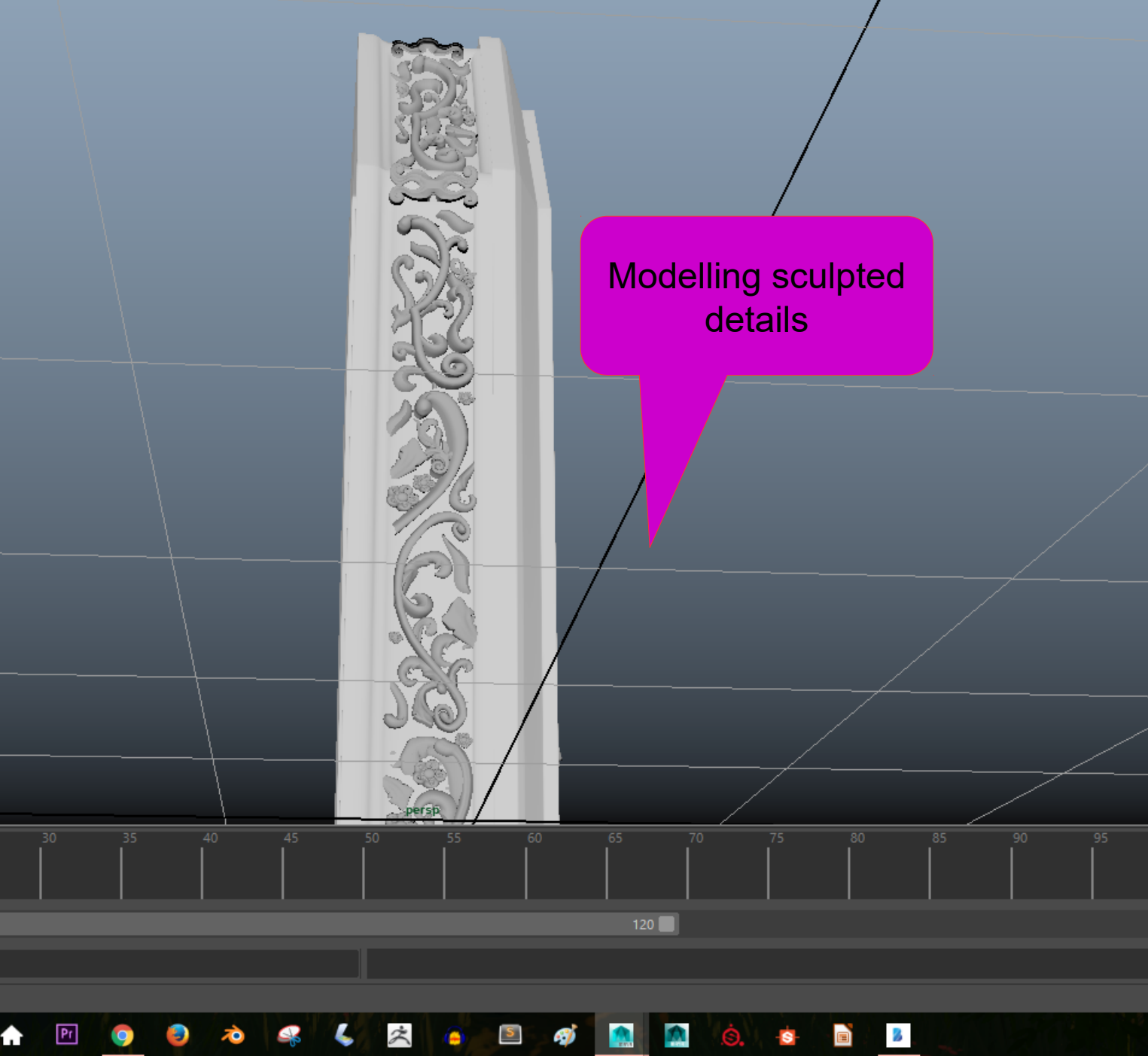


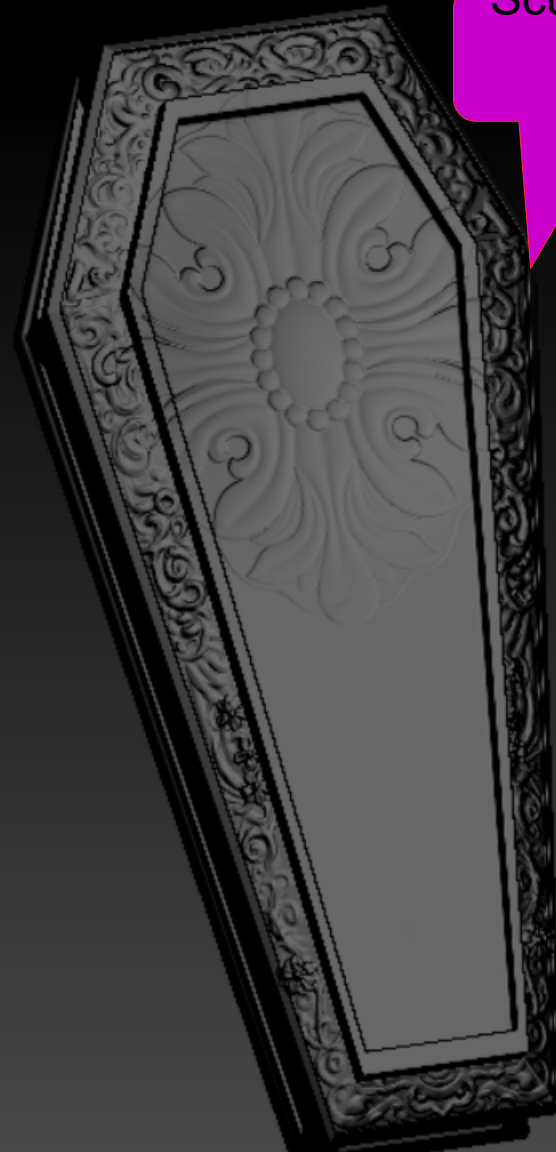
Notes on progress

- Trying to bring the coffin scene up
- Started with doing the environment
- Needed a lot of reference for this
- Started building modular units that could be repeated later
- Then went into the coffin
- Tried to make it look as detailed as possible
- Tried to make it look like some rich persons coffin who died long time ago

Using reference

- The sculpt details for the coffin are really important
- Trying to get the richness of the materials will also be crucial the lighting will also affect the quality
- The church itself has a lot of details in the way the architecture is designed
- The church building has a lot of scope for adding details this should be good advantage

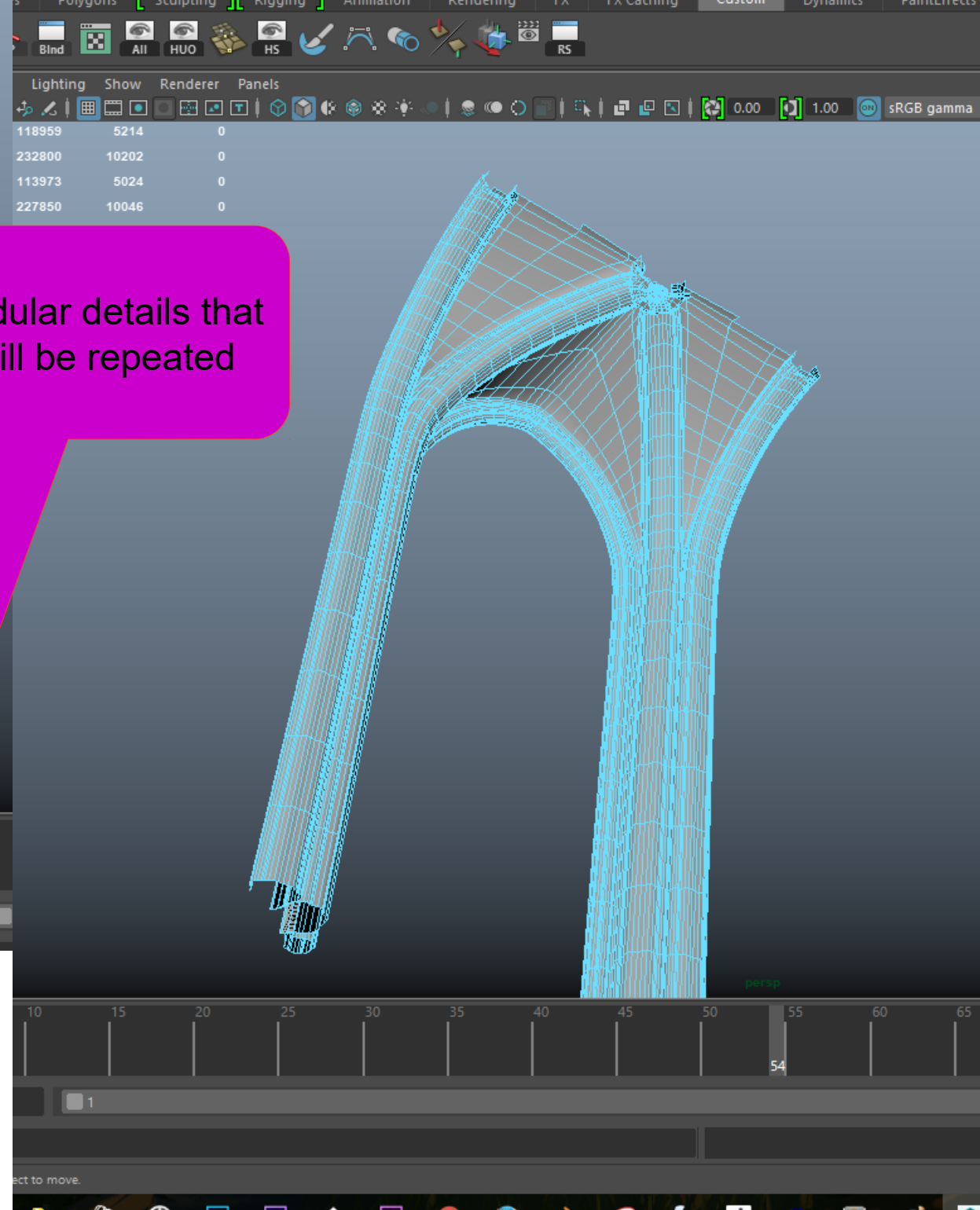


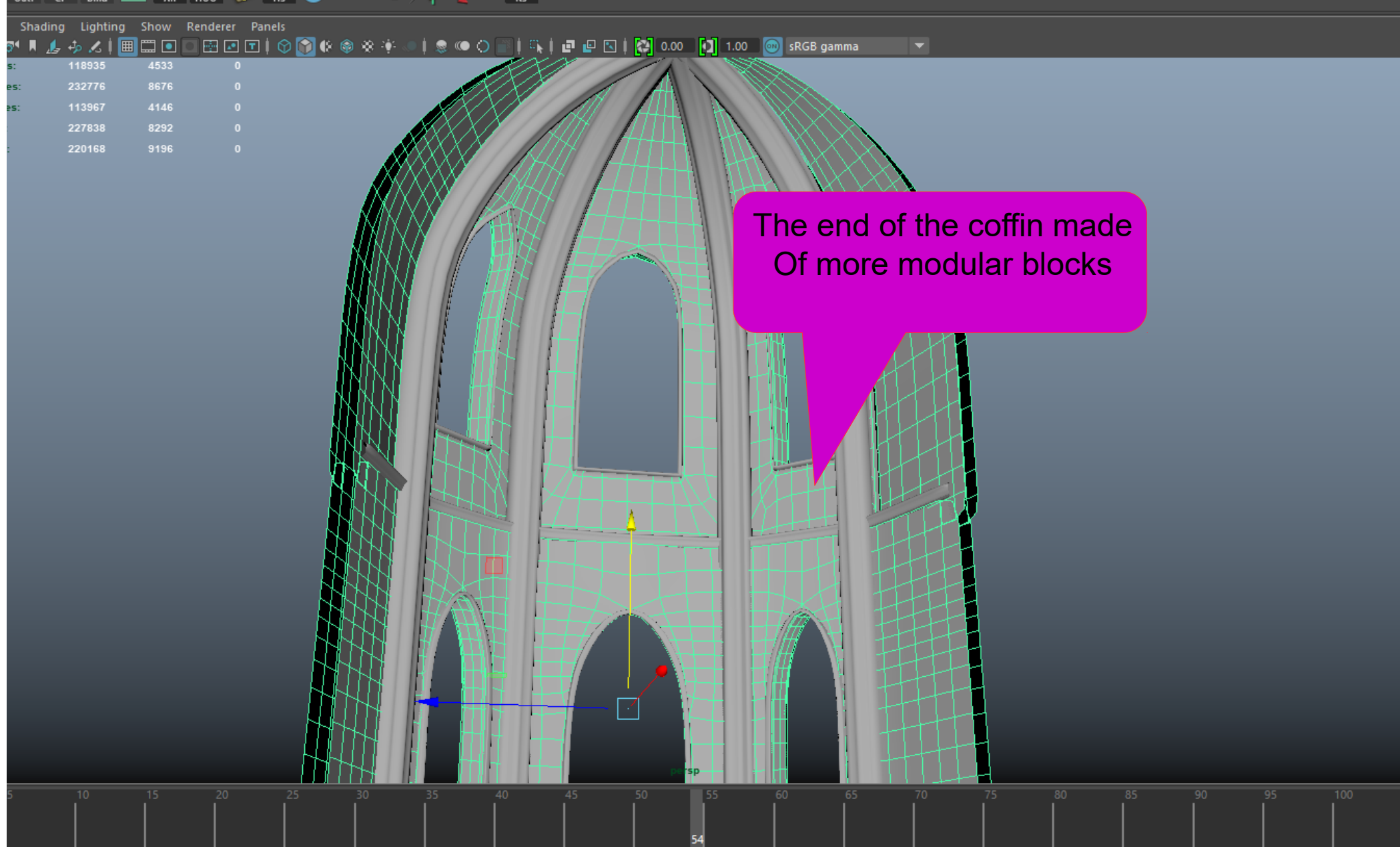


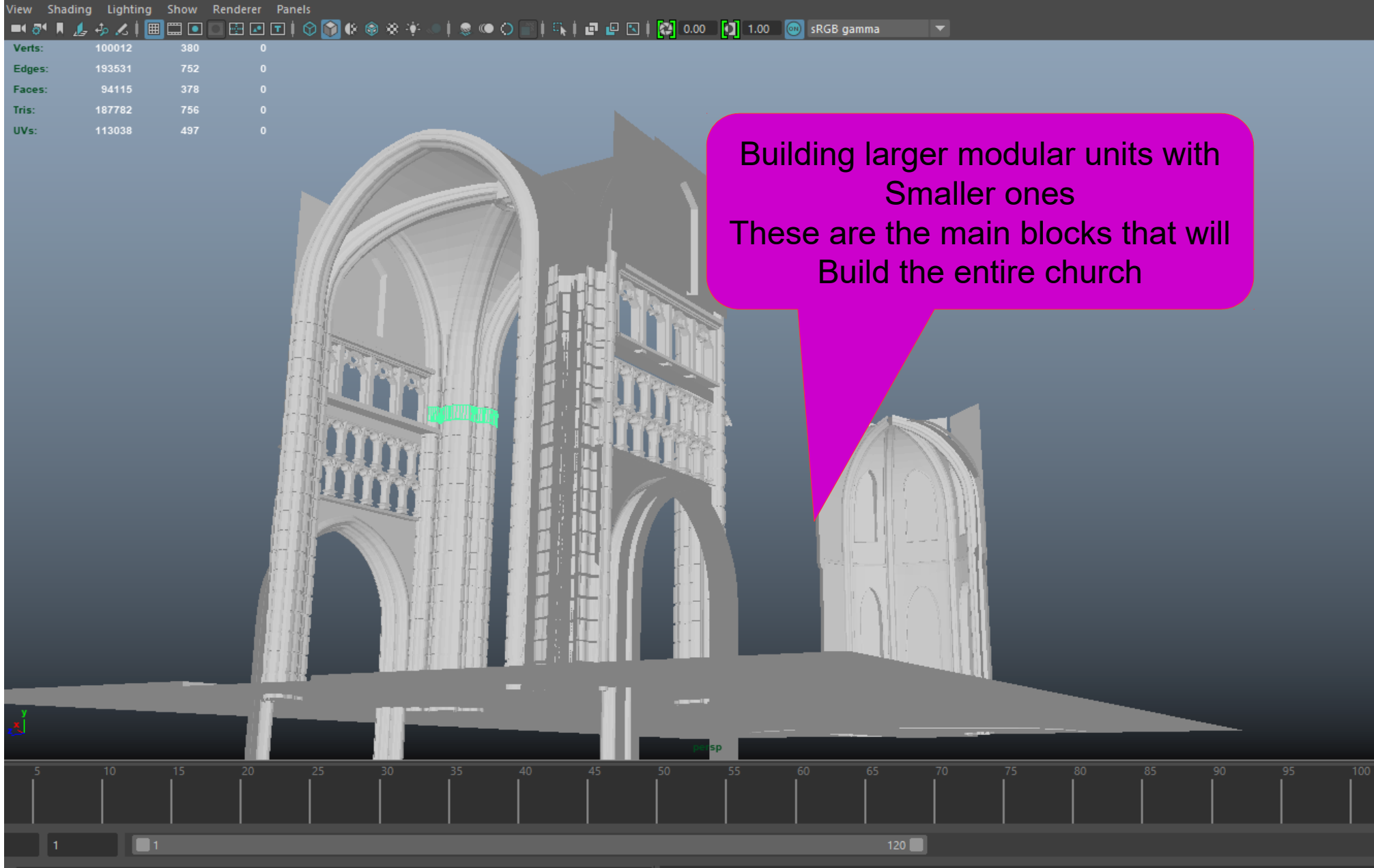
Sculpting more
Details



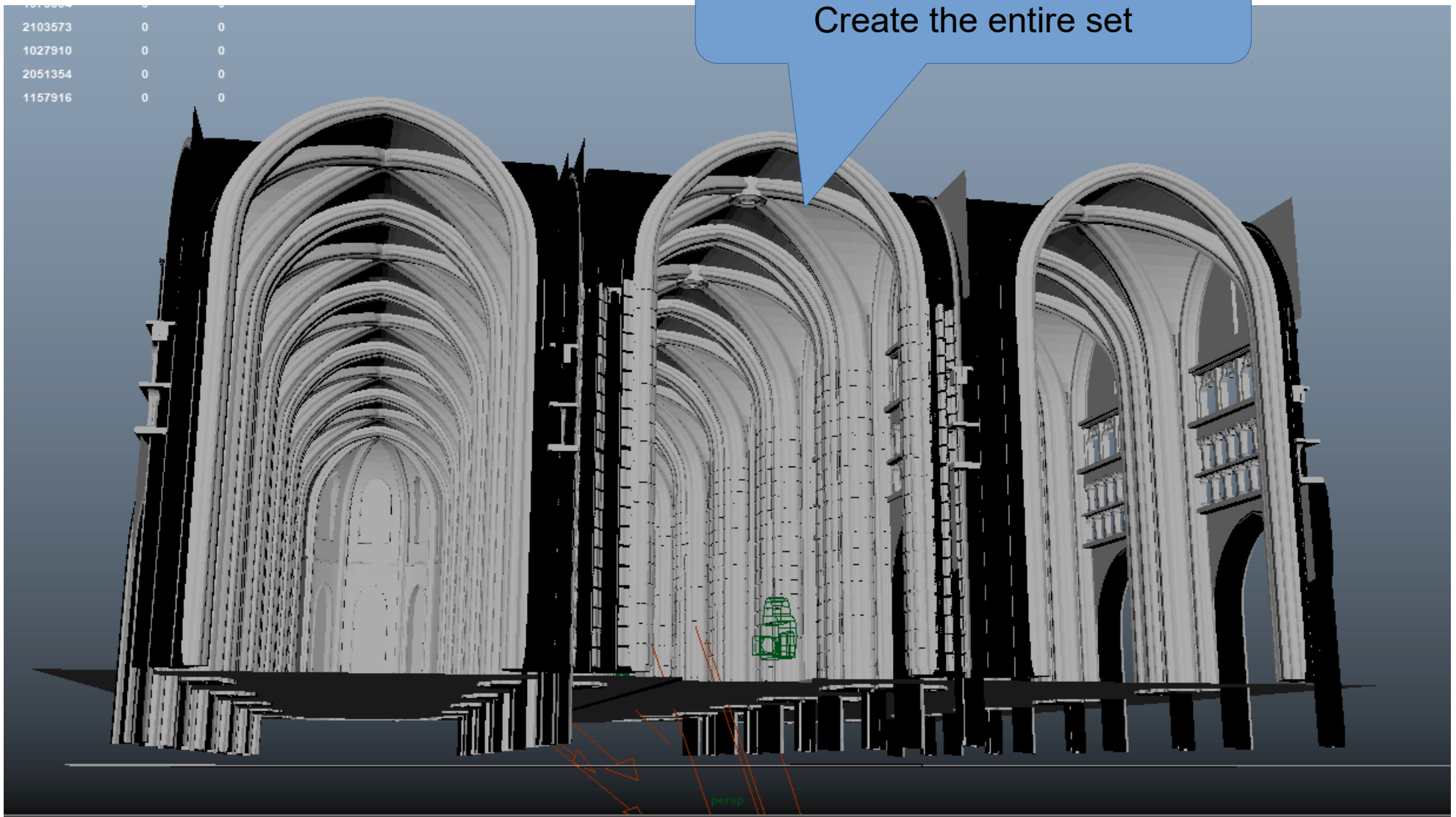
Modular details that
Will be repeated

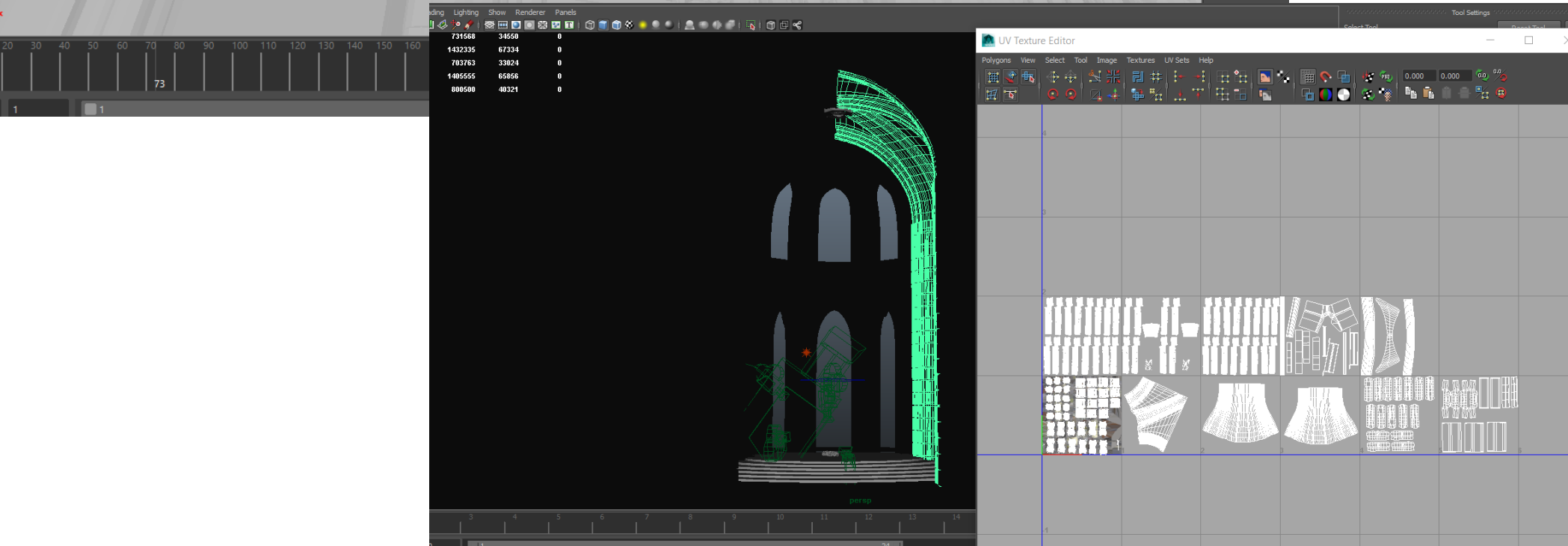
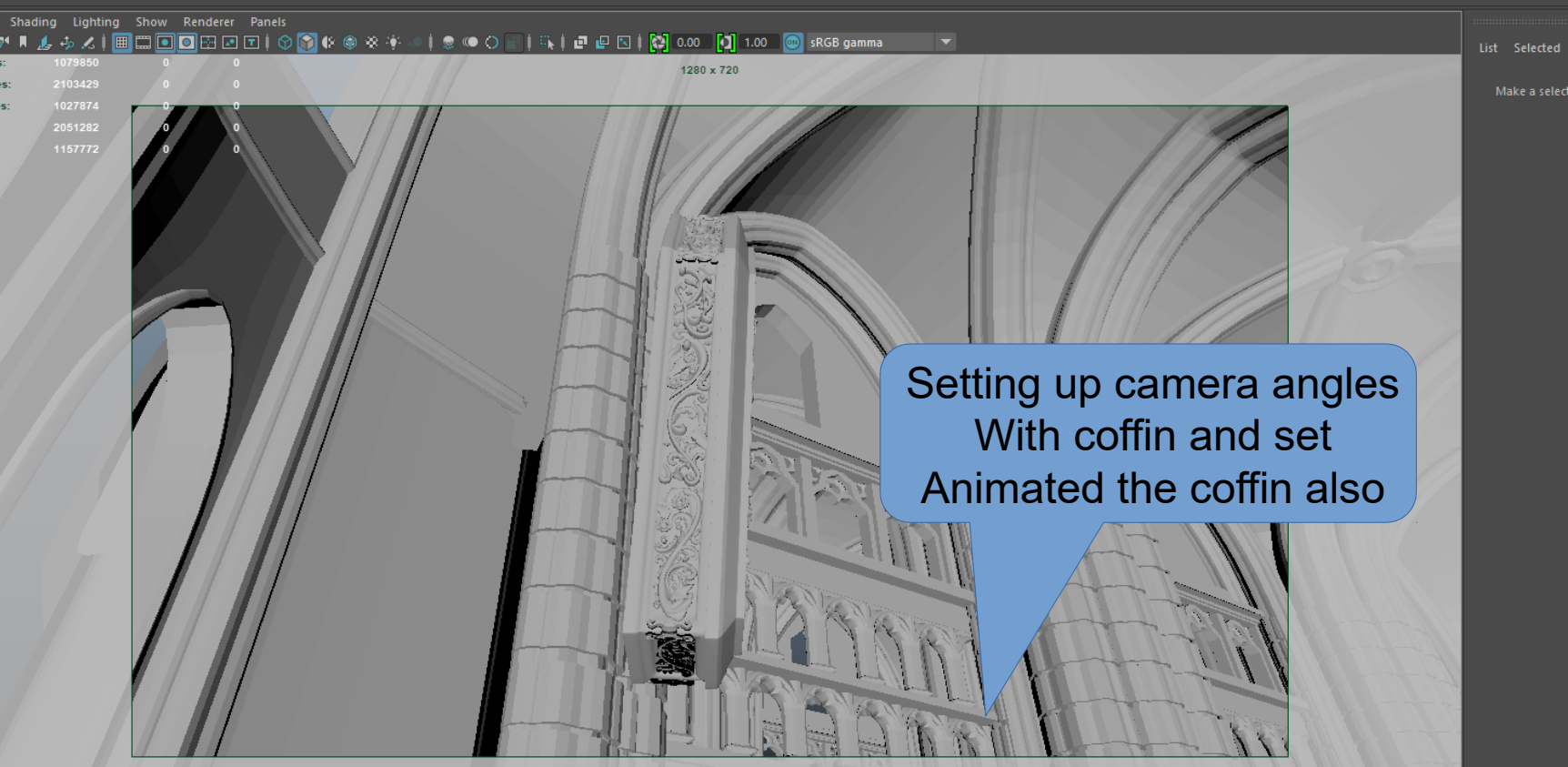


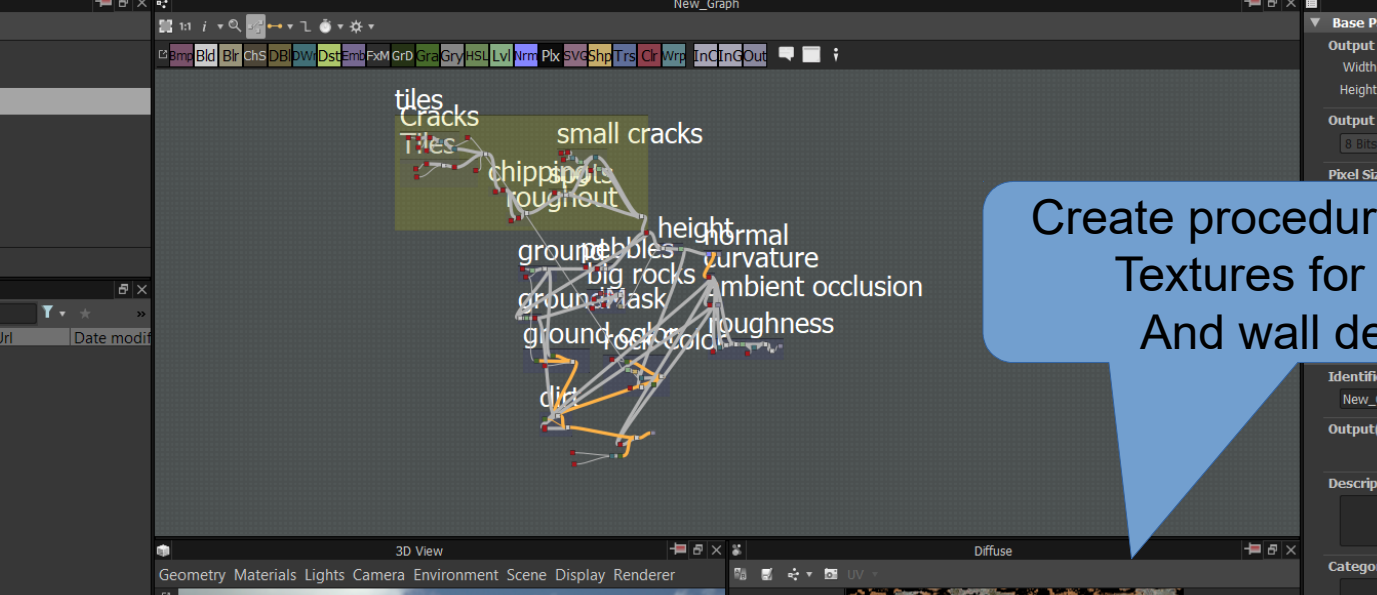




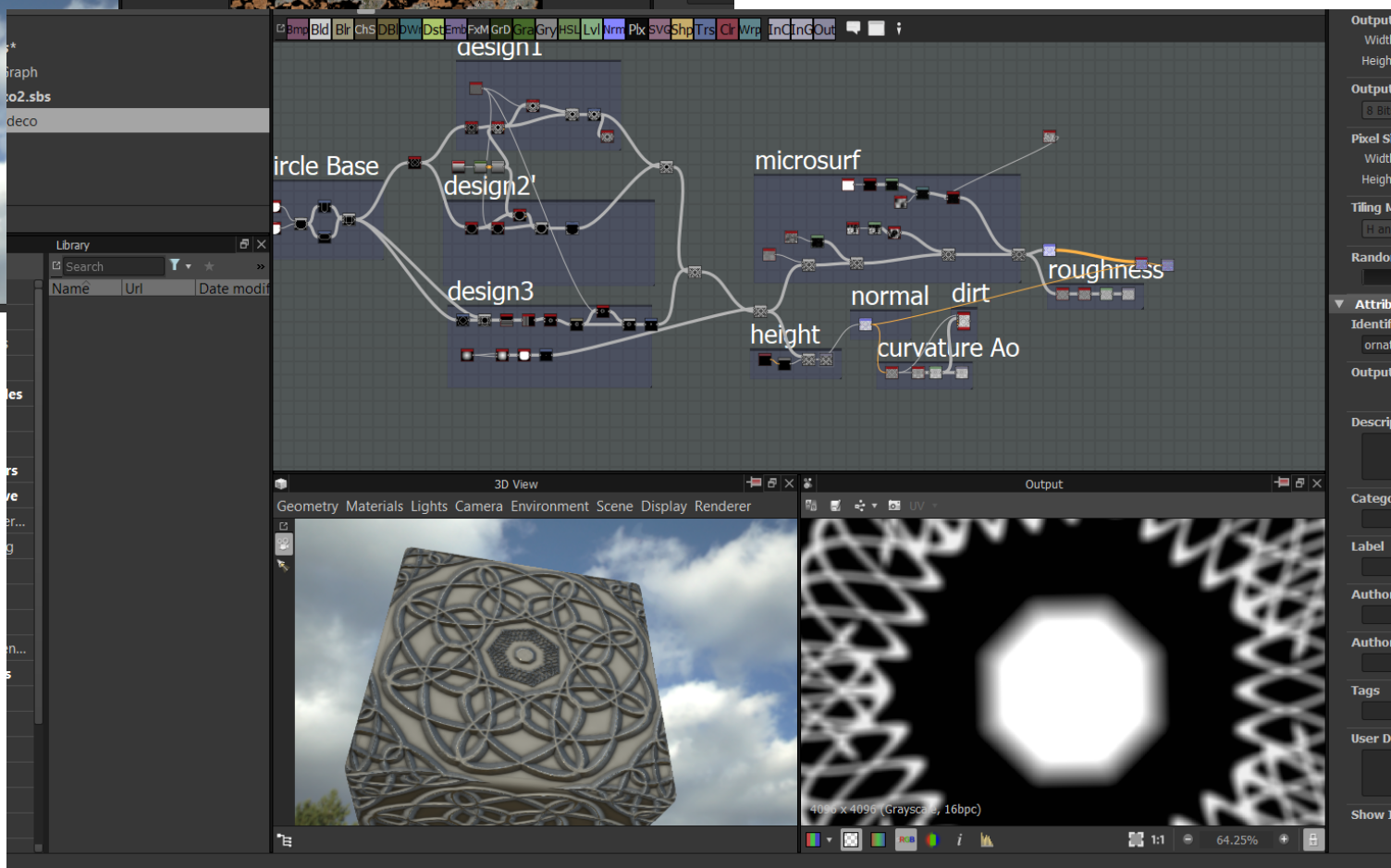
Repeating the modular blocks to
Create the entire set

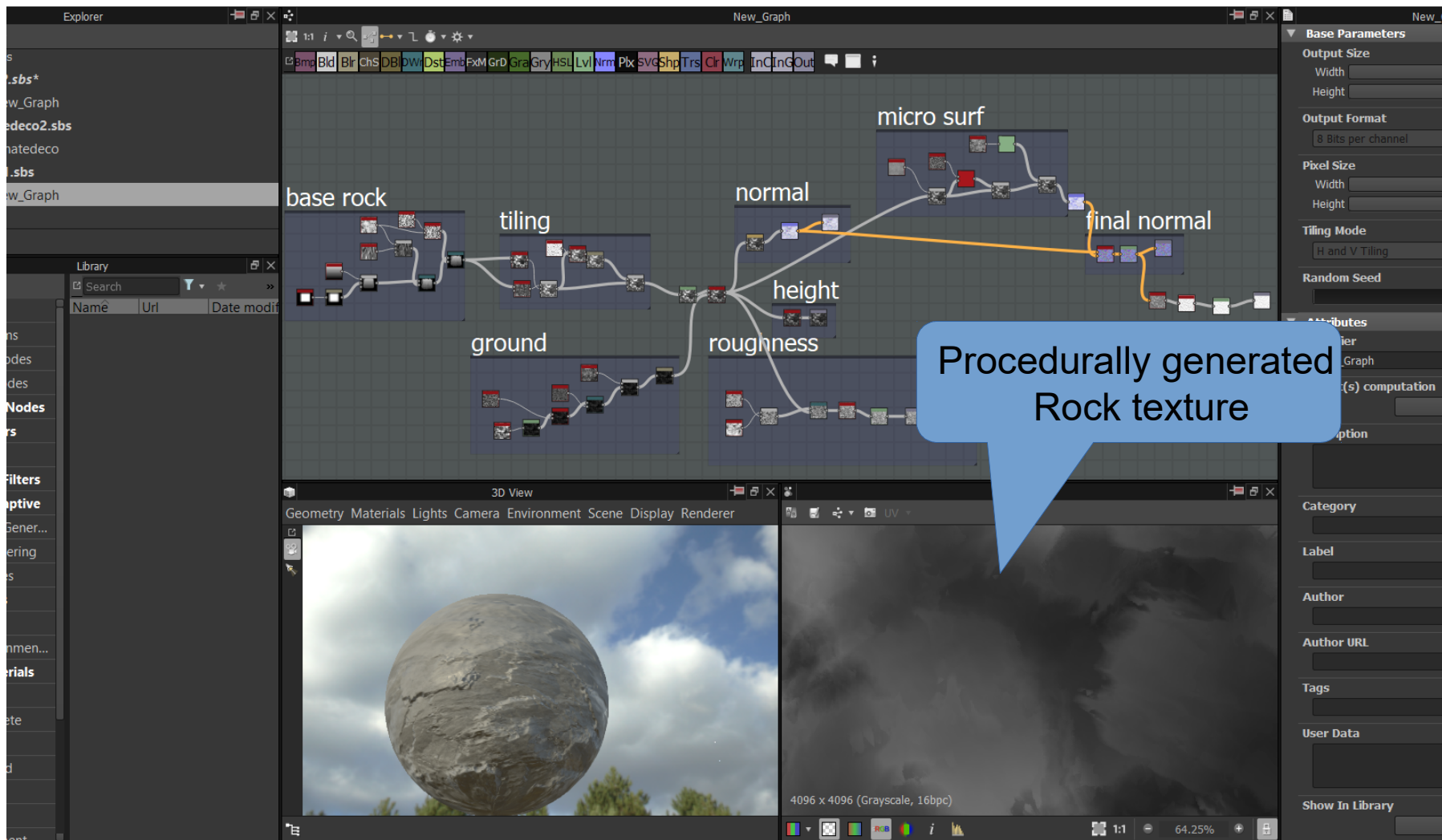






Create procedurally generated
Textures for the ground
And wall decorations



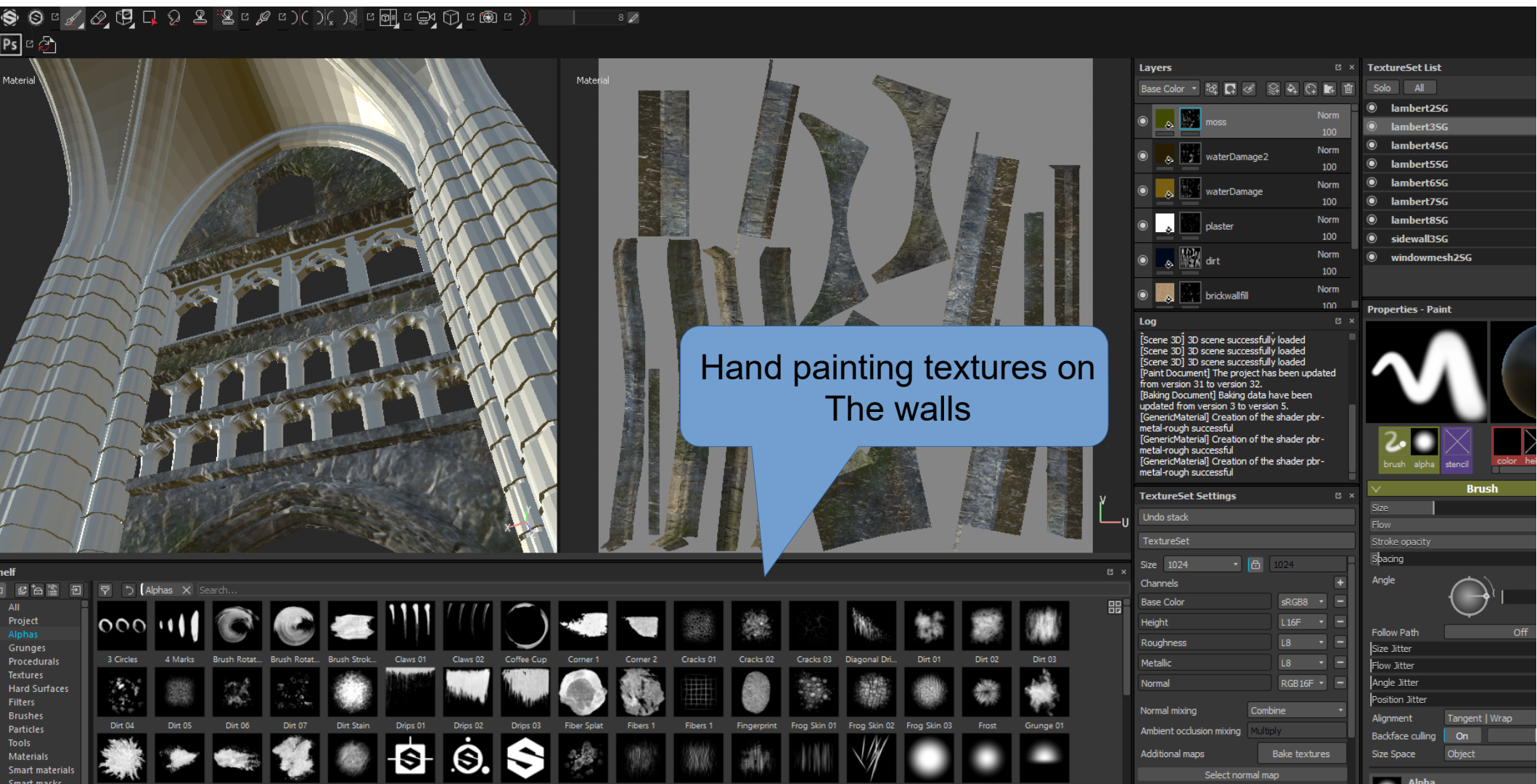


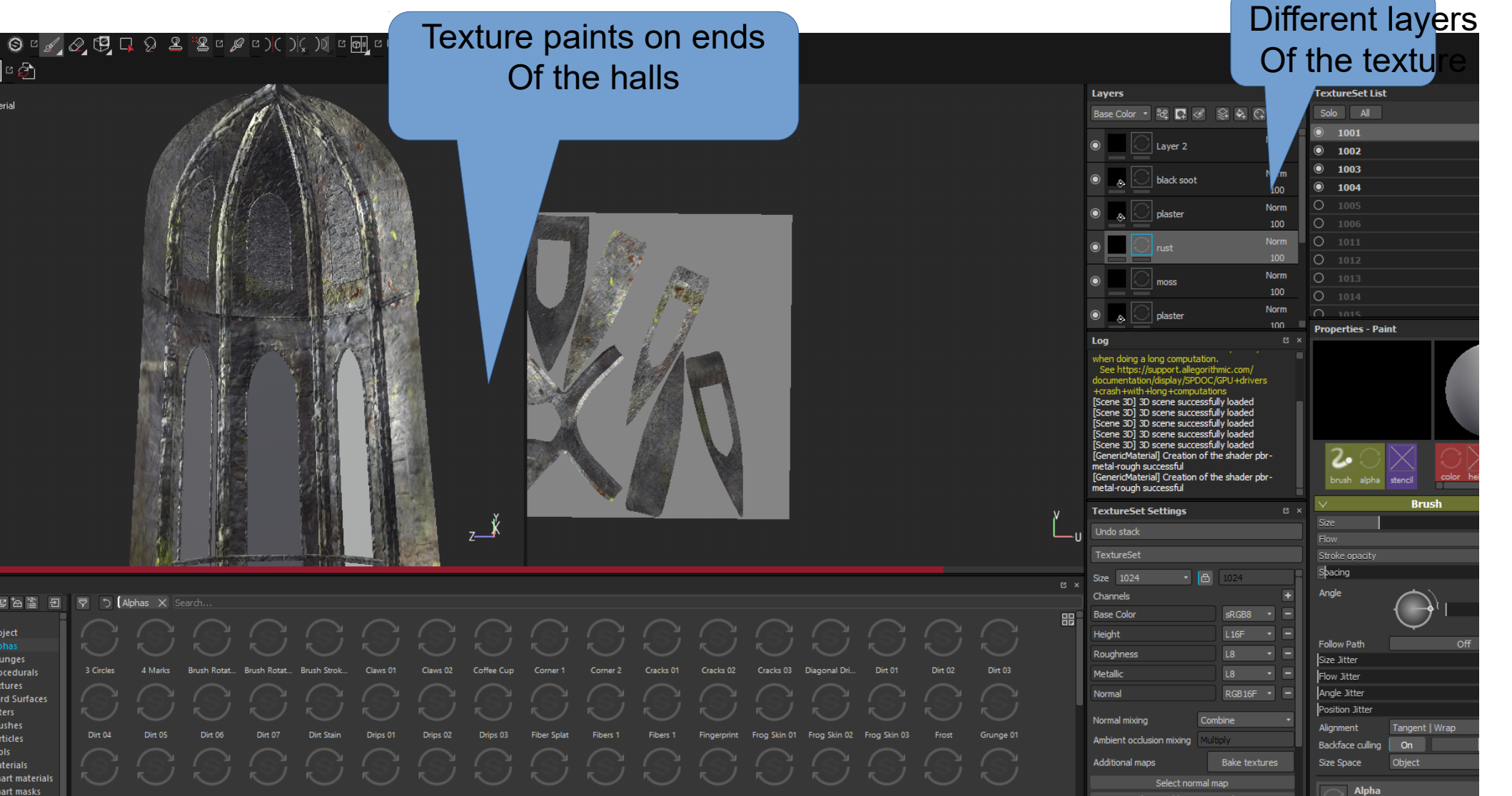
Notes on progress

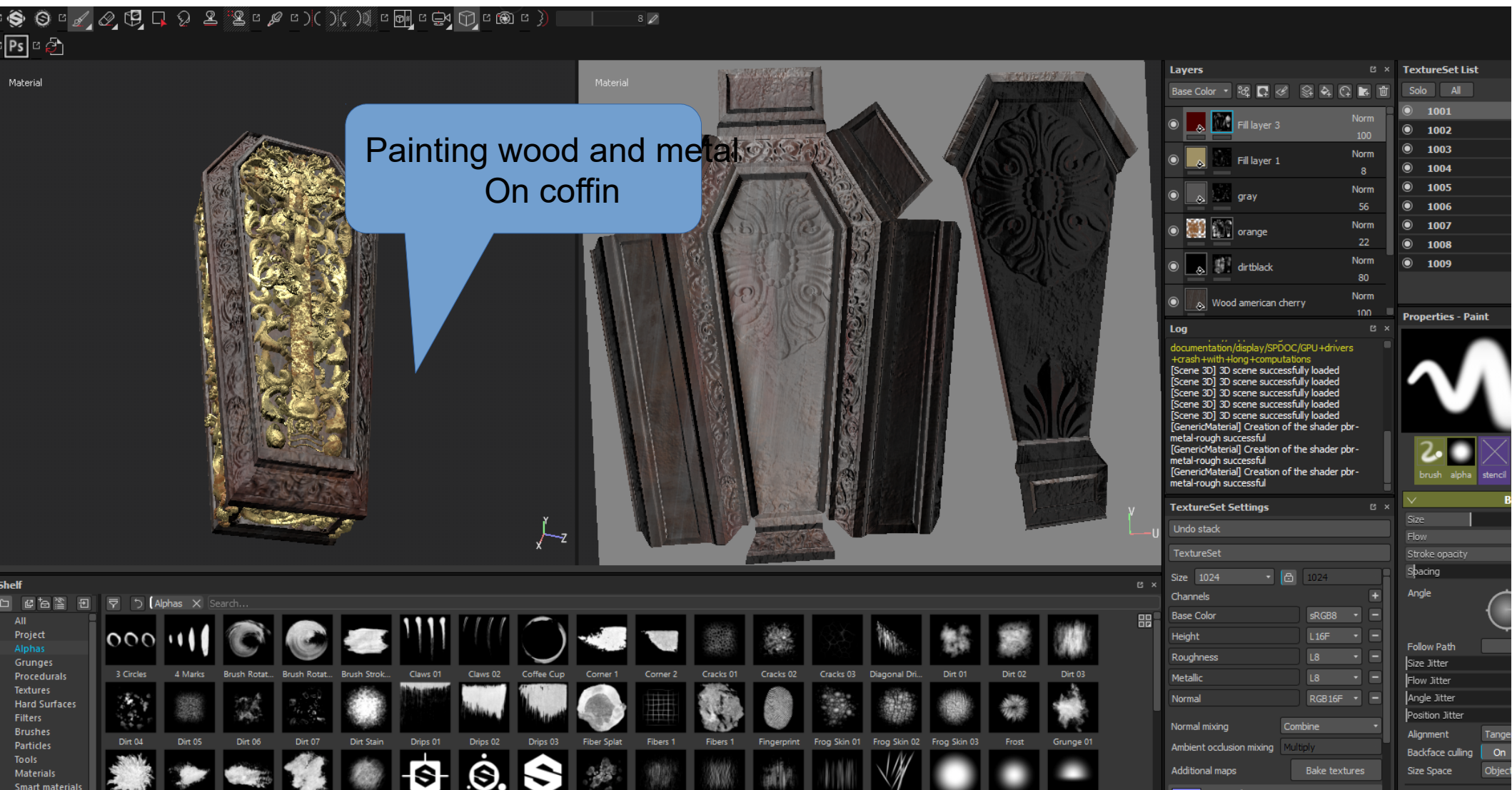
- Started on the texturing side
- Used substance designer to create several things
- The rock texture i might need to use but im not too sure
- I think ill use the radial design ideas in the buildings themselves it was a fun learning experience also
- Handpainted the textures for the building
- Took long time with it mixed several textures for wall, moss damage etc.

Using reference

- The references helped me alot with the textues
- The type of stone how the damages develop
- How the lighting might affect the textures
- What kind of look would be more accurate
- How much to tile the textures
- I had to use the references to answer all these questions







Concept, existing inspiration additional reference

- This scene needs to be gloomy and dark
- It should also evoke a kind of reverence
- It needs to have a hint of the divine
- There need to be good editing opportunities
- The coffin model needs to be detailed
- The structure should look old and damaged
- The lighting needs to look ethereal

Modeling

- I started with modelling the church structure itself
- I had to design a modular block that could be repeated
- I gathered reference first
- To get the shapes of the pillars i multi-cut tool to get the correct shapes
- Then i extruded it to create the pillars

notes

- Even though i am calling this place a church its not really a place of worship but a more generic looking hallway
- The modular quality of the structure is really important
- Need to stick to the reference as i am trying to mimic classic architectural ideas.

- The other shapes were developed using primitives like cylinder cube etc
- I duplicated the models as they were being modelled to make sure they were modular and could be repeated
- Tried developing some details in the structure by adding netting effects etc.
- I was told to extrude out parts of the pillars to make it look like the stone was coming out

- **Floor** was done with planes the main pathway was a separate piece that was situated a little lower than the rest of the floor

- **Coffin** was the next thing that was to be modelled
- I gathered reference as the first step
- Went for a classic medieval style of coffin
- I wanted to fill the sides with classic deco relief forms
- So after the simple box of the coffin was modelled i went into the decorations

- I modelled floral decco forms based on reference
- I made them directly around the coffin and
- positioned them in as fast as possible
- After a few different types of these forms were done i duplicated them around to fill up the entire model
-

Sculpt

- I felt some parts of the coffin needed some more detail, for this i decided to sculpt them in z brush instead of modelling
- I used clay build up brush in z-brush to achieve this detail after this was done i decimated the model to bring it into maya
- I unwrapped this decimated model in zbrush itself

Unwrap

- As the church structure was modular i unwrapped a single unit
- It took a while to figure out what the most efficient unit would be
- After this was done unwrapping didnt take too much time
- For the coffin the decorations on the side had become too complicated to unwrap properly so i planar mapped as they wouldn't need a high level of texture detail in them

Texturing

- I used the reference to figure out some accurate texturing ideas
- I used some base textures to get the rock for the church to this I added water damage
- Old plaster growing moss, soot and dust layers
- To build up a complicated looking texture set
- I did this five times so that the repeating structure doesn't look the same

- Texturing the coffin was a similar workflow the base texture was wood
- I added damage , scratches,
- Metal items were textured added rust and additional damage to this
- I had a somewhat satisfying realistic coffin piece
- I kept fine tuning this till i was happy

- For the stone floor i used substance designer to create a stone floor texture
- This was also a good learning experience as i got to learn the complexities of procedurally generated textures
- I took a generic looking tile to which i added height and several noise layers and damage details to get a old stone floor
- I could also manipulate the network to create different textures

Camera angles

- I started sketching ideas for shots and angles based on this i set up cameras in one files of the
- Slowly i started blocking out the camera animating
- I used the standard animation workflow here
- Get the angles timing proper then added the minor details in movement wherever necessary
- I tried to get a few more shots than actually necessary
- So that i could cut out later and not have to make new shots later
- I tried relating the shots to other scenes by using singular came movements for smooth transitions
- Later on i fully fixed the flow of shots to fit the final set of renders

Setting up materials

- Used mia material for maya for all the models in the scene for its versatile abilities
- Imported the appropriate textures like normal roughness etc to get a good look
- Tweaked around the settings while taking test renders to get it ready for renders

For this scene taking a beauty pass and depth pass was enough

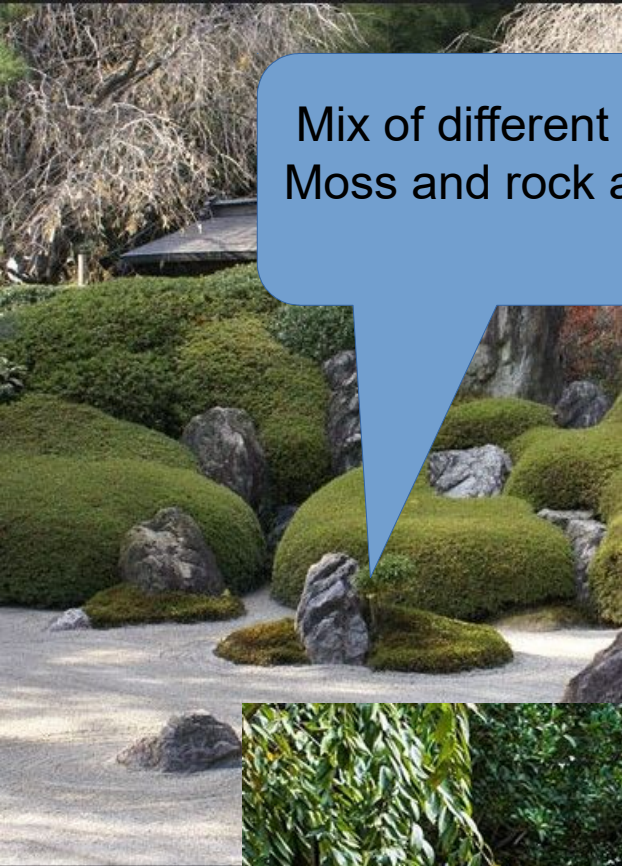
Rendered seven shots from this scene

Major problems faced

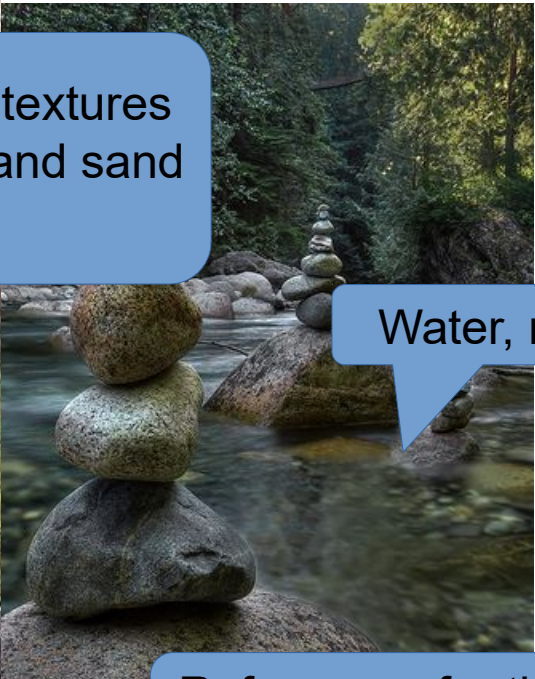
- Cleaning up the model
 - As a model had to be repeated many times to create the set everything needed to be as perfect as possible
 - While duplicating i had to go back and fix the base and duplicate again
- Setting the coffin up for sculpt
 - I had to re uv the coffin after putting in a uniform web of edges so that the coffin could be sculpted
- Too much detail in textures
 - The textures were having too much normal and height detail
 - So i had to iterate many times to get the perfect amount of detail in the textures both for the coffin and environment

Library Scene

- As per the concept work and further modifications this scene is going to be in a large library
- The main focal point will be the bonsai which will first look like a large tree
- Also in the mix there will be a large chandelier
- The idea is to play with scale of things sources of light



Mix of different textures
Moss and rock and sand



Water, mood

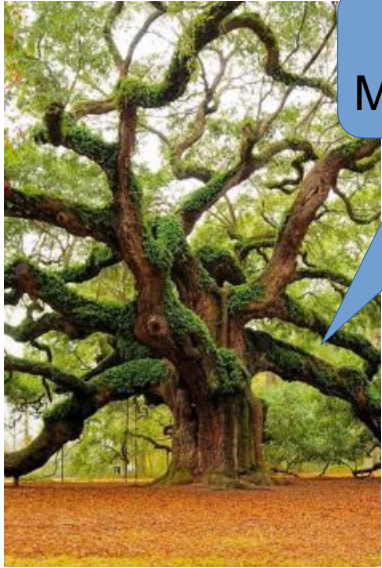


Shape and texture



References for the bonsai





Containers, plants
Mix of different textures



shape



Idea for trees for
The bonsai

rock



shape



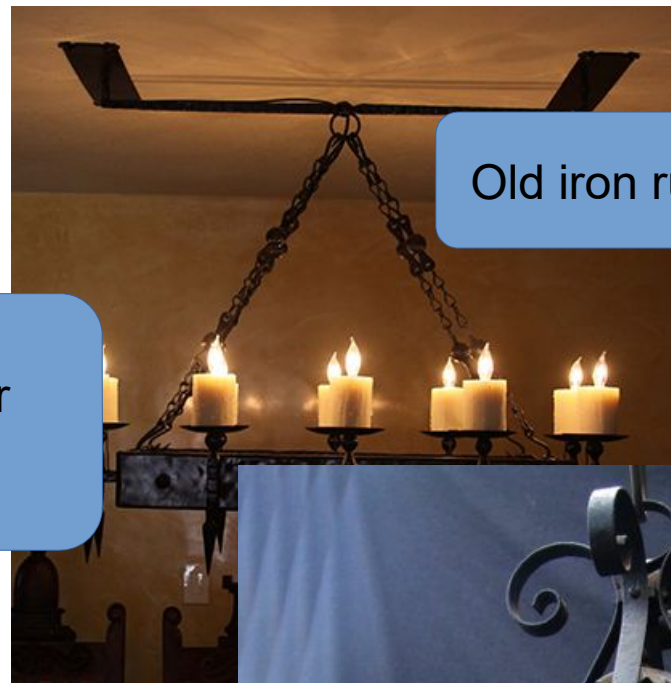
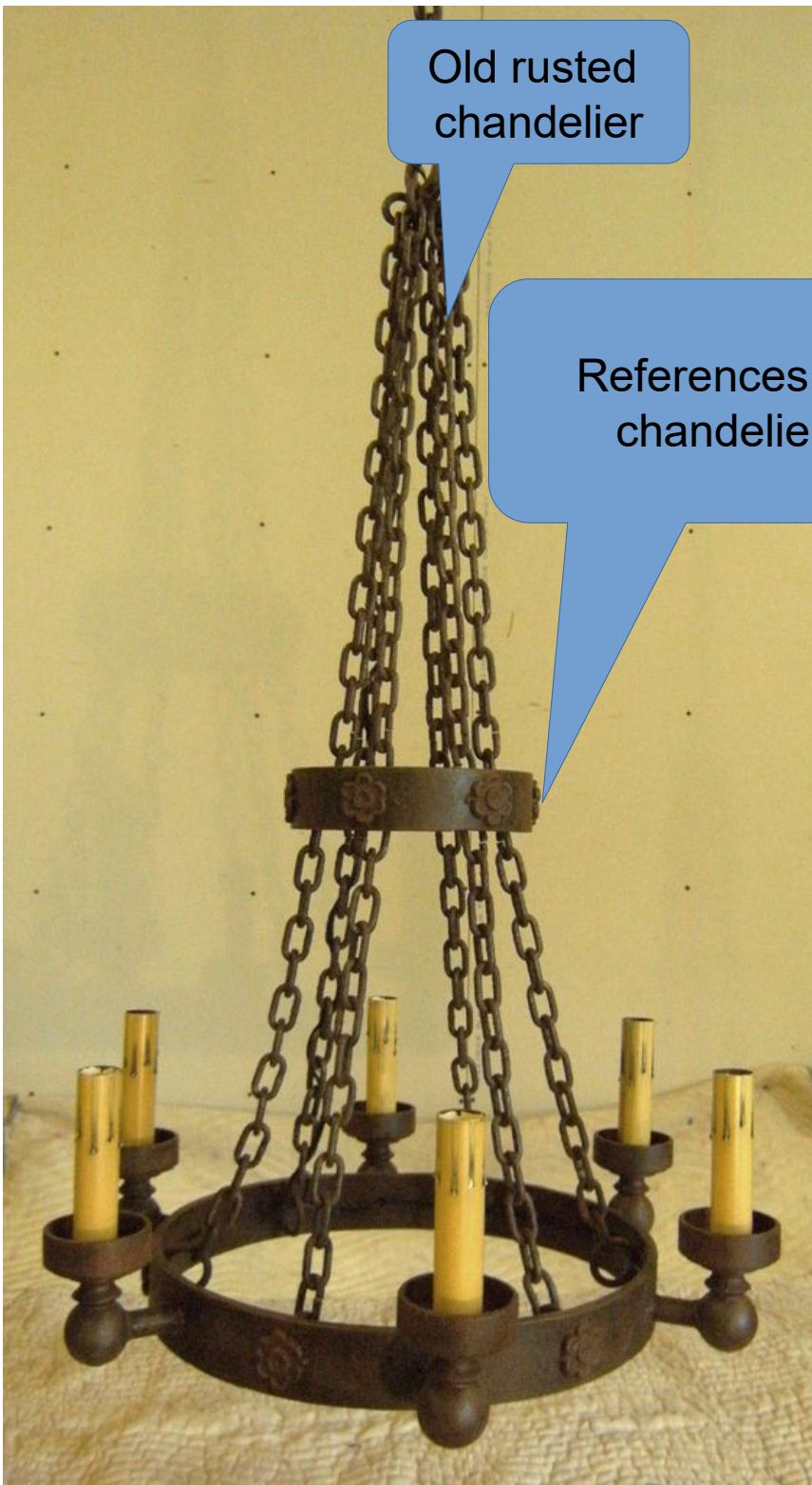
Include rocks



Old rusted
chandelier

References for
chandeliers

Old iron rusted aged look





shapes



Multilayered shape



Inclusion in hall setting

large hall
with big

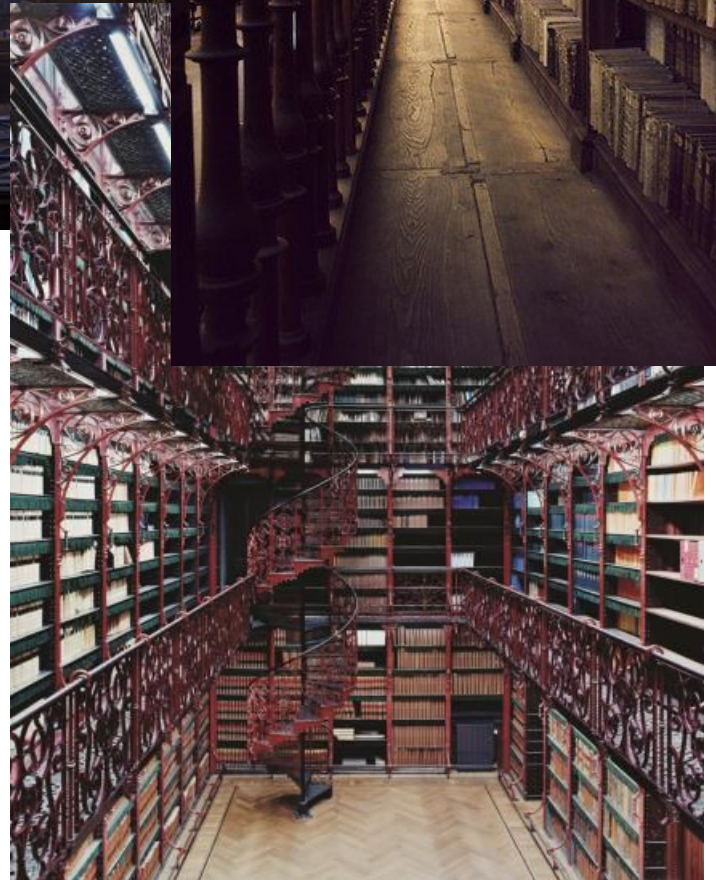
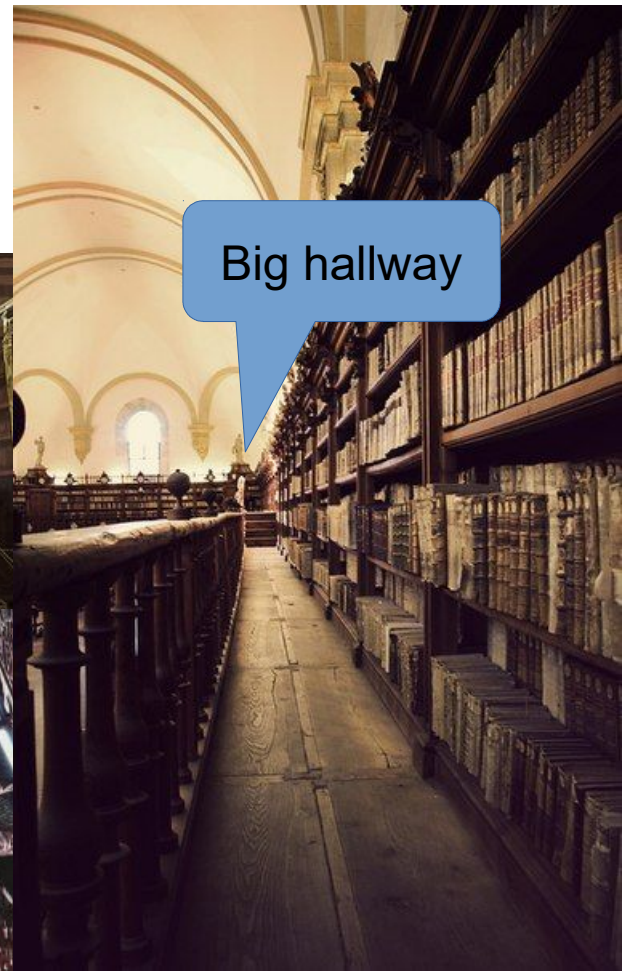
chandeliers

the

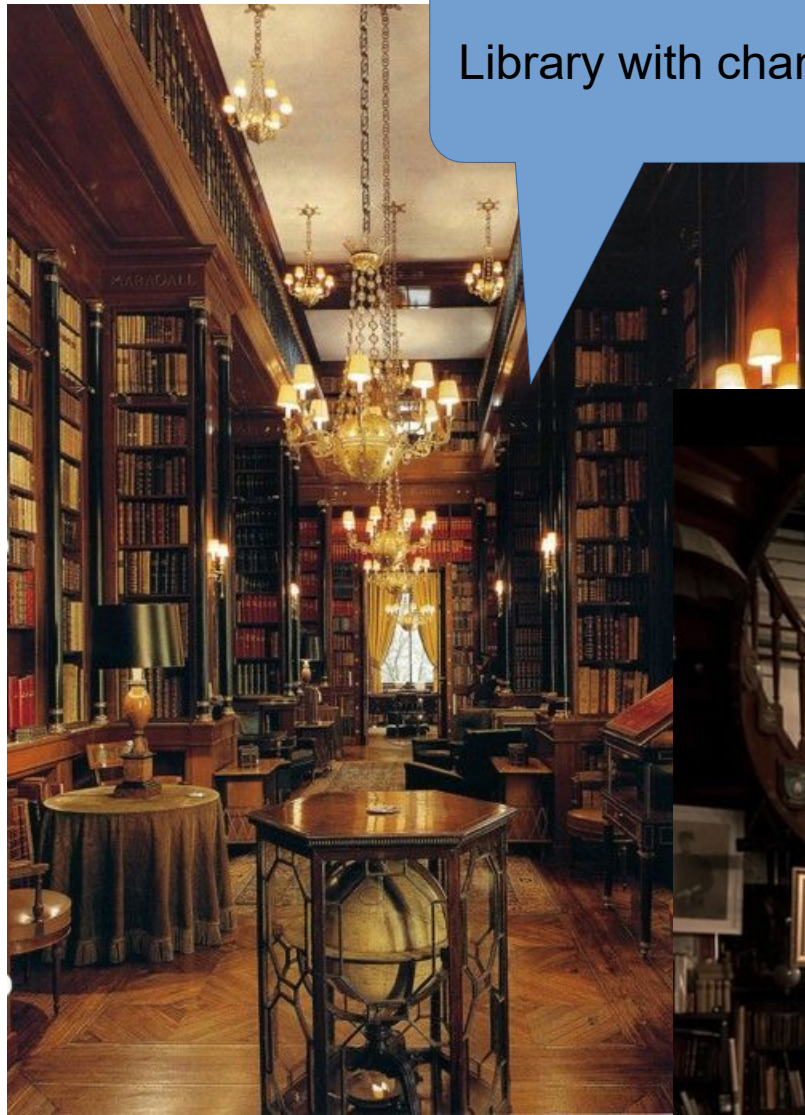
References for library
itself



Big hallway



Library with chandelier



Details to fill life into scene

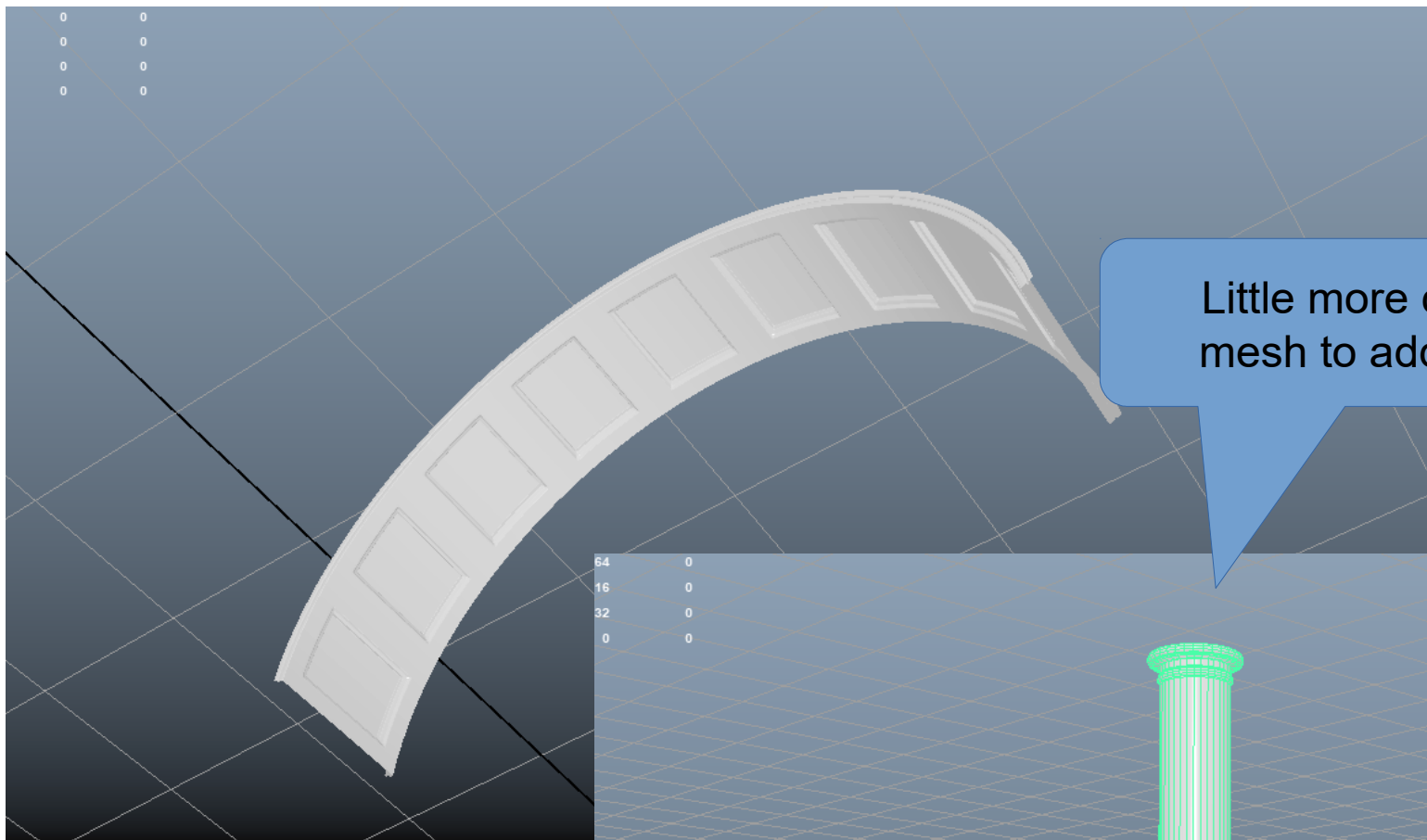




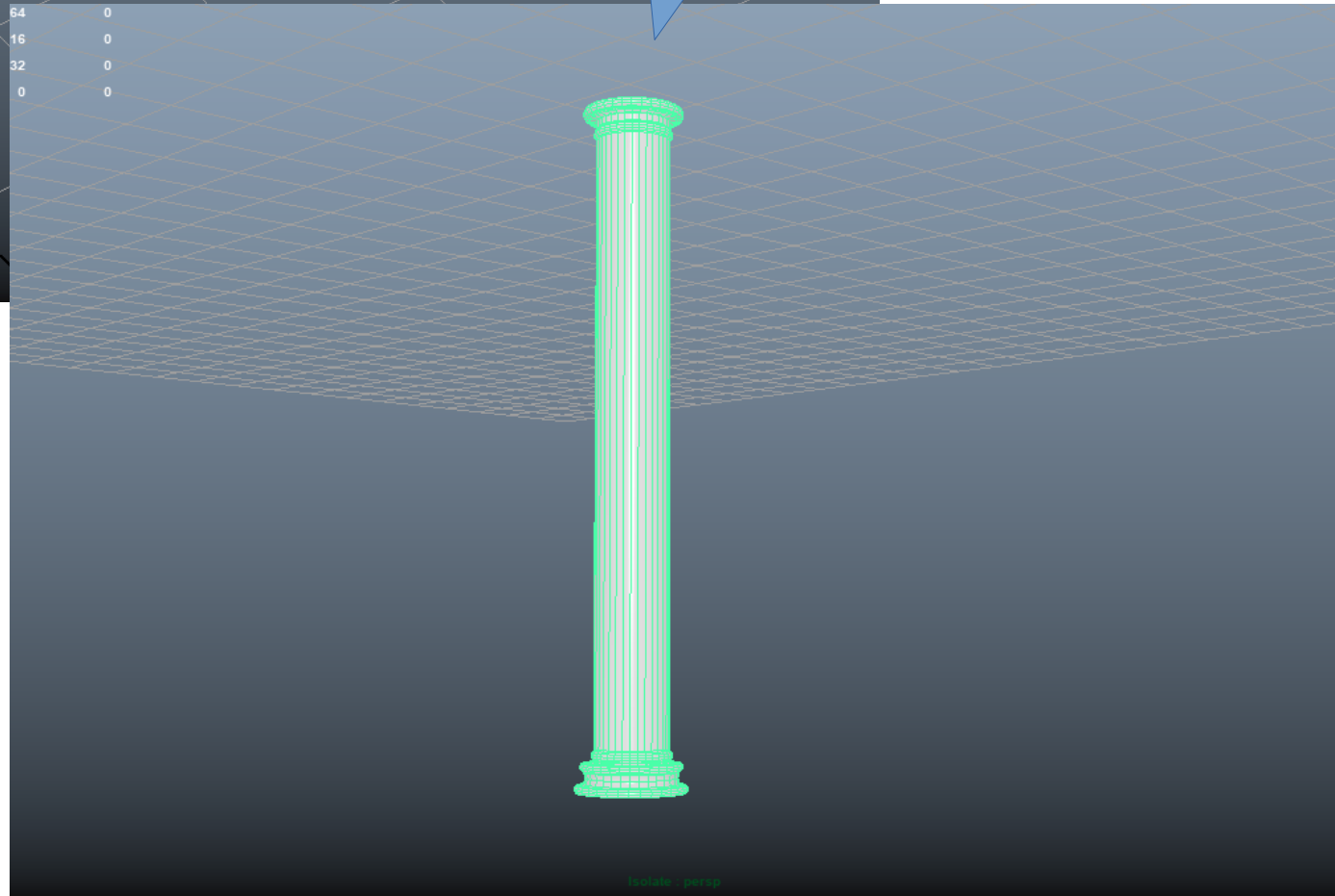
464890	0	0
891907	0	0
428295	0	0
856633	0	0
98645	0	0

First modular block

Mostly used simple
primitives



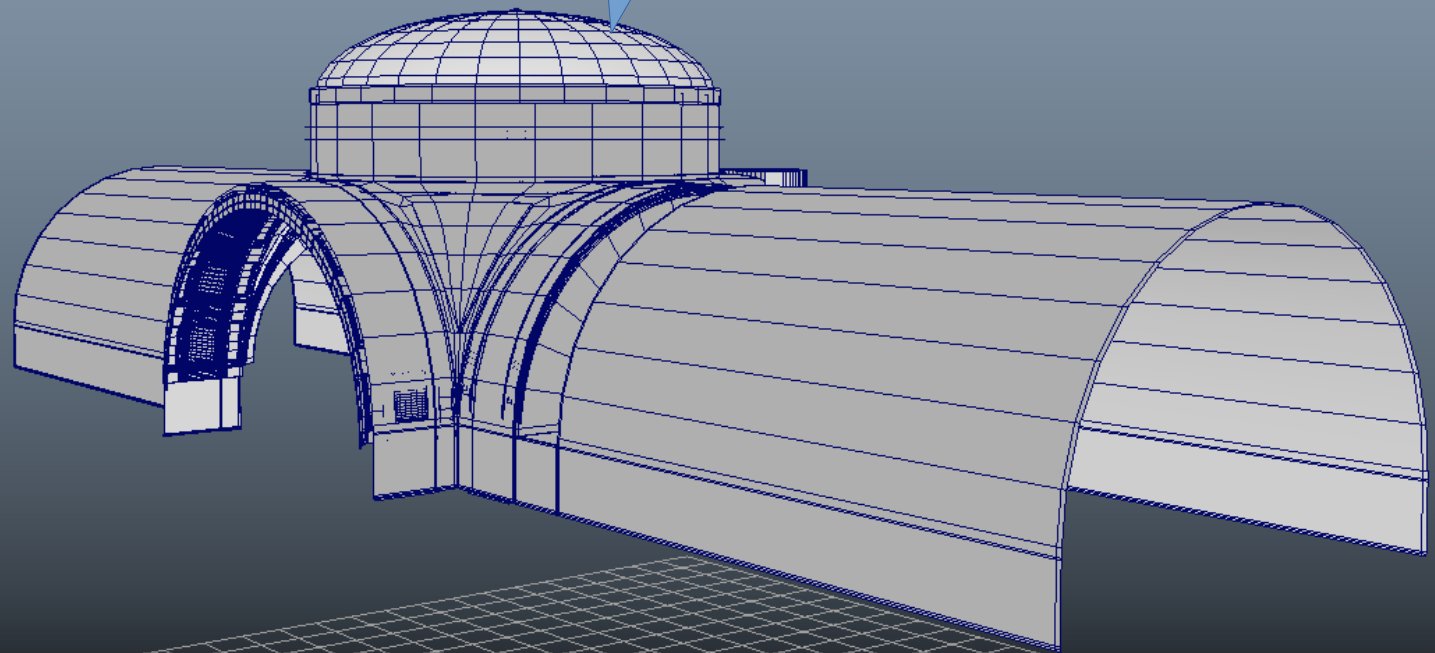
Little more complex
mesh to add interest



464890	13253	0
891907	26091	0
428295	12825	0
856633	25650	0
98645	0	0

Simple embellishments
to add depth

Ceiling and open
roof to allow light in



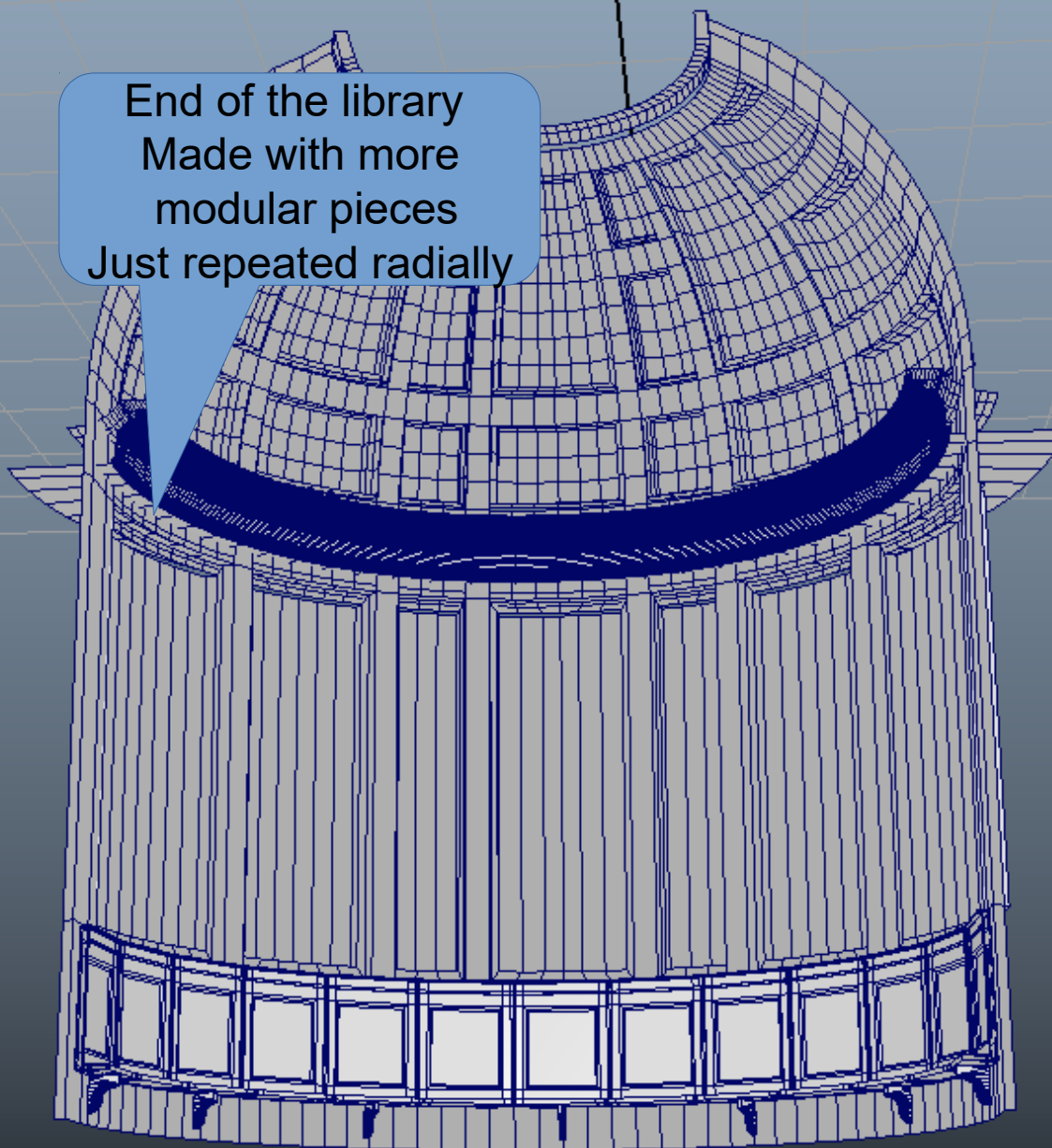
Notes on progress

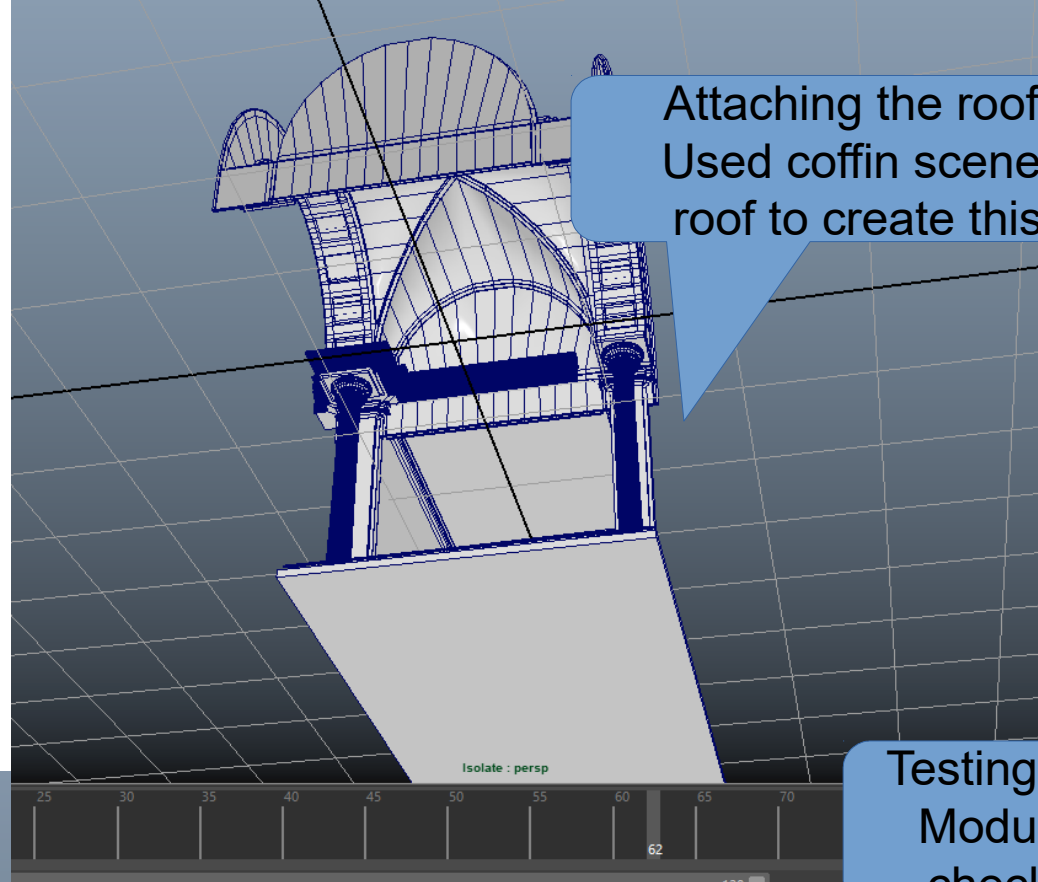
- Started constructing the library based on the references
- Started my creating a single modular room for the library that can be repeated many times to get the entire set
- Made the roof for the central hallway
- Added small blocks like square pillars round pillars etc extrusions in different areas to add depth

Using reference

- References were important to get the basic layout of the library itself
- Deciding how the pillars would look how the embellishments to the basic architectural ideas should look like
- What type of shapes i should use etc
- I think with the direction the project is going i am making something that is accurate and believable

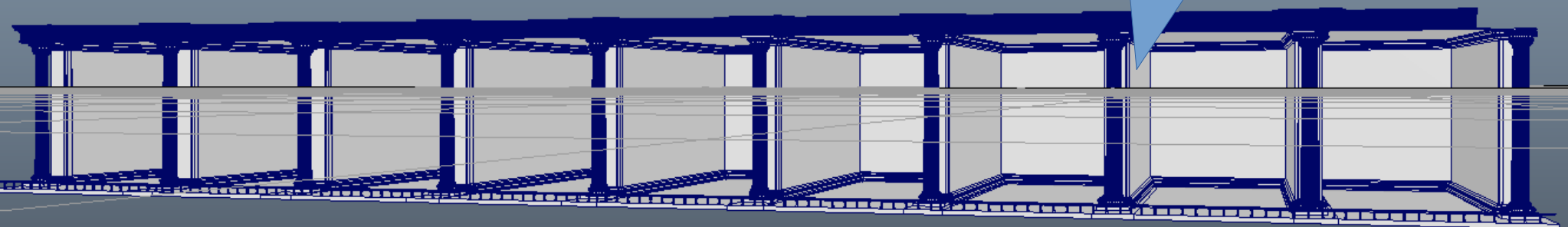
End of the library
Made with more
modular pieces
Just repeated radially



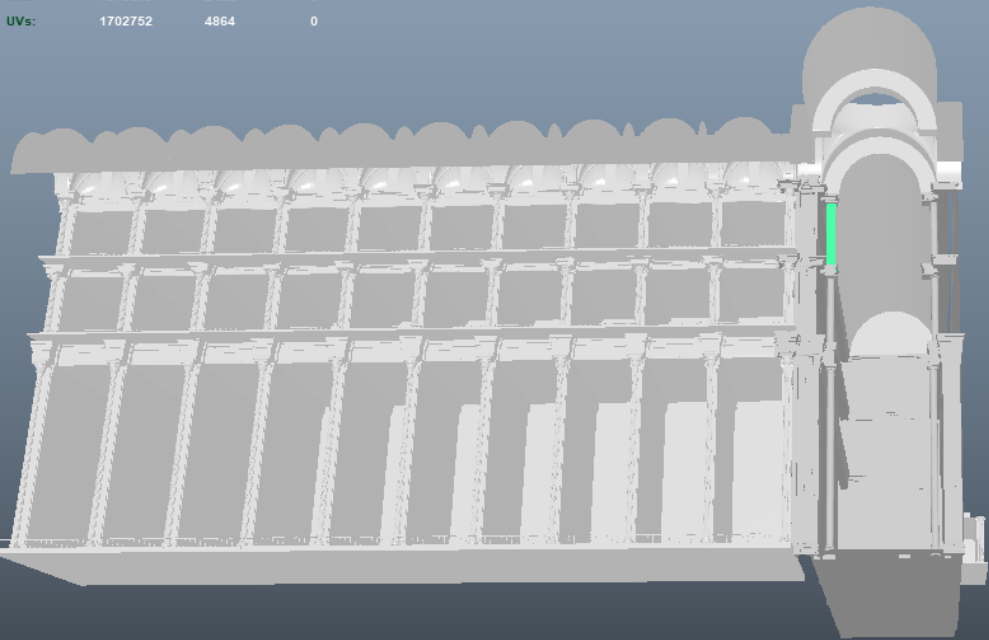


Attaching the roof
Used coffin scene
roof to create this

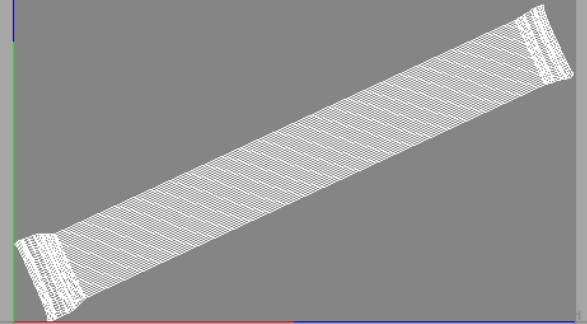
Testing repeating the
Modular Blocks to
check if its proper



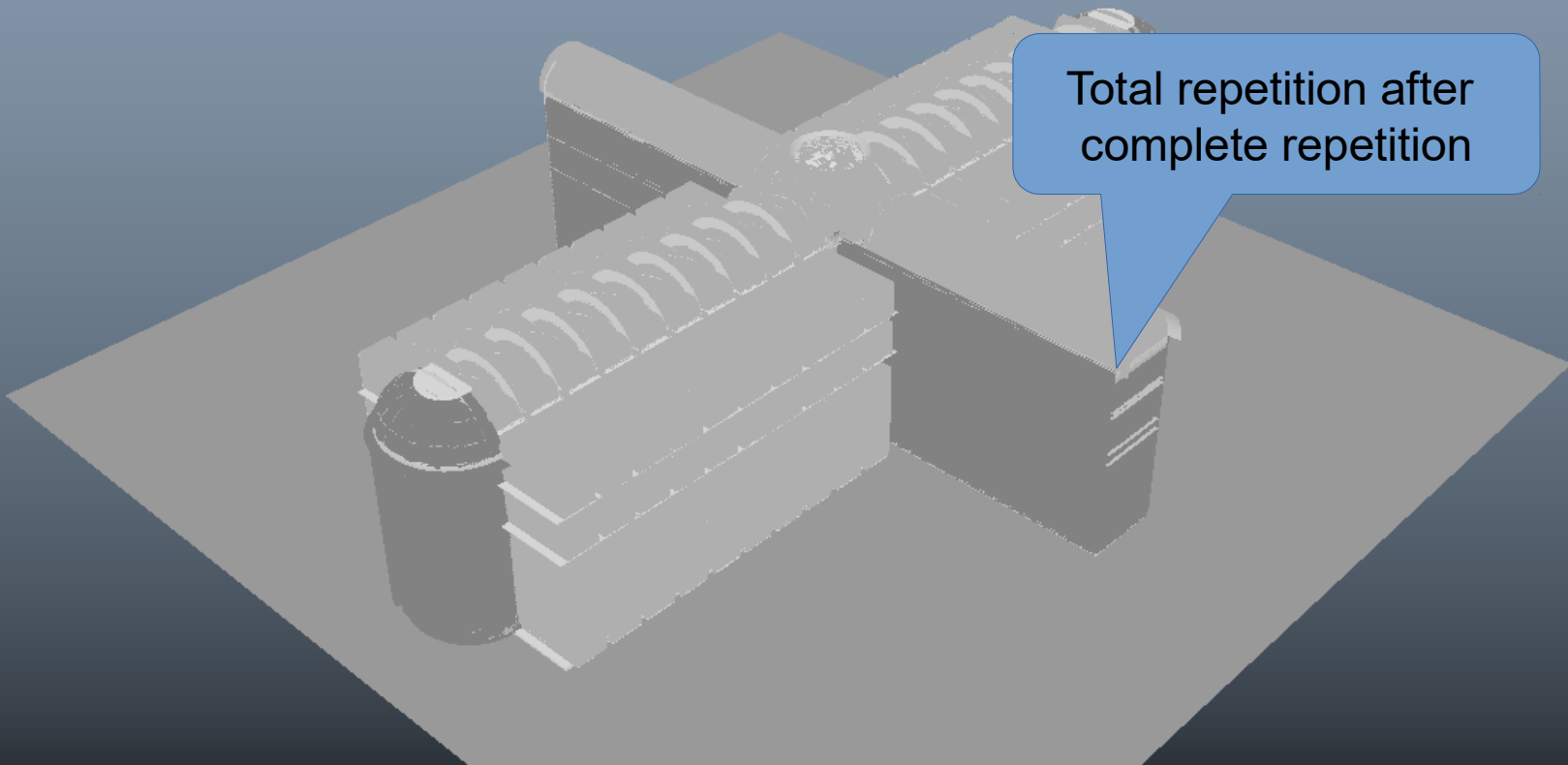
Edges:	1382393	2464	0
Faces:	654046	1216	0
Tris:	1313893	2432	0
UVs:	1702752	4864	0

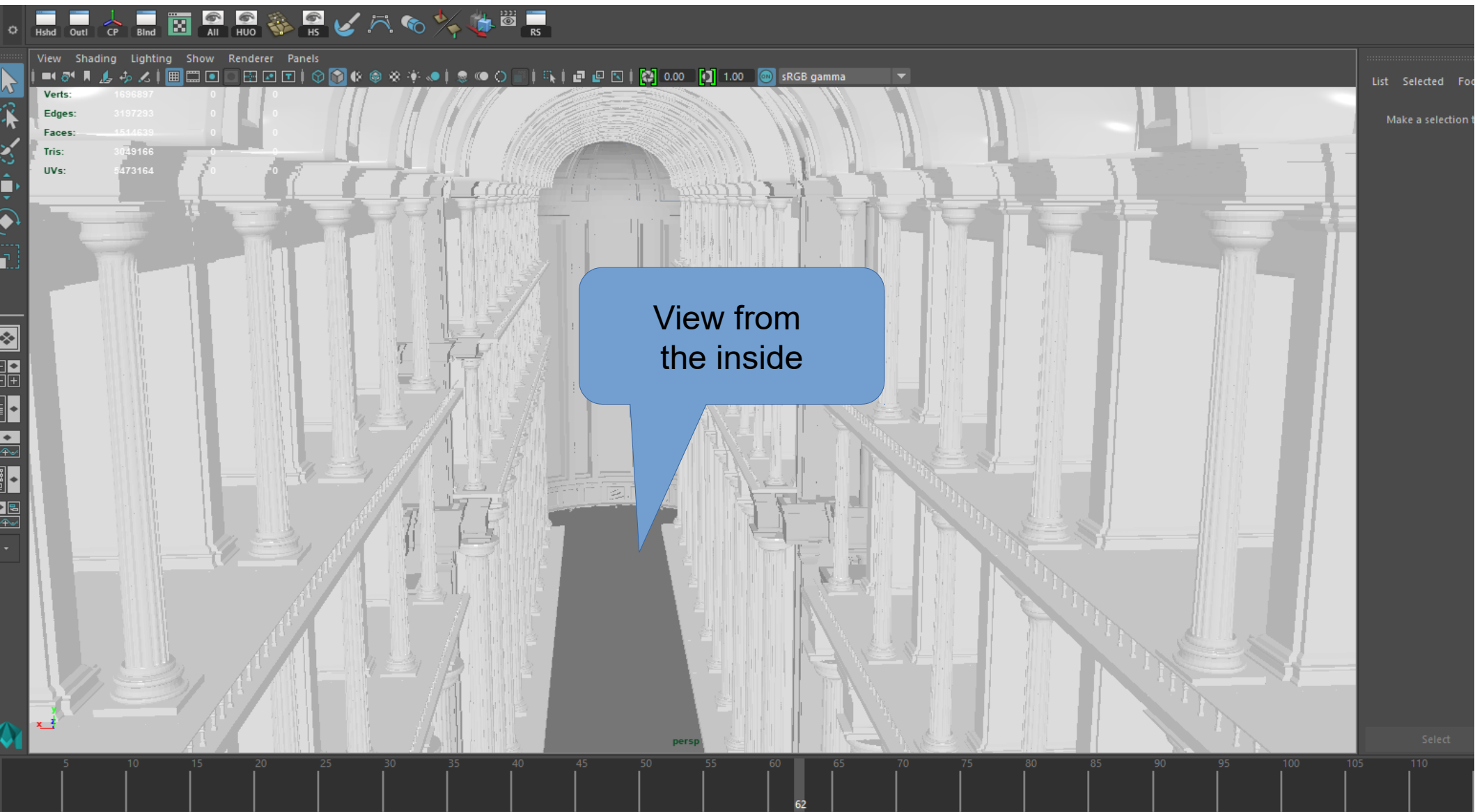


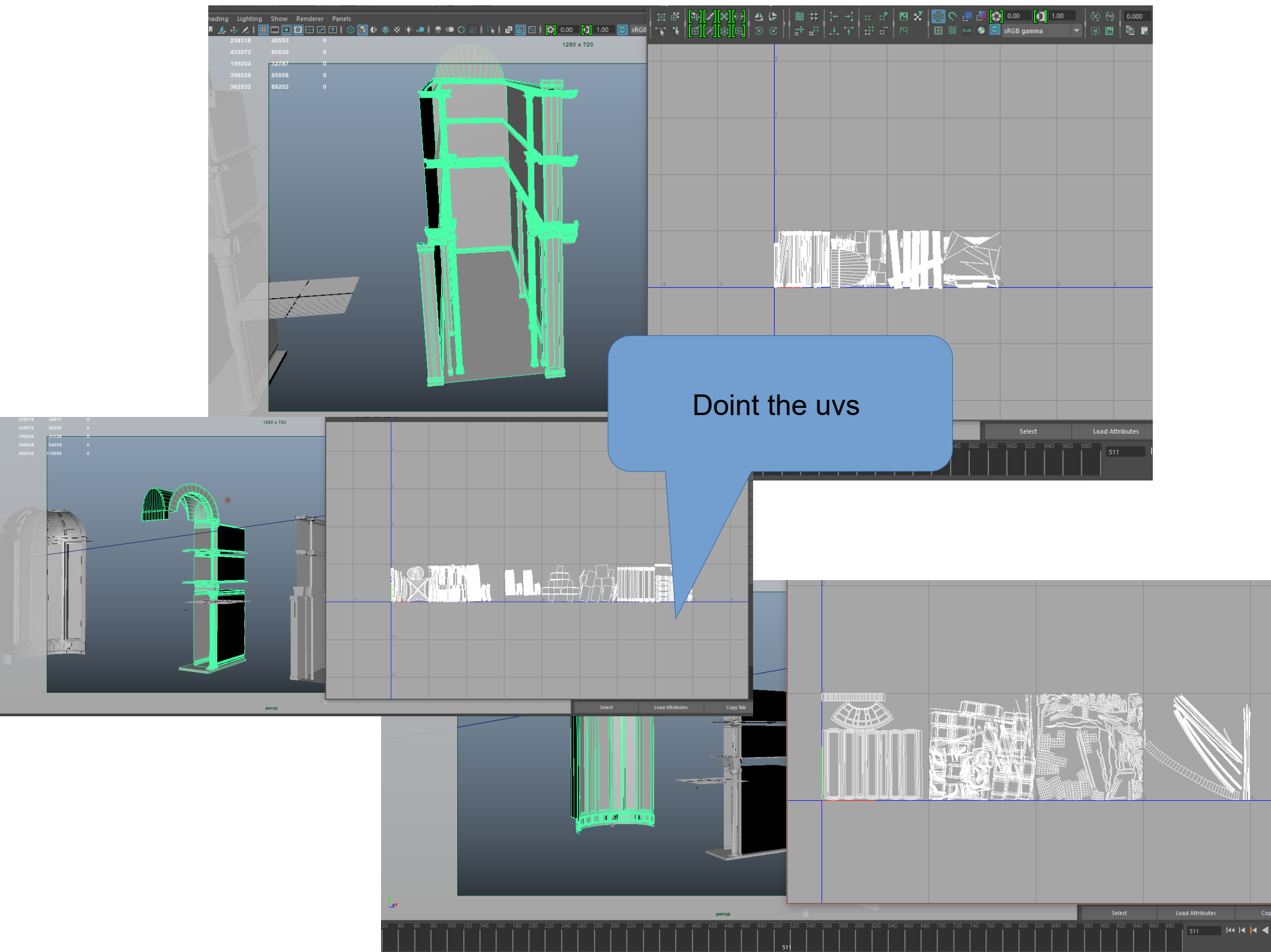
After repeating all
the pieces
Modified on block to
create the side piece

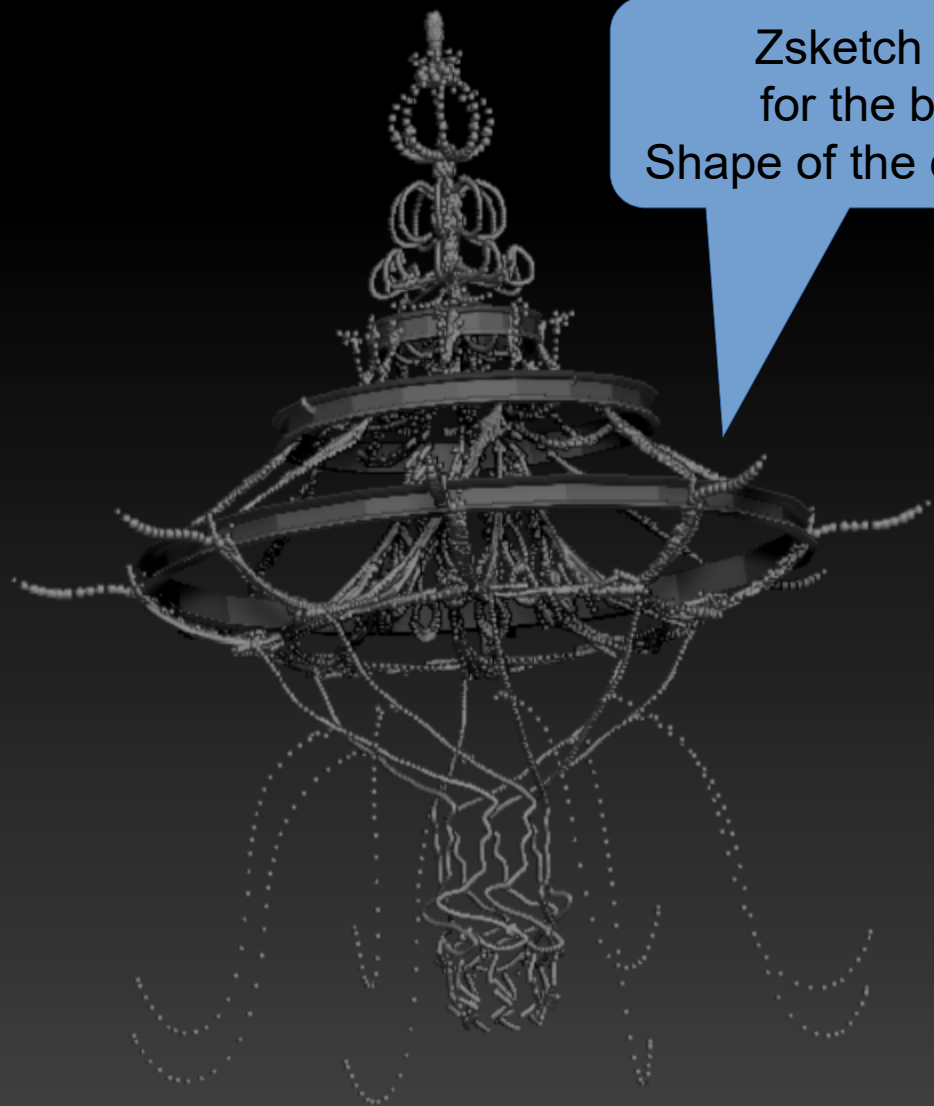


Total repetition after
complete repetition









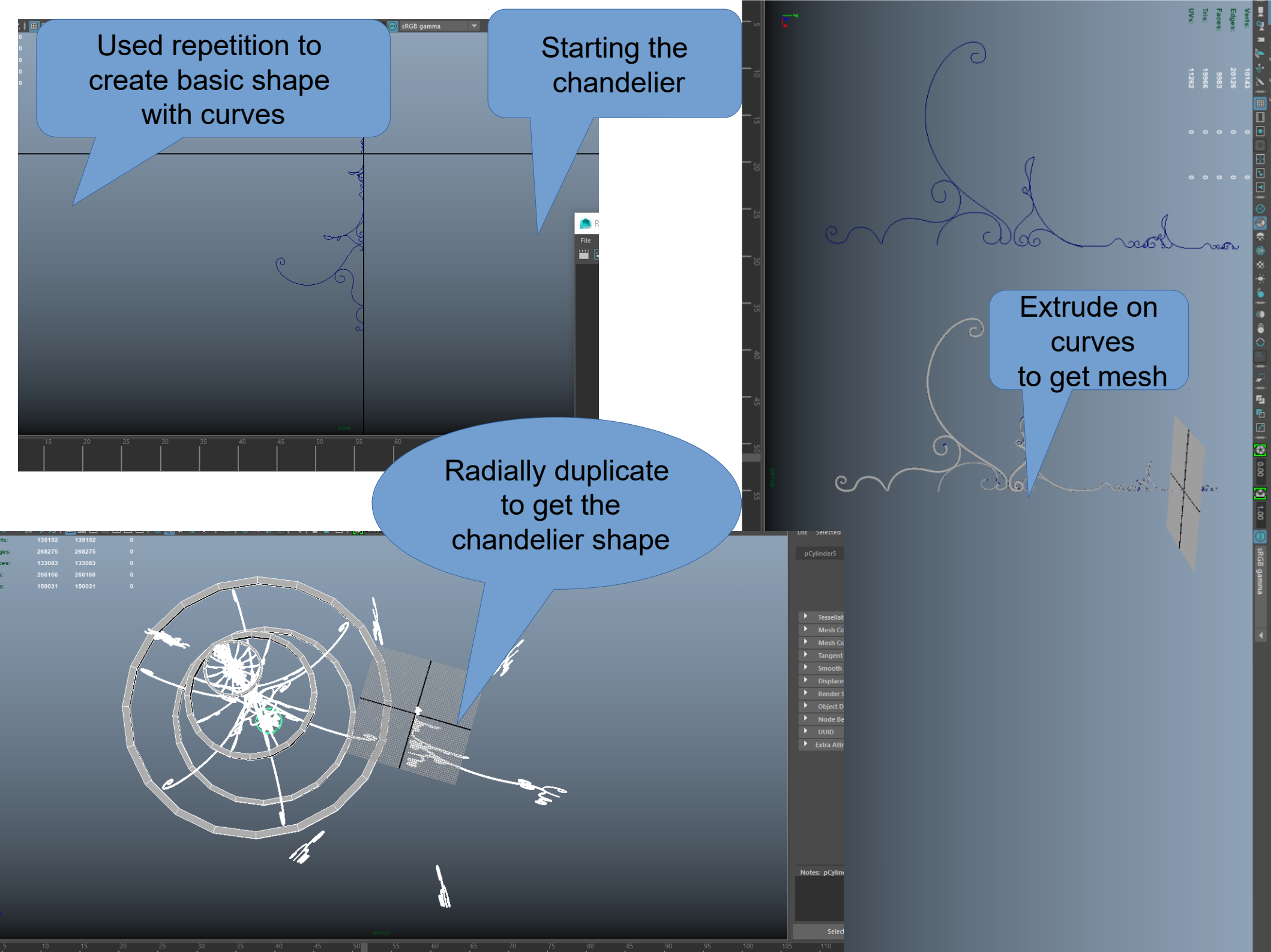
Zsketch idea
for the basic
Shape of the chandelier

Used repetition to
create basic shape
with curves

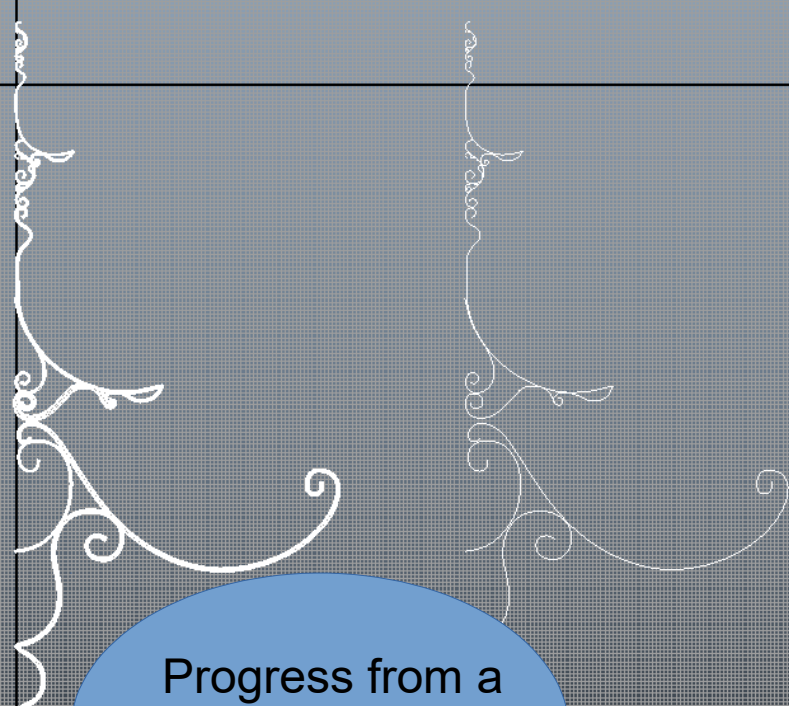
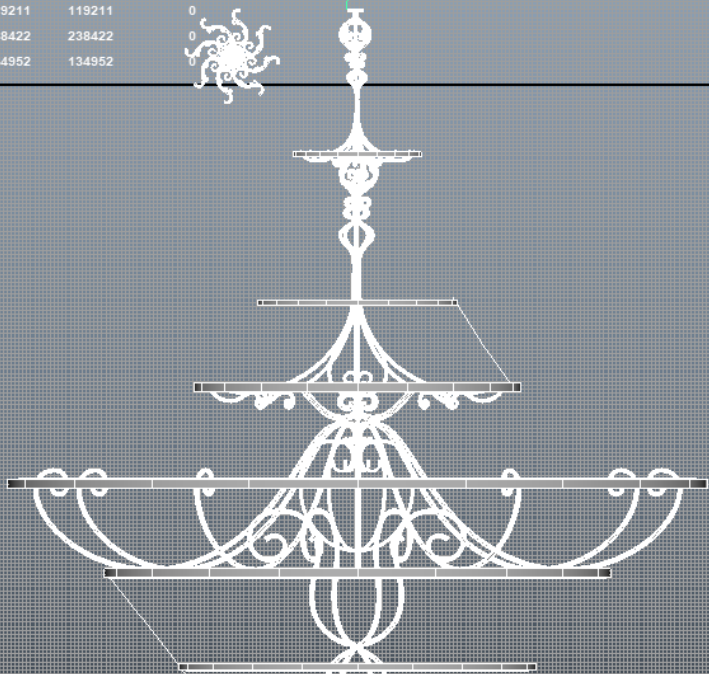
Starting the
chandelier

Radially duplicate
to get the
chandelier shape

Extrude on
curves
to get mesh

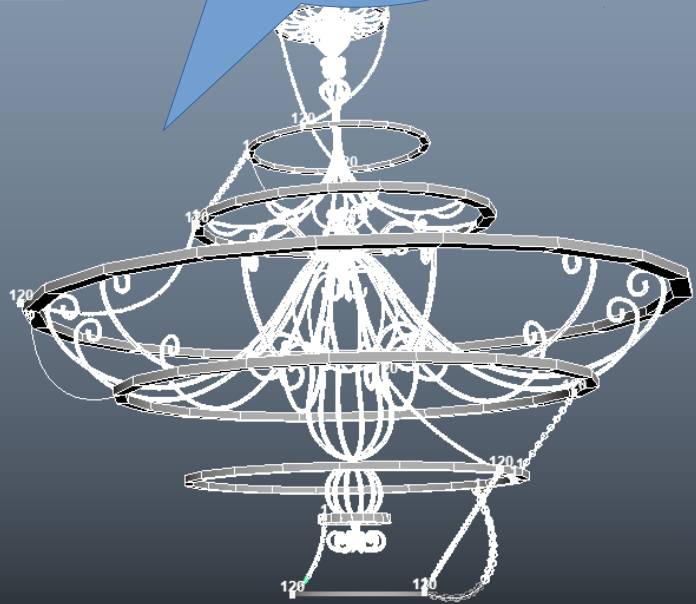
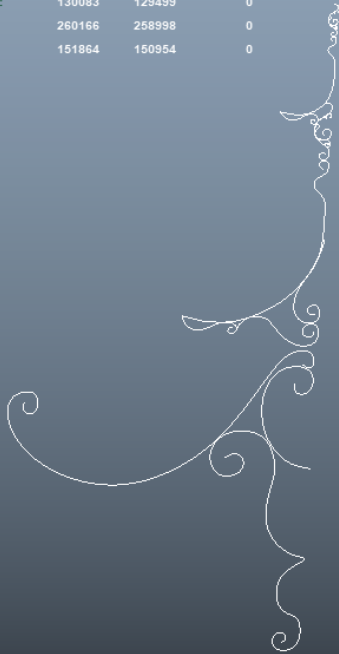


Verts: 121164 121164 0
Edges: 240375 240375 0
Faces: 119211 119211 0
Tris: 238422 238422 0
UVs: 134952 134952 0



Progress from a
different view

Verts: 132036 131452 0
Edges: 262119 260951 0
Faces: 130083 129499 0
Tris: 260166 258998 0
UVs: 151864 150954 0



curve48

NURBS Curve

Component
Component
Object Displ
Node Behav
UUID
Extra Attrib

Notes: curveShape

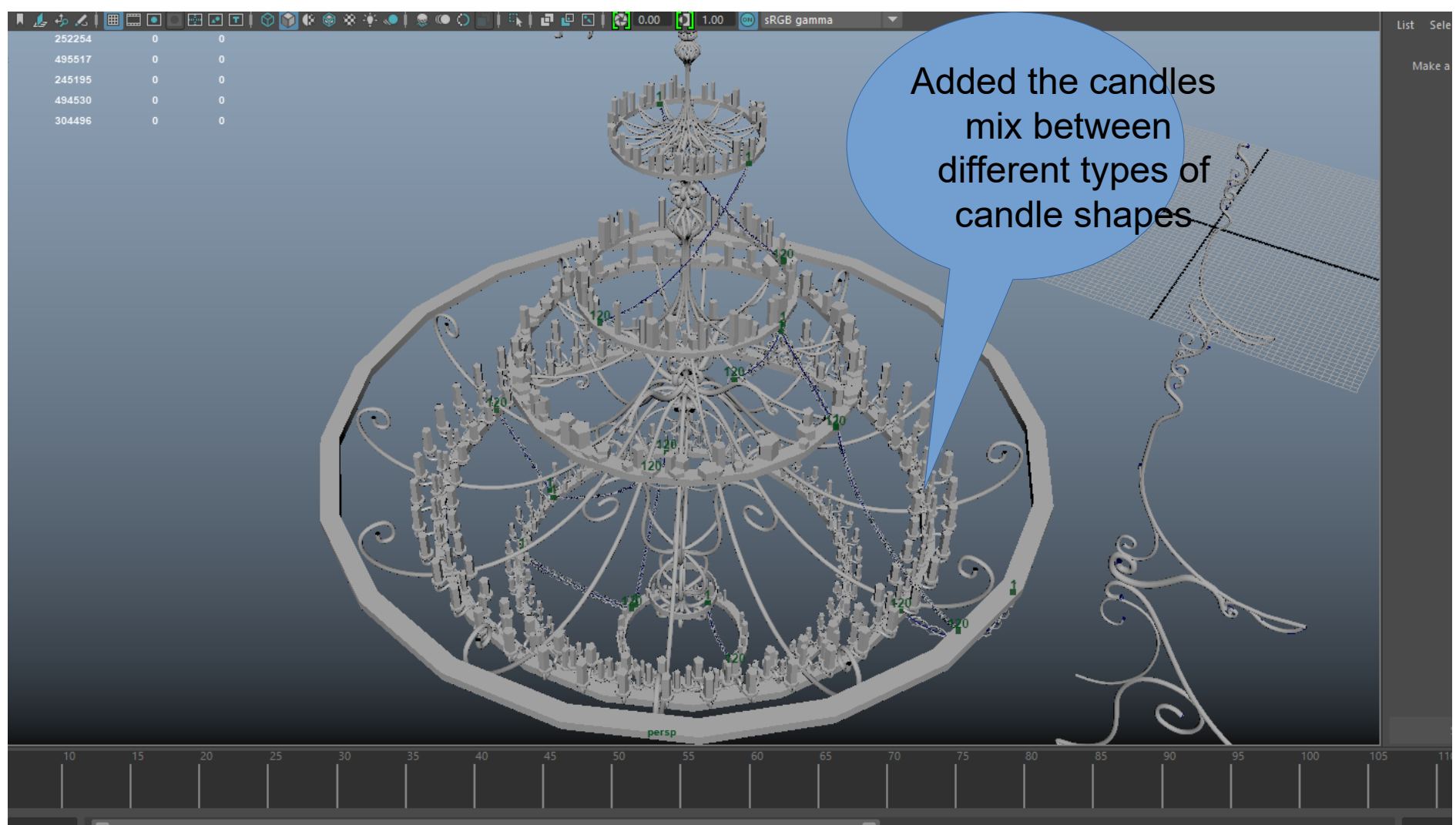
List Selected Focus Attributes Show

transform85_12 transform85_Shape12

mesh: transform85_S

Tessellation Attributes
Mesh Component Disp
Mesh Controls
Tangent Space
Smooth Mesh
Displacement Map
Render Stats
Object Display
Node Behavior
UUID
Extra Attributes

Notes: transform85_Shape12

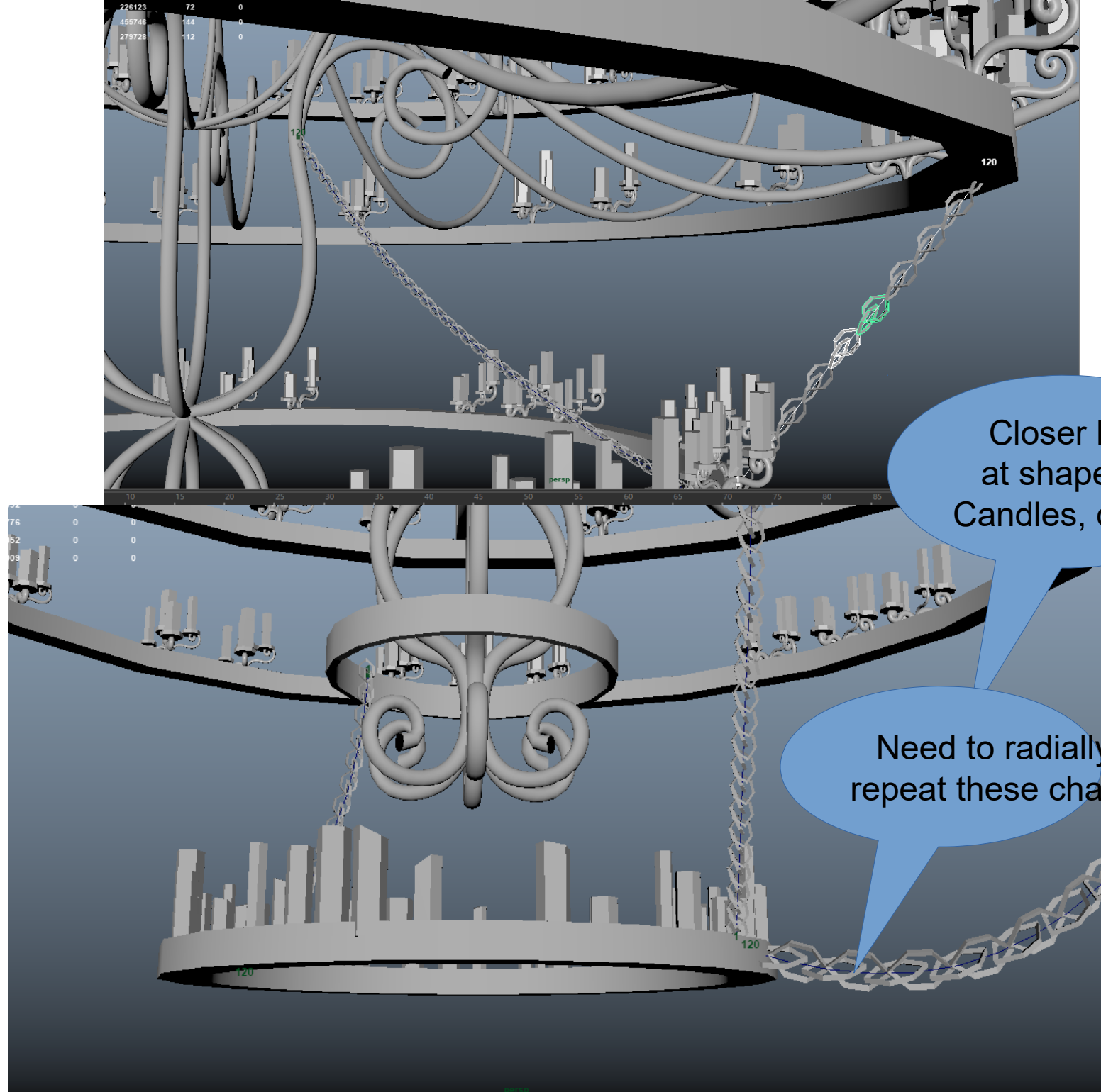


Notes on progress

- Finished with the basic blocking of the library set
- Started the chandelier
- The library seems to be coming together well even though things are taking too long to finish

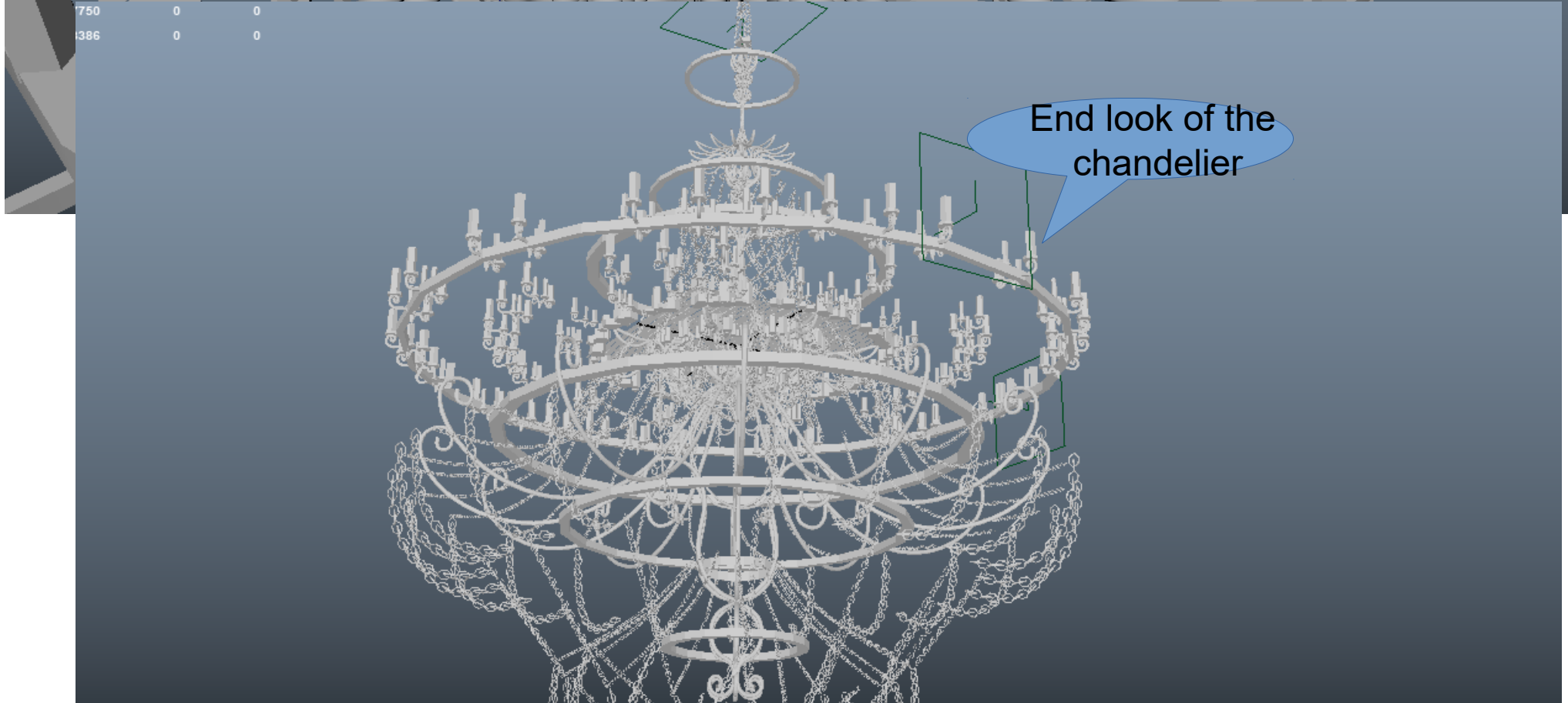
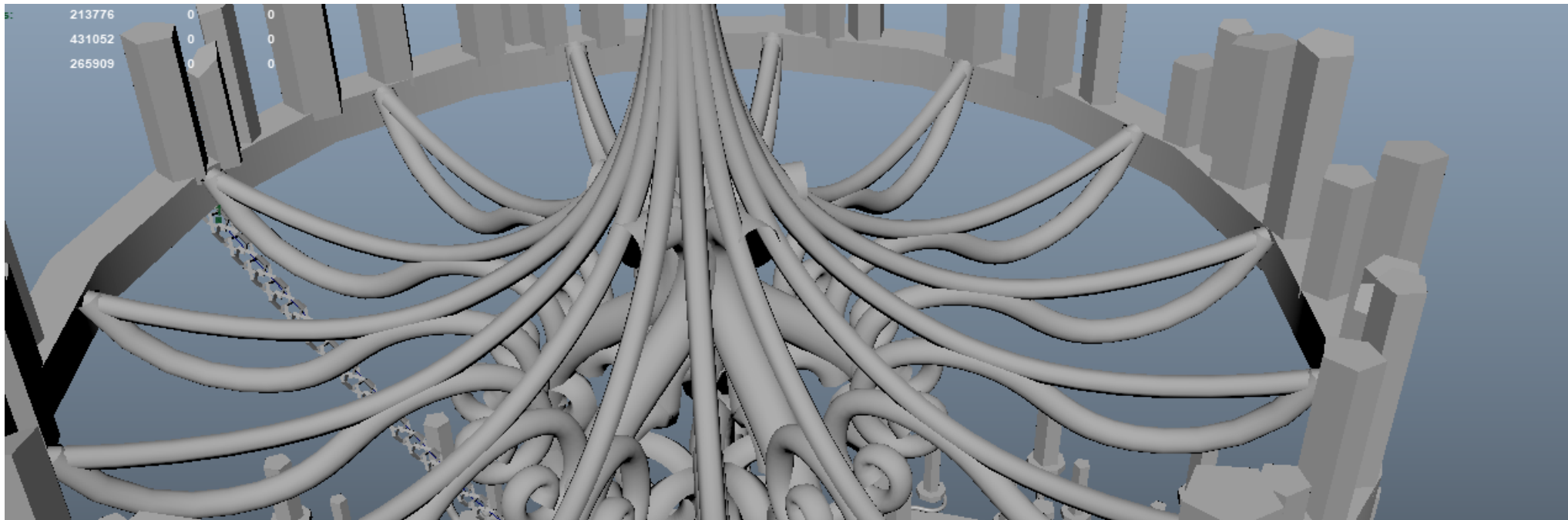
Using reference

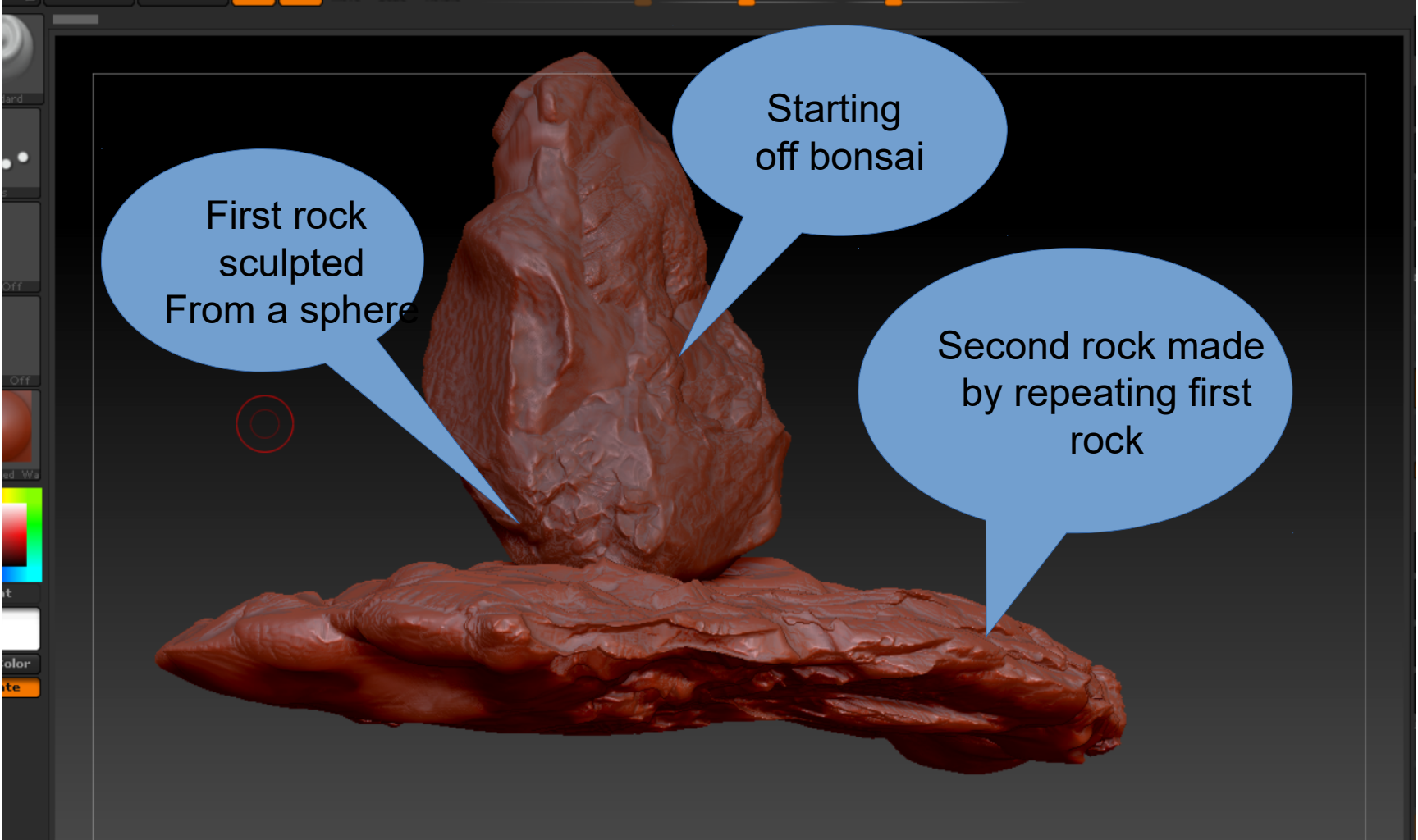
- Reference was important for the following
 - Shape of the chandelier
 - Making the curves and flow of the chandelier
 - Layering the different levels of the chandelier and create a engaging overall flow



Closer look
at shapes of
Candles, chains

Need to radially
repeat these chains





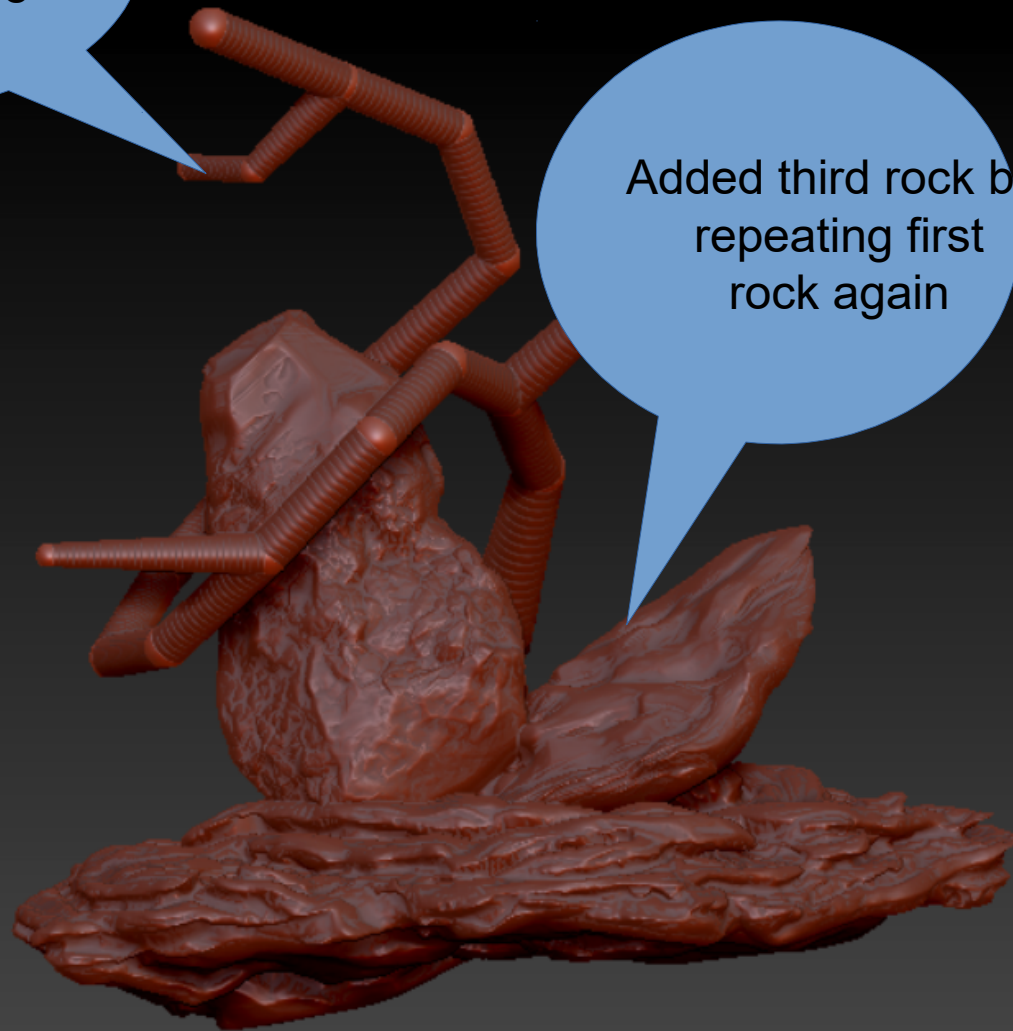
First rock
sculpted
From a sphere

Starting
off bonsai

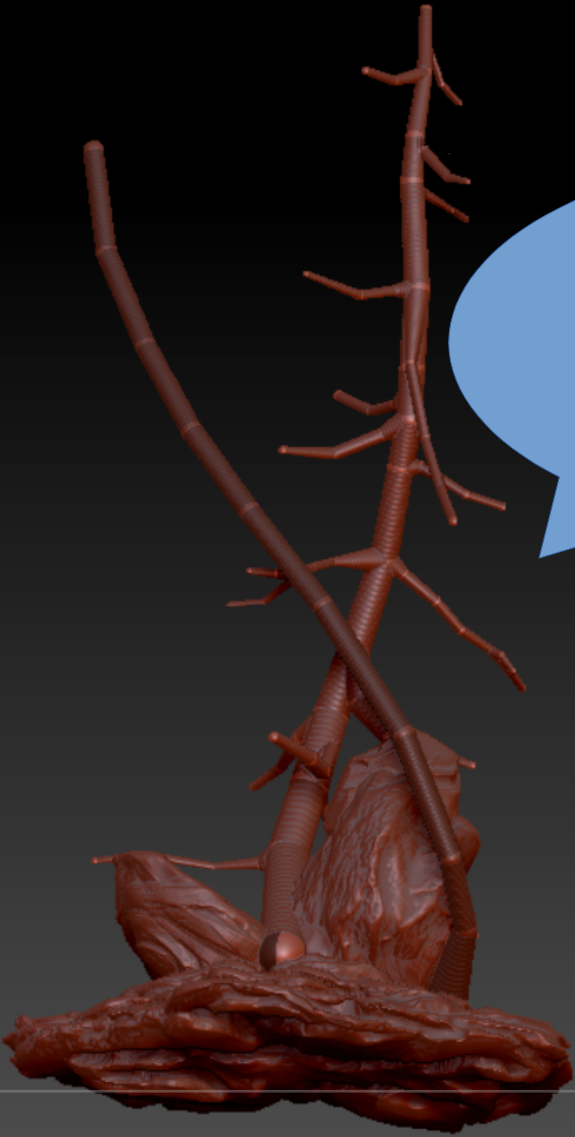
Second rock made
by repeating first
rock

Trying to block in
A tree shape
With z sphere
feature

Added third rock by
repeating first
rock again



Trying a different
style of tree

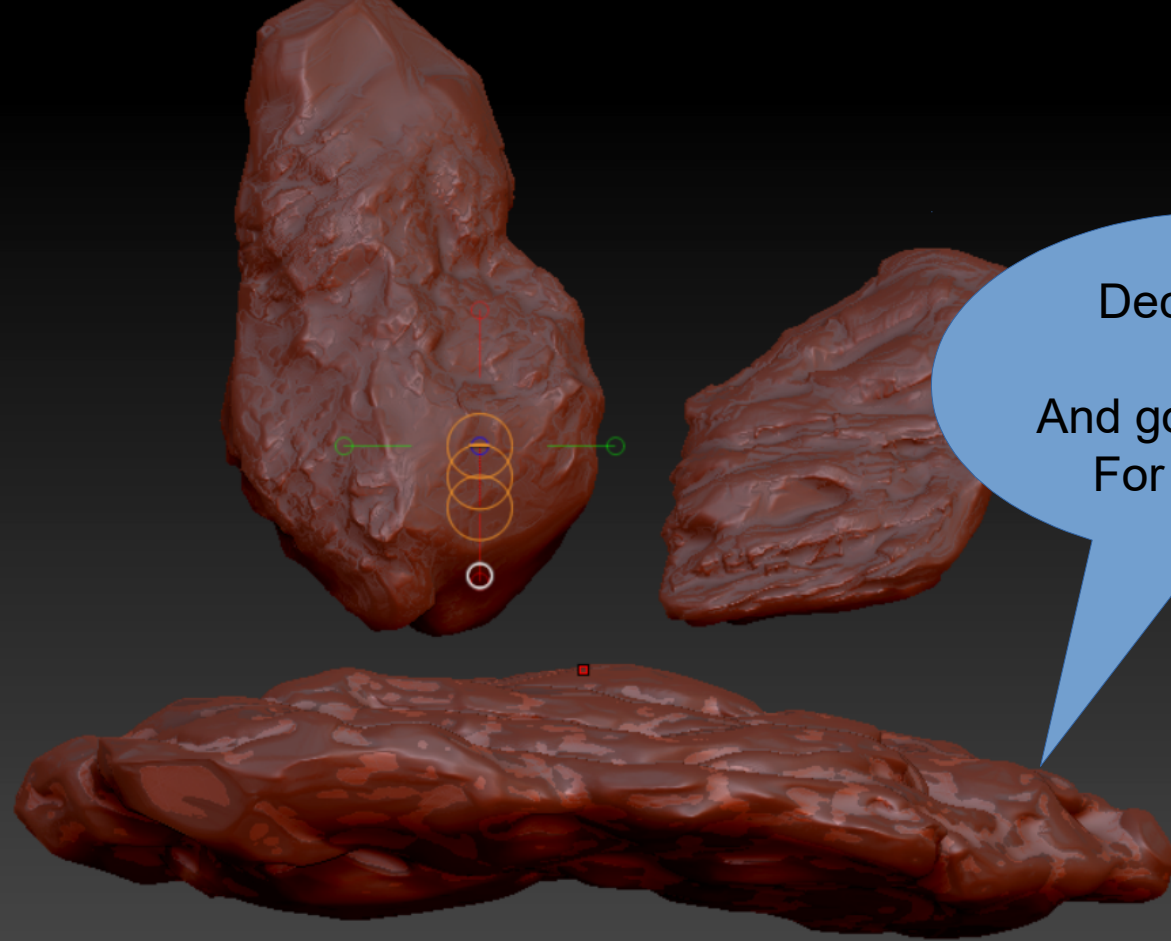


Notes on progress


- The bonsai seems to be coming along okay
- If i want animation in the trees i cant use the zbrush to make the trunk as it might cause several problems
- Best thing would be to use paintfx to create the tree itself so that it can have wind animation etc
- But the trees wont be spiralling unless i use deformers which makes it more complicated
- But it would be closer to my reference if coniferous trees are straight

Using reference

- The reference for bonsai helped me in several things
- Shape of the rocks
- Shape of the trees
- What type of textures to include
- How to angle to rocks , build a aesthetic relationship between their shapes

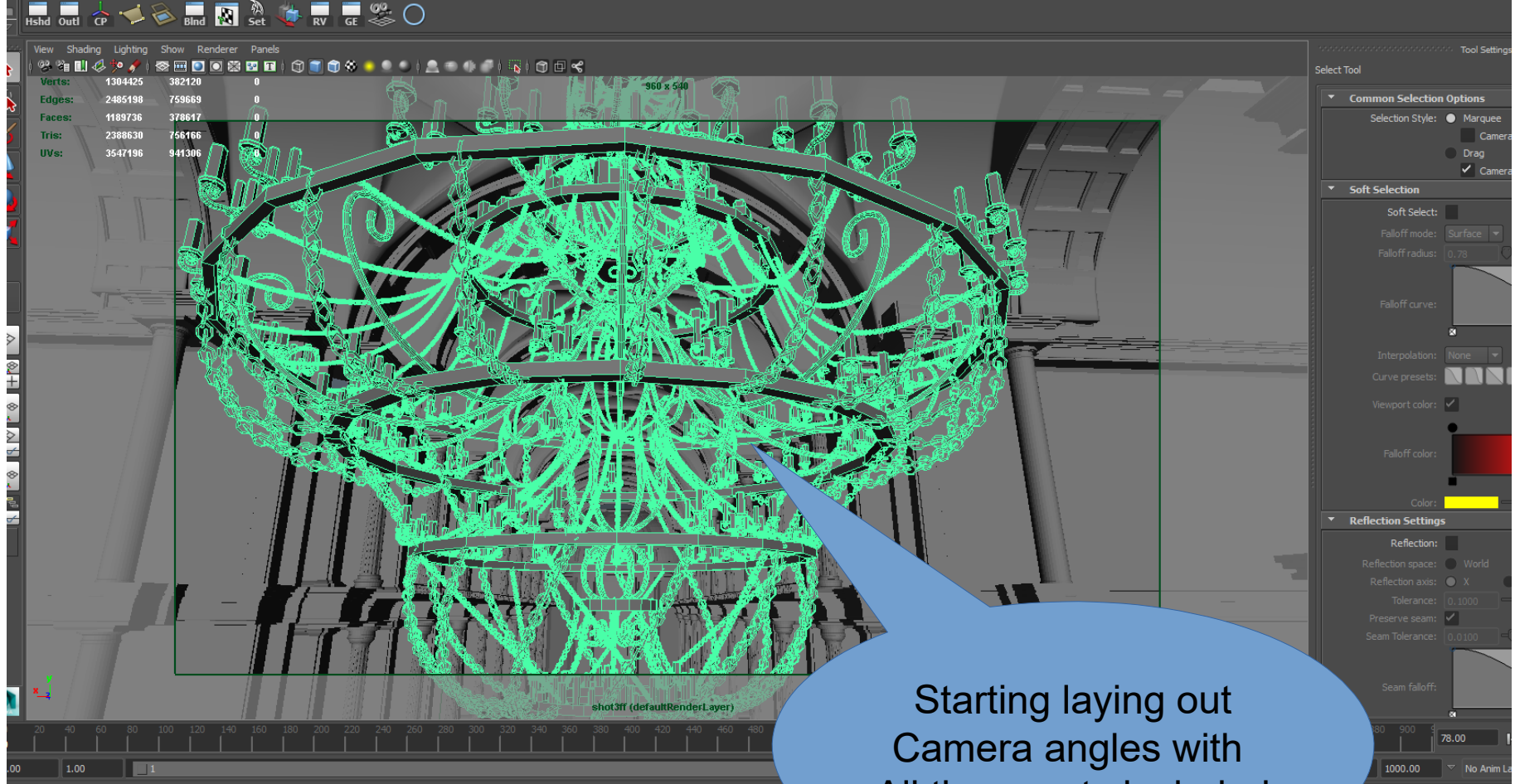


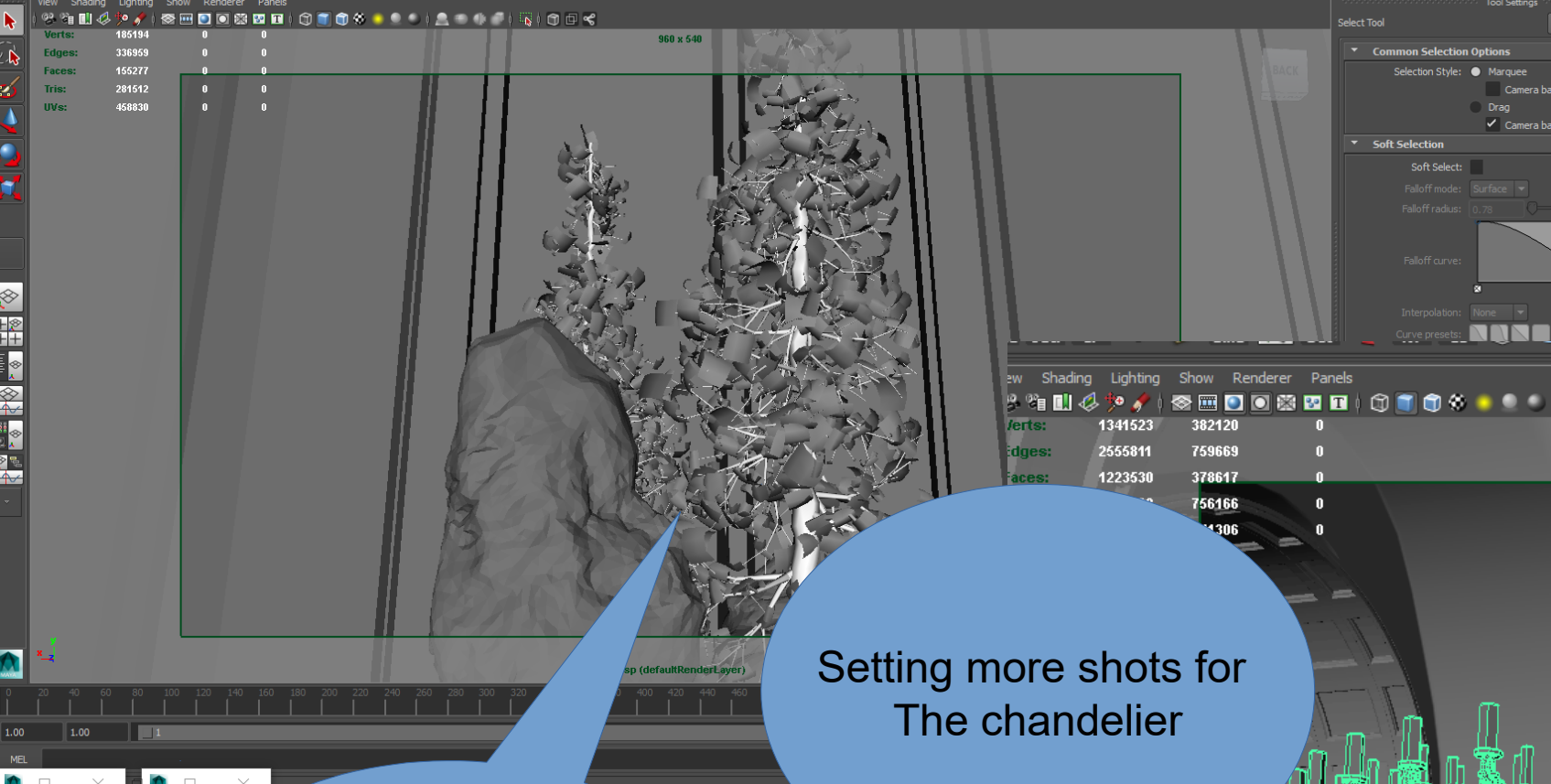
Decimated the
Model
And got normal map
For extra detail



Prepared the pedestal
And container
From base mesh made
In maya

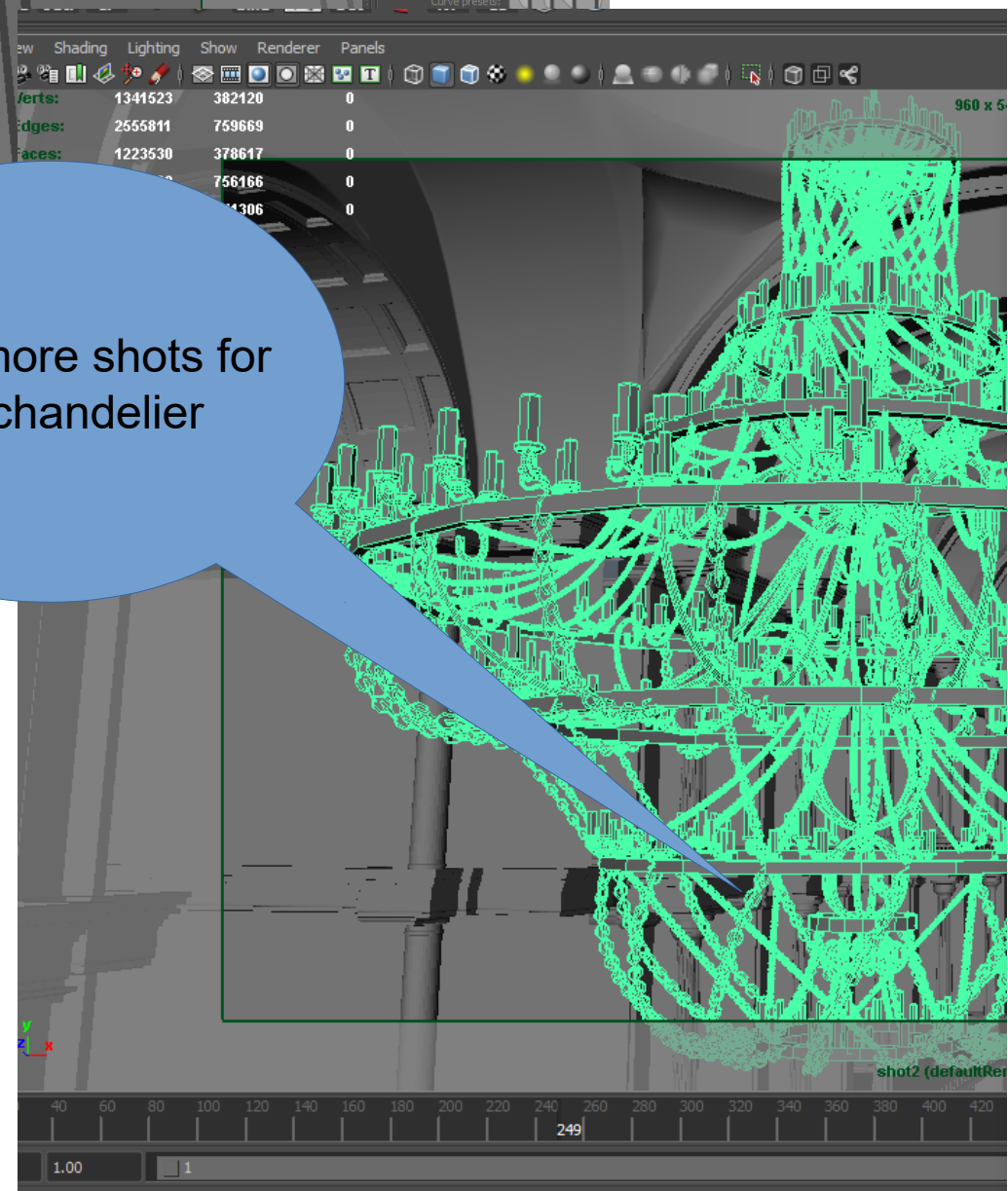






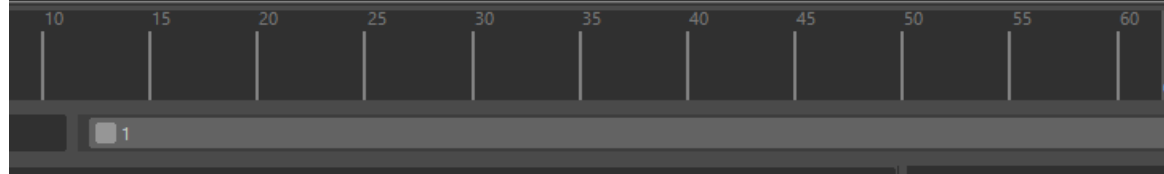
Setting more shots for
The chandelier

Putting in the trees
Along with the bonsai
And setting cameras



56377	0	0
31529	0	0
39443	0	0
36733	0	0

Modeling furniture
To include
in the scene
Shelves ladders
etc



Concept, existing inspiration additional reference

- Old grand library
- Needs to have a fantasy feel
- Should look filled and complicated
- Need to have good lighting
- Create opportunities for almost still shots
- Should have a smooth editing flow for going from bonsai to environment to chandelier etc

Modeling

- Again i went for the modular units that i would require to create the entire library
- The scene also needed pillars
- All this i slowly developed using primitives
- It took me quite some time to get it proper so that when duplicated they looked smooth
- I duplicated several floors to create the multi storied library
- I also modelled the ends of this structure which would have glass

- The floor was again just planes
- After everything was duplicated and looked proper i set up another file to do the uvs
- I started the Bonsai model within Zbrush
- After getting good reference and studying them i started sculpting the rocks
- After a rock was sculpted i duplicated it to construct two more rocks of different shapes and sizes
- When this was done i went to make the container and pedestal for the bonsai
- This was done based on my sketches and reference

- I sculpted several imperfections after bringing the base models for them from maya
- At the end of this i decimated all the models and used zbrush to unwrap and create normal and displacement maps
- I exported objs to include them in maya workflow
- I decided i will use paintfx trees for the trees of the bonsai as animating these for wind turbulence would be much easier and also i can use the same trees from the forest scene.

- Chandelier for this model i needed a lot of reference i wanted it to look old and not fancy
- After gathering reference i used primitives of different kinds to model its different aspects
- Which included the frame
- Which i made using curve extrude and duplicating these curved pieces radially
- I then did the lights which were candles
- Some of the candles were wax candles without sands for this i used low poly cylinders which i randomly arranged on several levels
- I tried randomizing the height width and shape of them too
- Other candles were more fancy with stands these i radially duplicated from one piece and manually randomized their arrangement

- After this i added the chains by using the animate on curve ability in maya
- As there were going to be many links i used a very low poly model to get these links
- Then radially duplicated these links again to finish the chandelier model
- This was then uved
- I used zbrush for this process because manually doing it would take too much time
- I then arranged the uvs as per the udim workflow to simplify and make a combined object

Unwrap

- Uvs weren't too tough as most of the shapes were simple enough
- This scene had multiple blocks of modular models so these i had to group properly so that while texturing i could use multiple uv maps
- For this i learnt how to use UDIMS which would allow me to use multiple maps for the same shader

Texturing

- Most things in the library were made out of wood so used different types of wood planks textures to get a good look
- Hand painted the bonsai part and chandelier area
- Used proper rock textures for the stones added some moss etc, some marble for the pedestal and the chandelier was mostly metal

Camera angles

- Used more rough sketches to figure out shots for this scene wanted to get multiple shots out of this scene
- Wanted to connect this scene to many other so drew those out
- Based on that i animated the cameras
-

Setting up materials

- Again, set up materials using mia material with the appropriate maps from zbrush and substance painter.
- The library itself didnt take much time because they were large modular pieces that wouldnt be seen in much detail
- I spent most time in doing the bonsai and the pedestal of the bonsai , container etc as these would be the focal element
- The chandelier would be quite away from the camera in the shots so that also was finished quickly

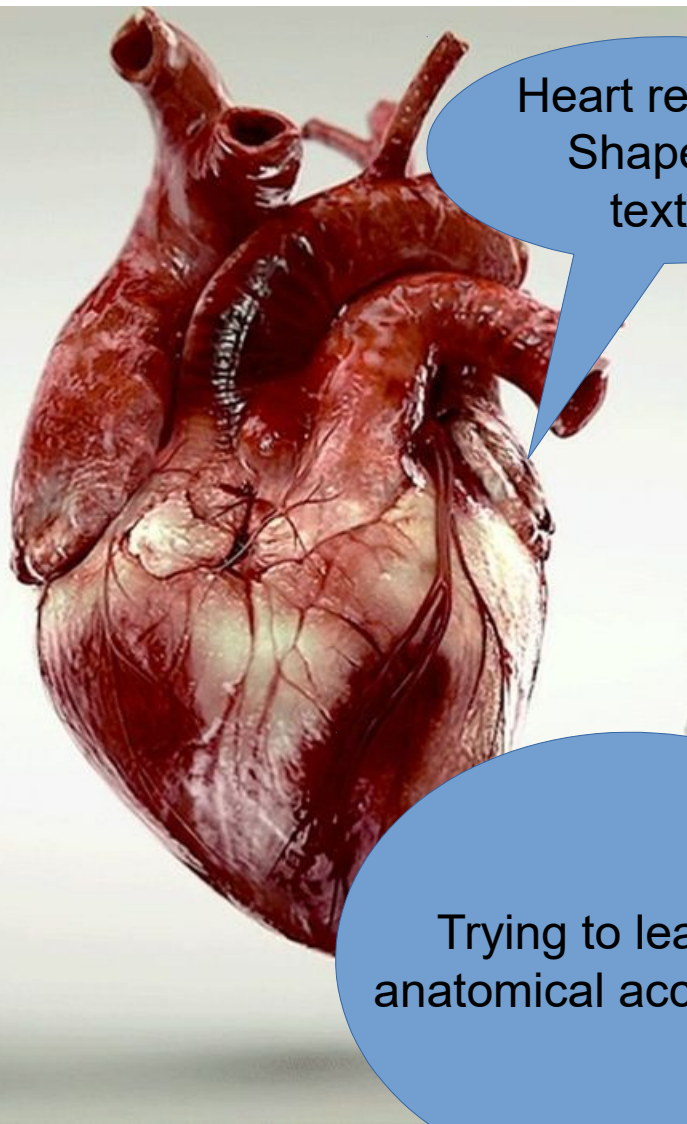
This scene was rendered in a standard way with a diffuse pass, depth pass and beauty pass

Major problems faced

- Volume of work
 - The sheer volume of work for this set was huge
 - It overwhelmed me quite a bit
 - But i broke it down to small steps and that helped
- Chandelier
 - Figuring out how to build the chandelier itself was tough i first started in zbrush, then i went on to maya where i tried different techniques
 - Finally i came to extruding mesh on curves and radial duplication technique to finish it
 - The chains on the chandeliers were also a new problem for me i used curves and mesh to get them as well
- Set – the huge set required a lot of perfection as things needed to be duplicated many many times one small mistake would escalate to huge problems so i had to manage that
- Trees for bonsai- i first tried making trees for the bonsai manually but that wasn't working as animating the leaves would be a lot tougher than using paintfx, so i had to shift midway which caused some stress.
-

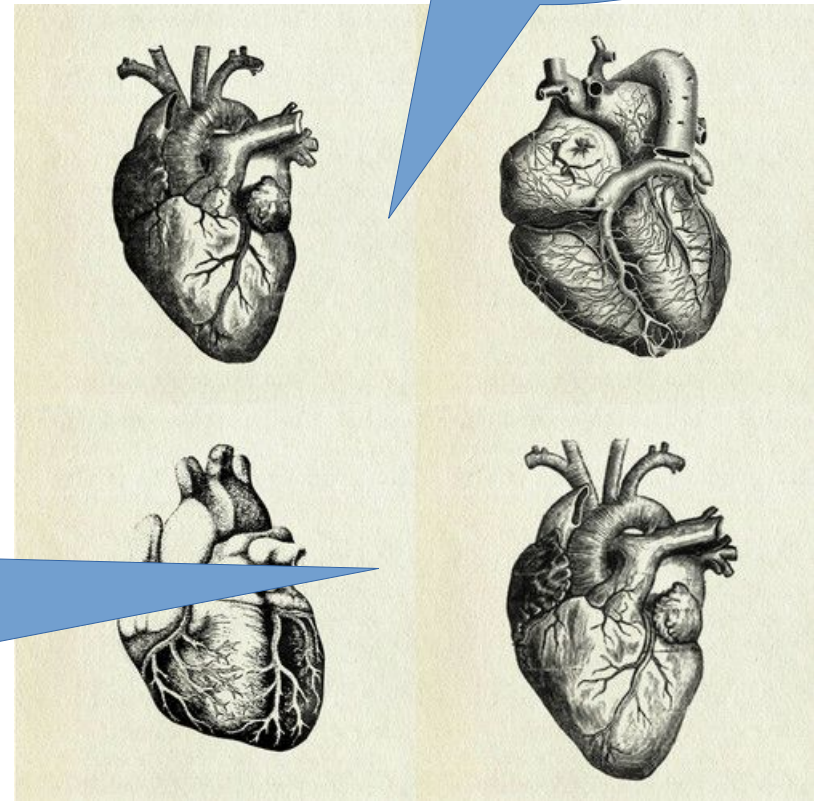
Still life Scenes

- Symbolic introduction
 - Taking time out to look, observe pay attention have an experience for its own sake
 - Stillness
 - Aesthetic quality of physical
 - Relationships with larger aspects of human life
 - Remind of things easily forgotten
 - Pain violence peace
 - Symbolic juxtaposition
 - Comment on modern life?



Heart references
Shape color
textures

Trying to learn for
anatomical accuracy etc



More references
For shapes of heart

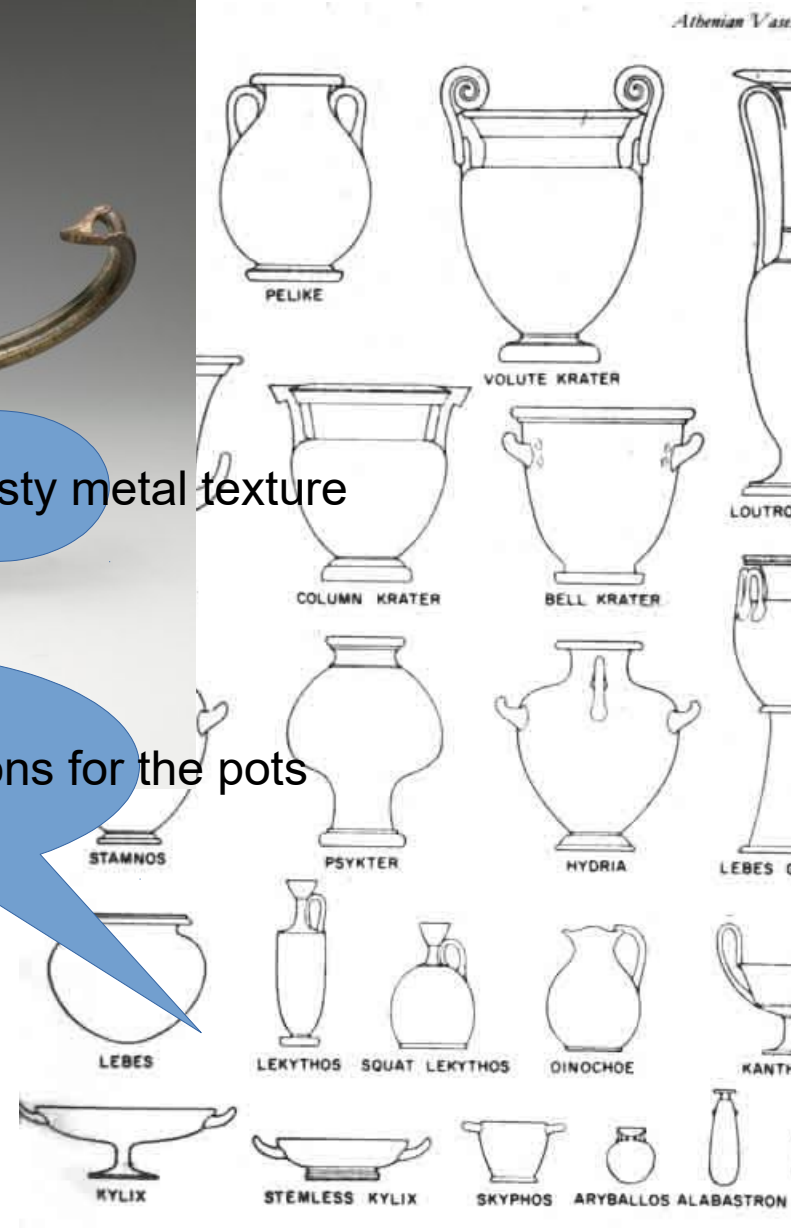


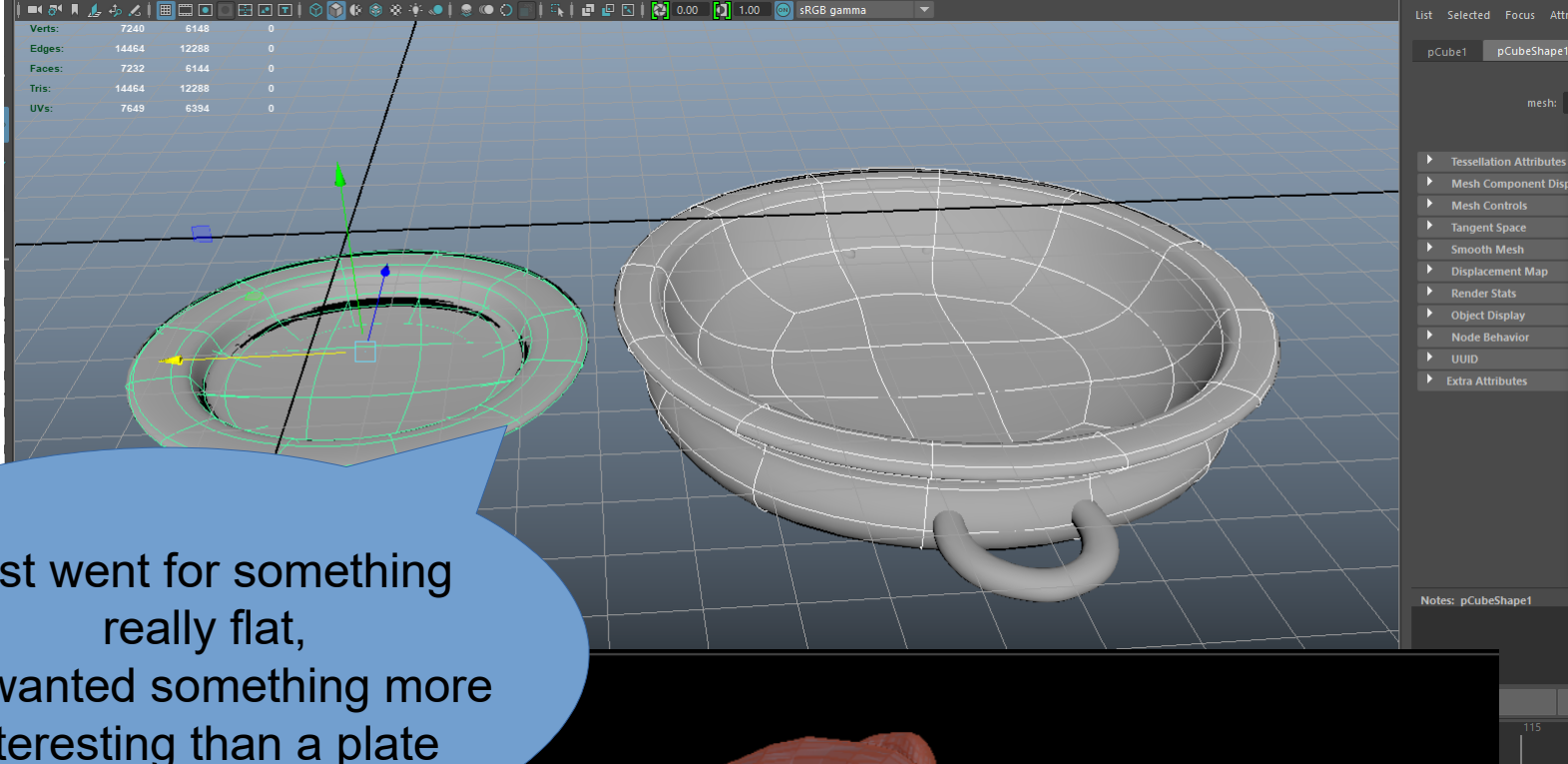
Different styles of cups for the heart to be in



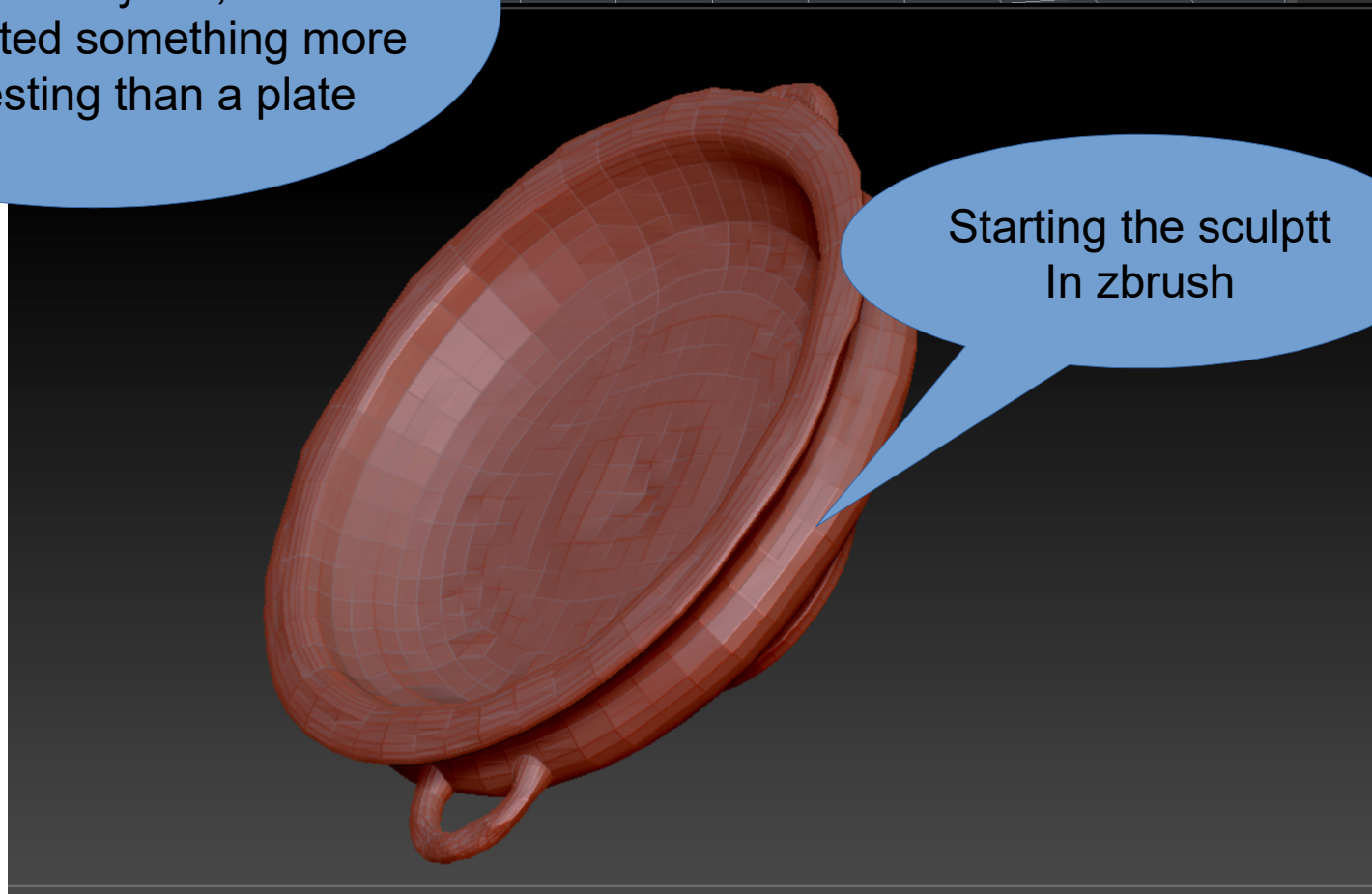
Rusty metal texture

Different options for the pots

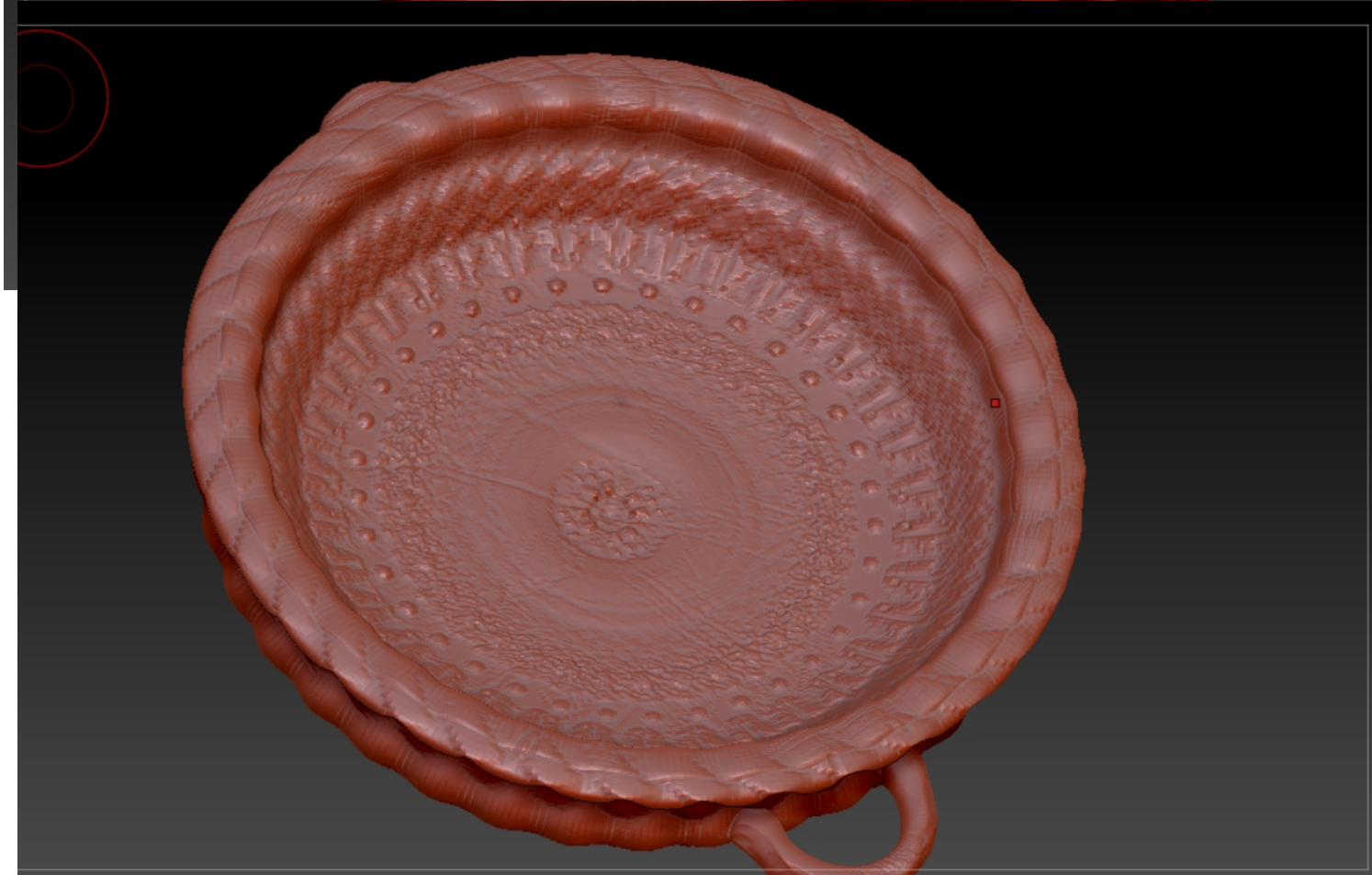
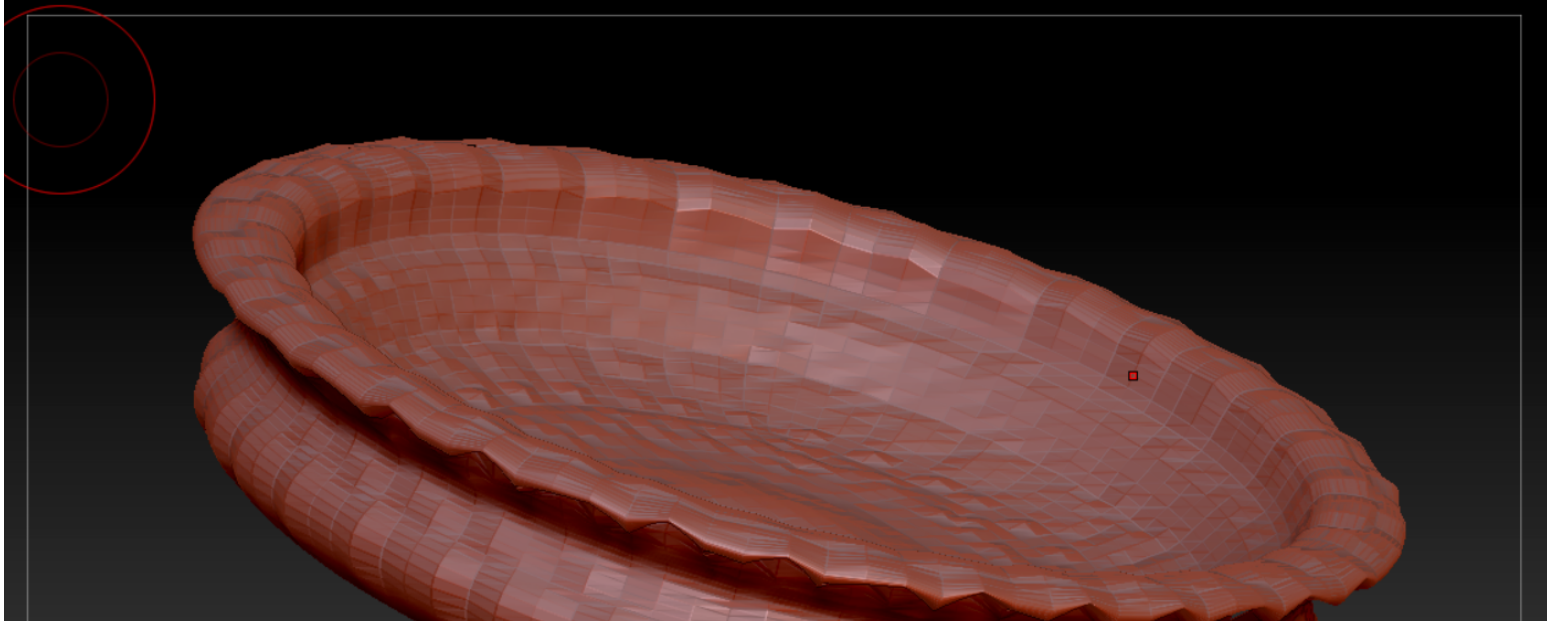




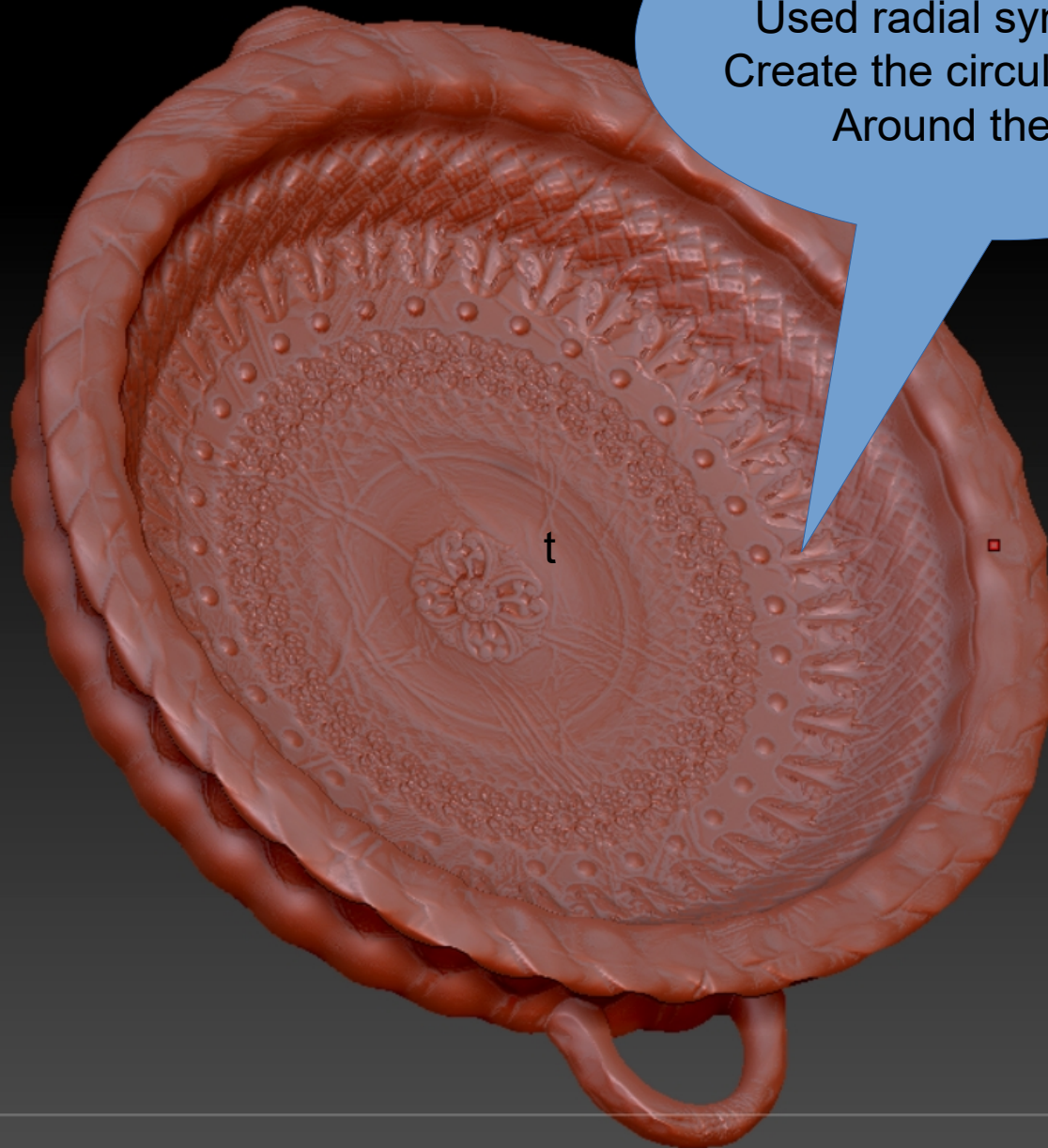
First went for something really flat, but wanted something more interesting than a plate



Starting the sculpttt
In zbrush



Built up more detail
Used radial symmetry to
Create the circular designs
Around the plate



t

Notes on progress

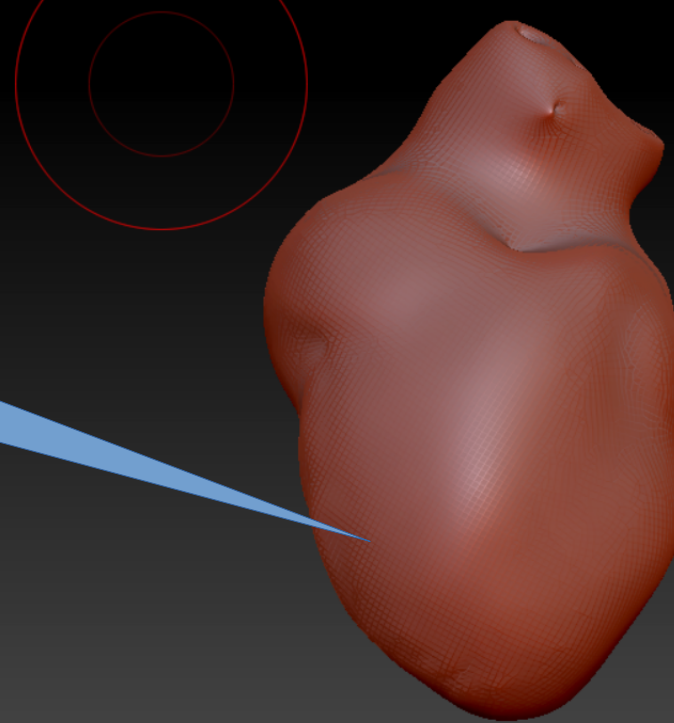
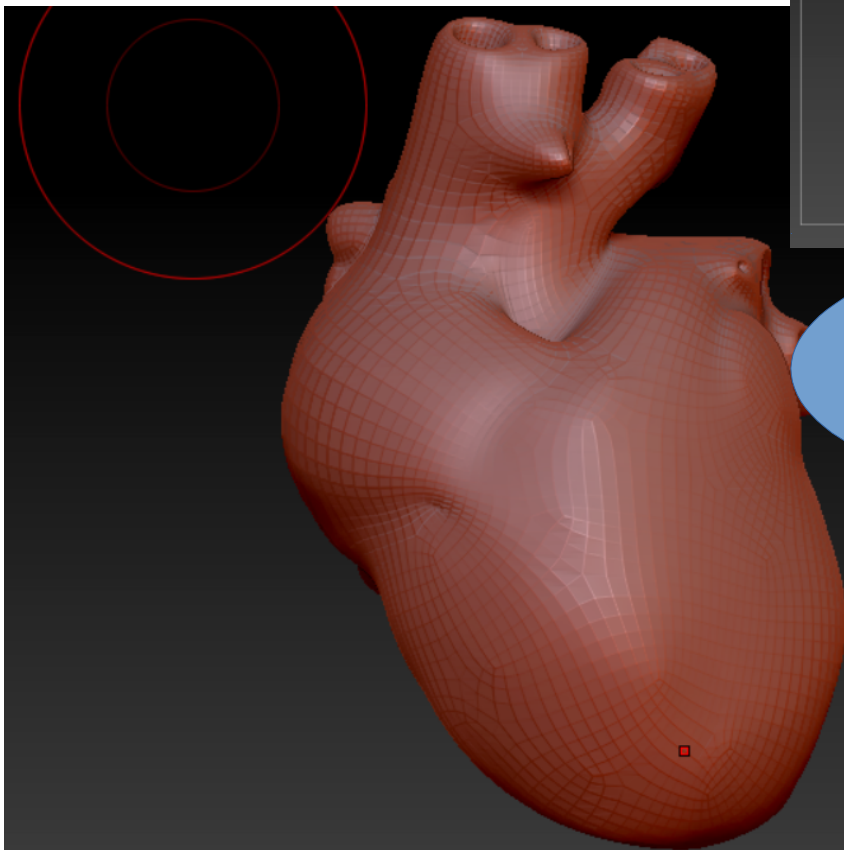
- Started the heart scene
- Made the plate on which it will rest
- The idea behind it was to use a greek idea a flat platter type thing that would have ample opportunity to make details in decorations

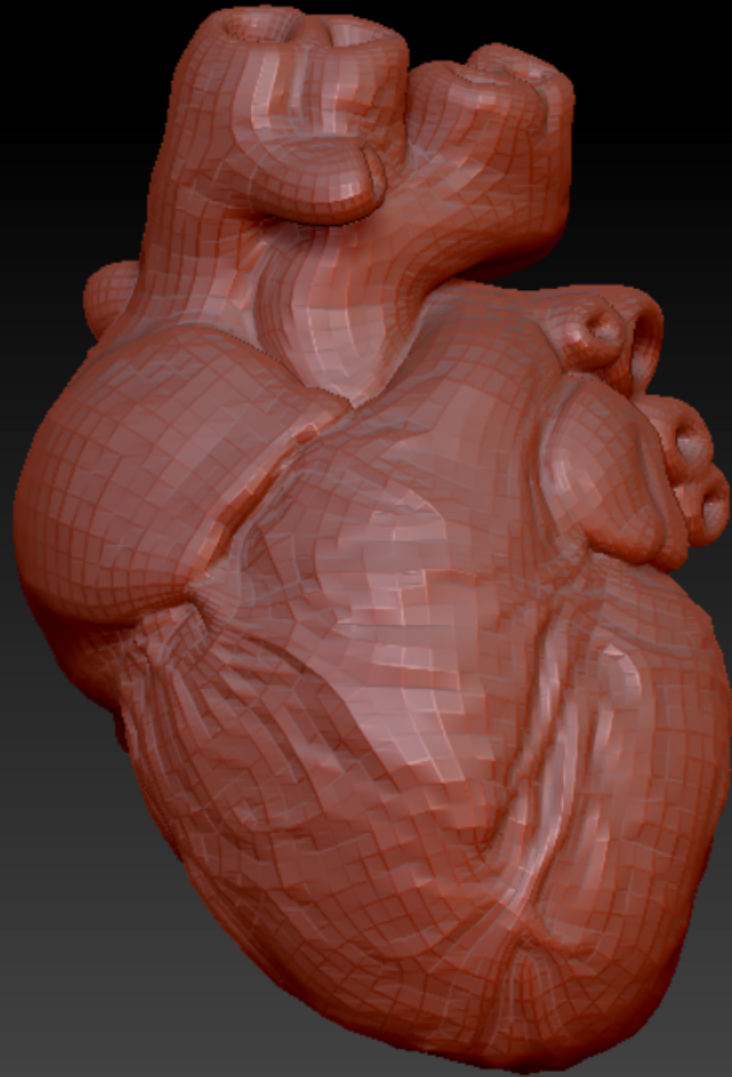
Using reference

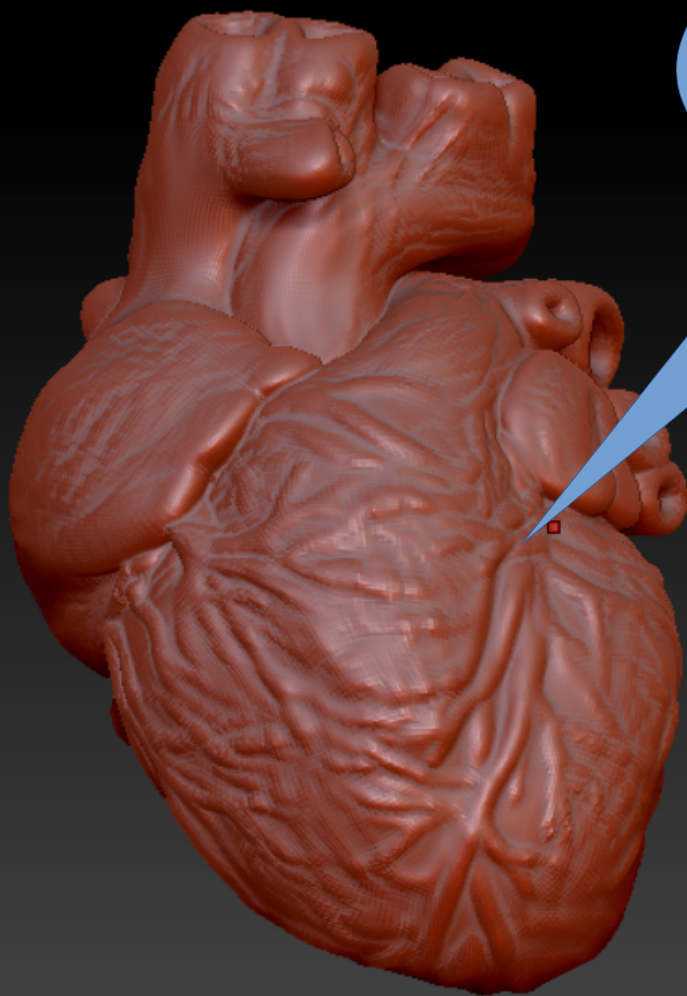
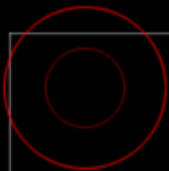
- Got a good idea for textures from the reference
- The flat shapes helped me a lot allowing the depth of the platter to be less gave more visually pleasing results
- The textures on the heart need to be accurate
- The glossiness of the heart muscles need to be accurate
- Apart from that must observe anatomy to make it as accurate as possible

Starting heart shape sculp
From sphere

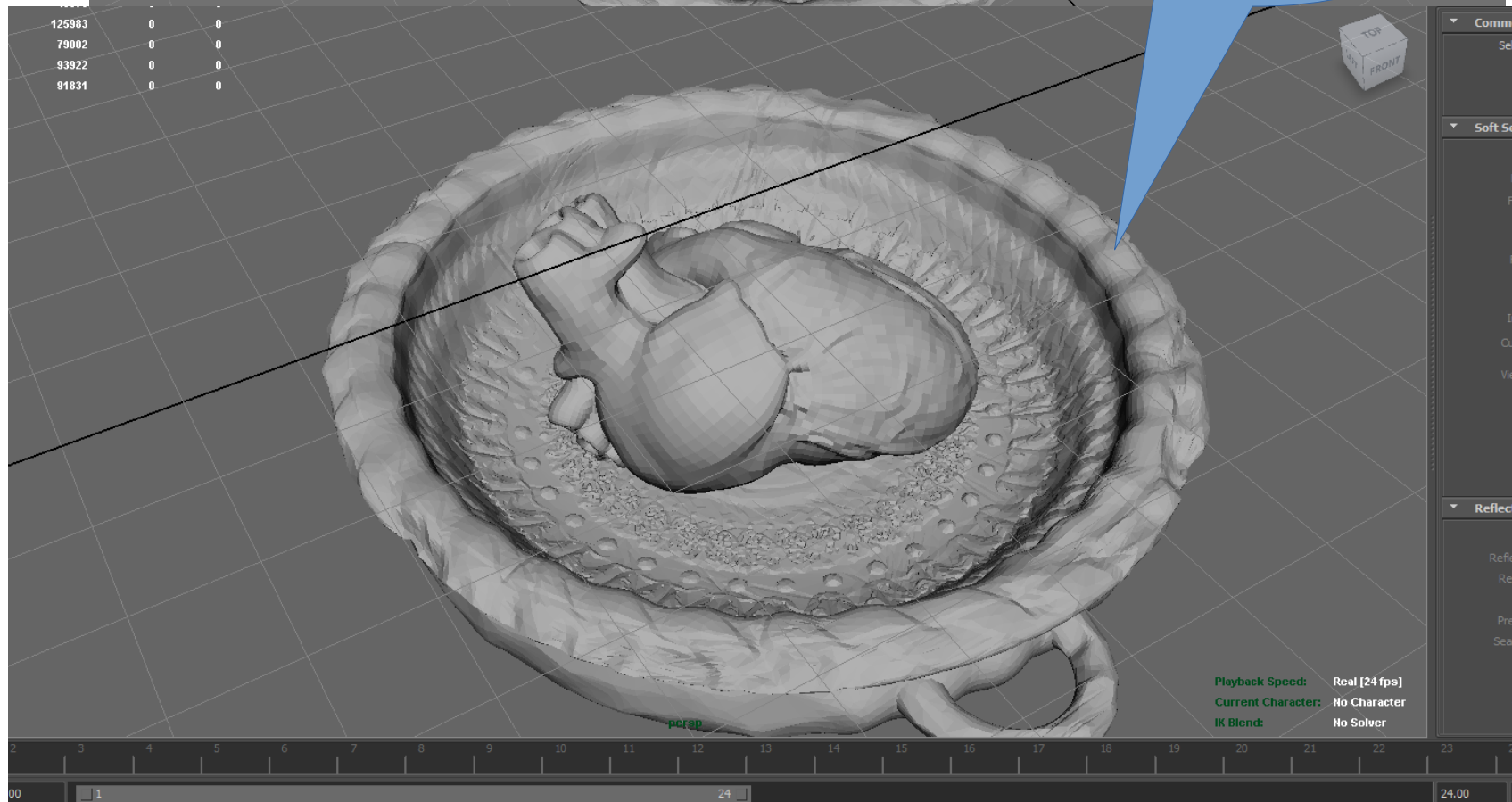
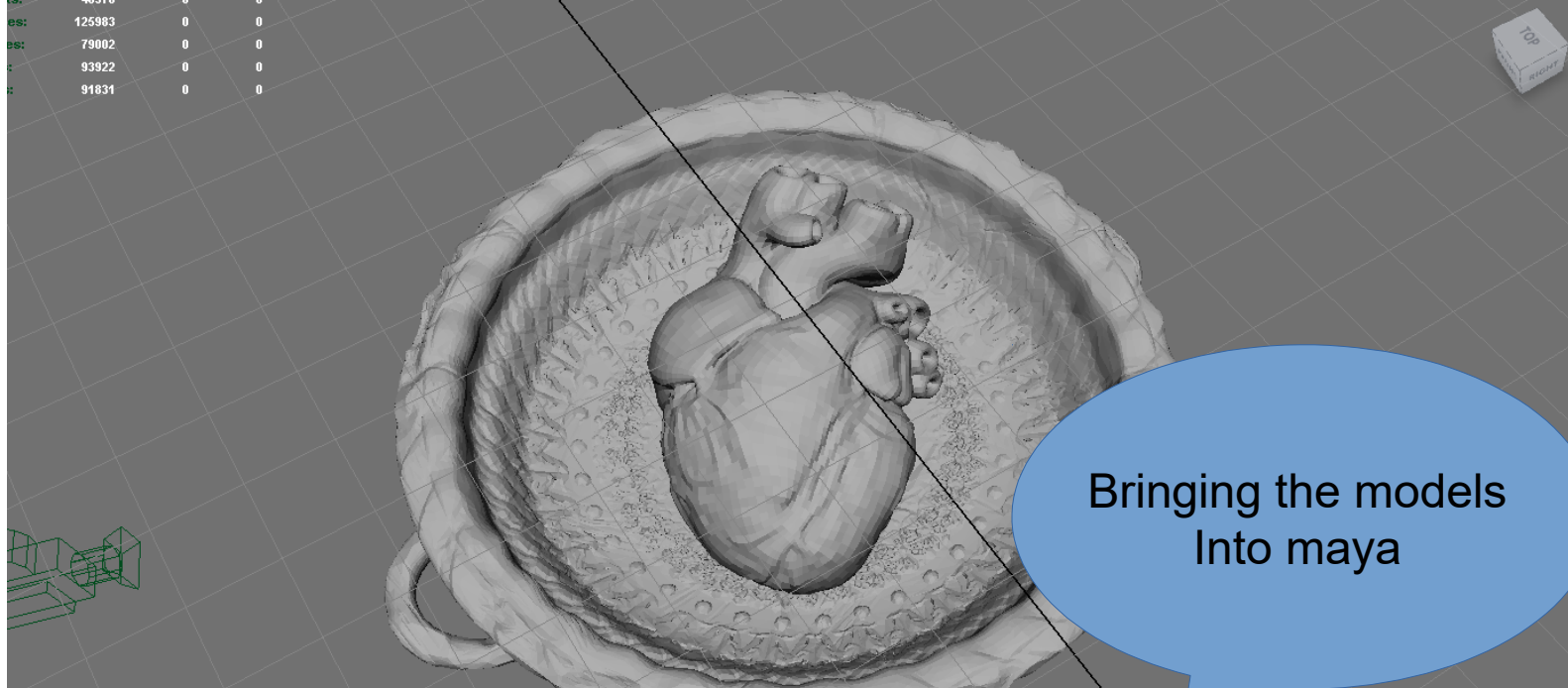
Developing forms,
And developing cavities
Based on reference

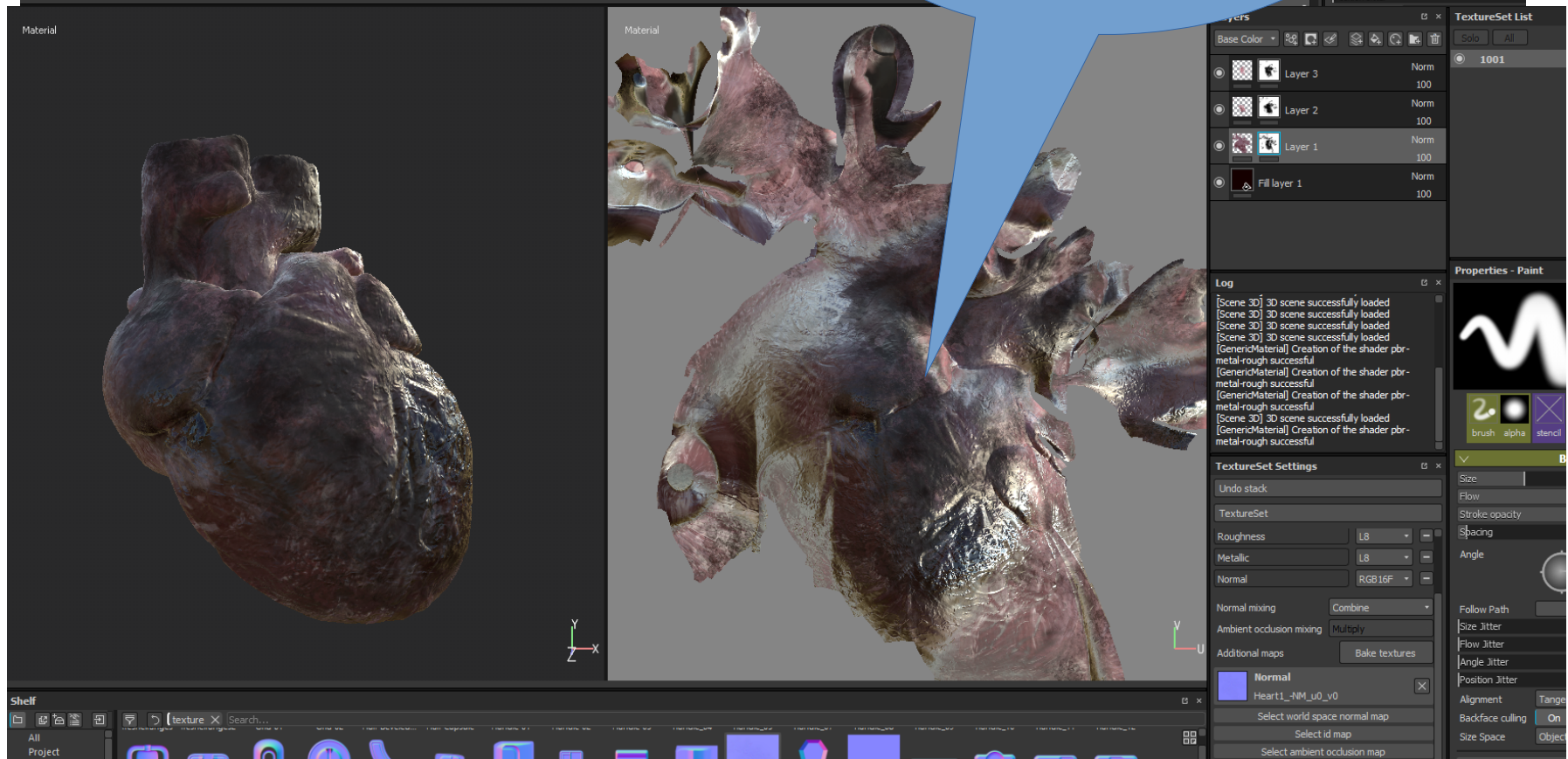


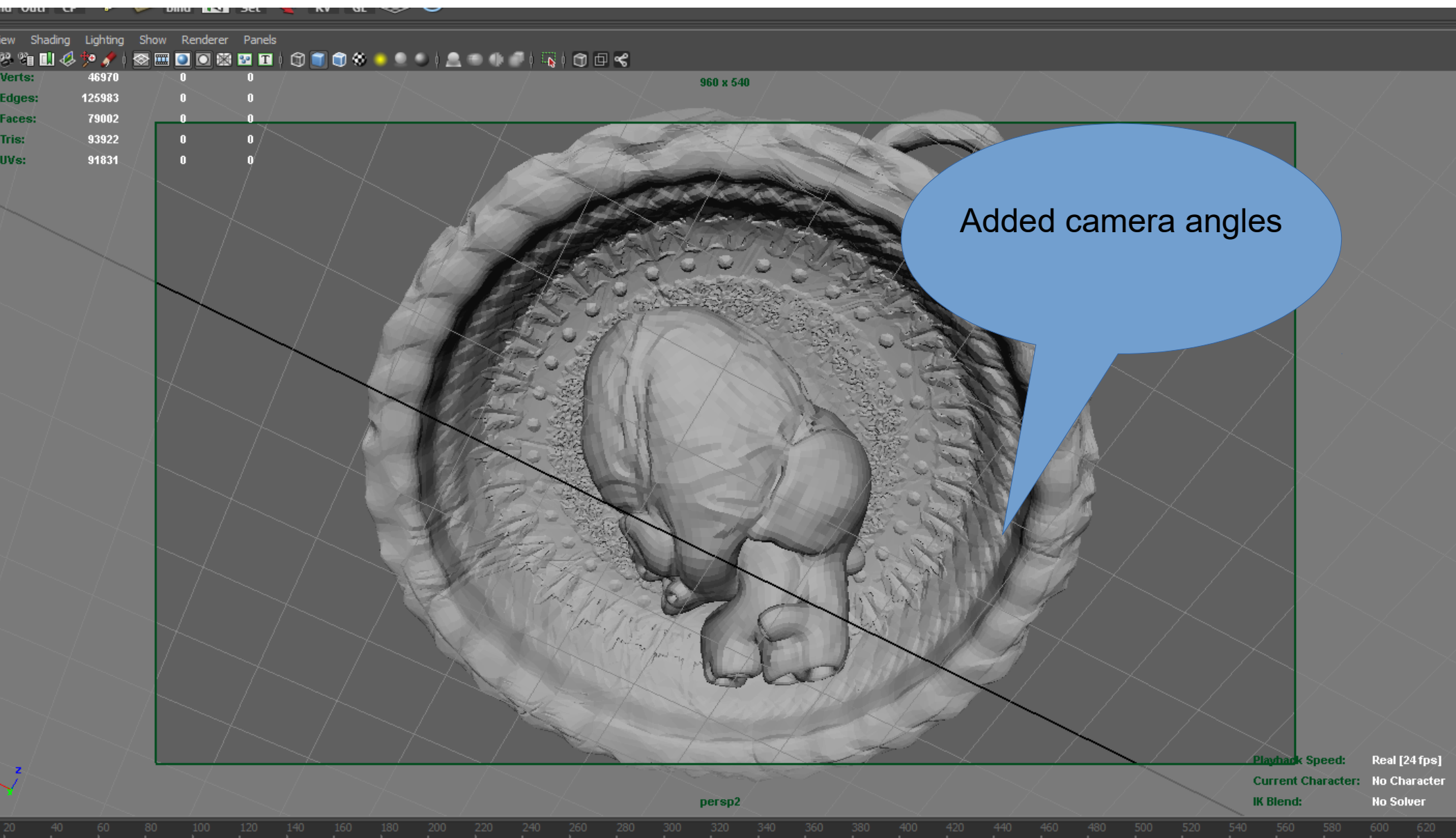




Added more details,
Veins to make i look
More detailed





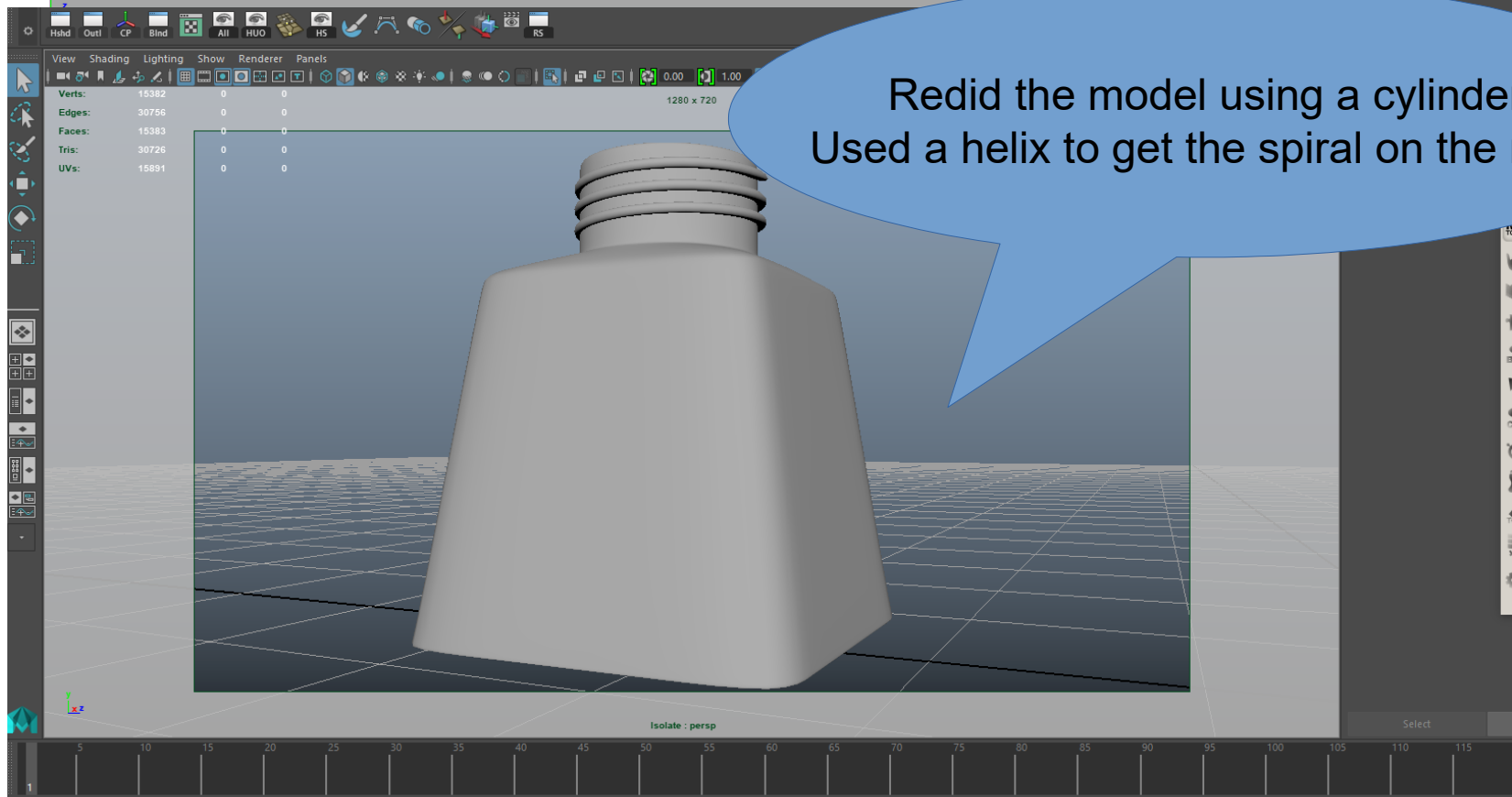
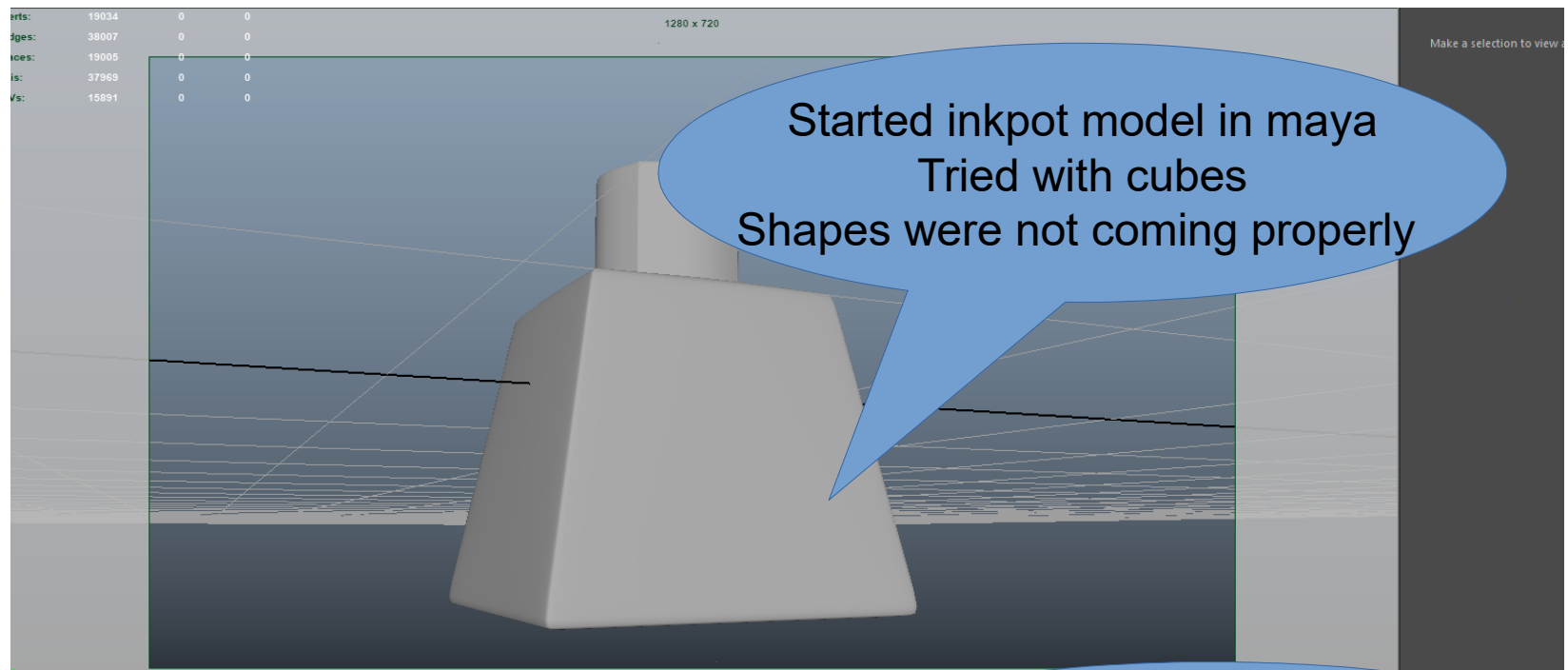


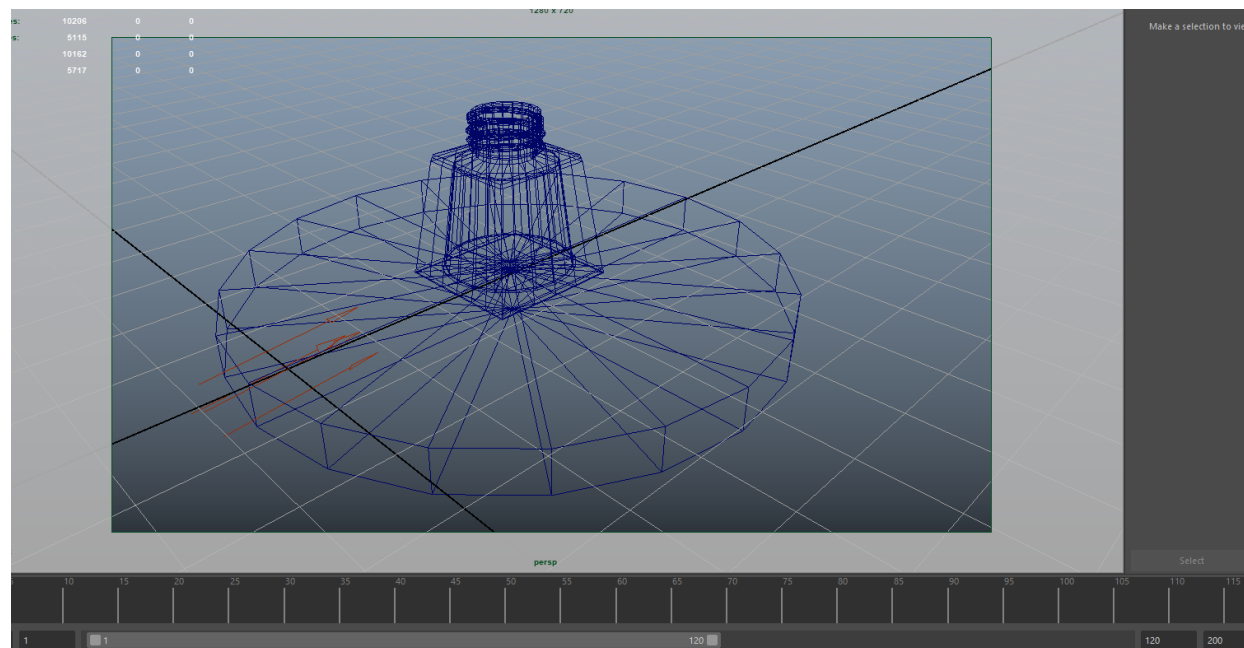
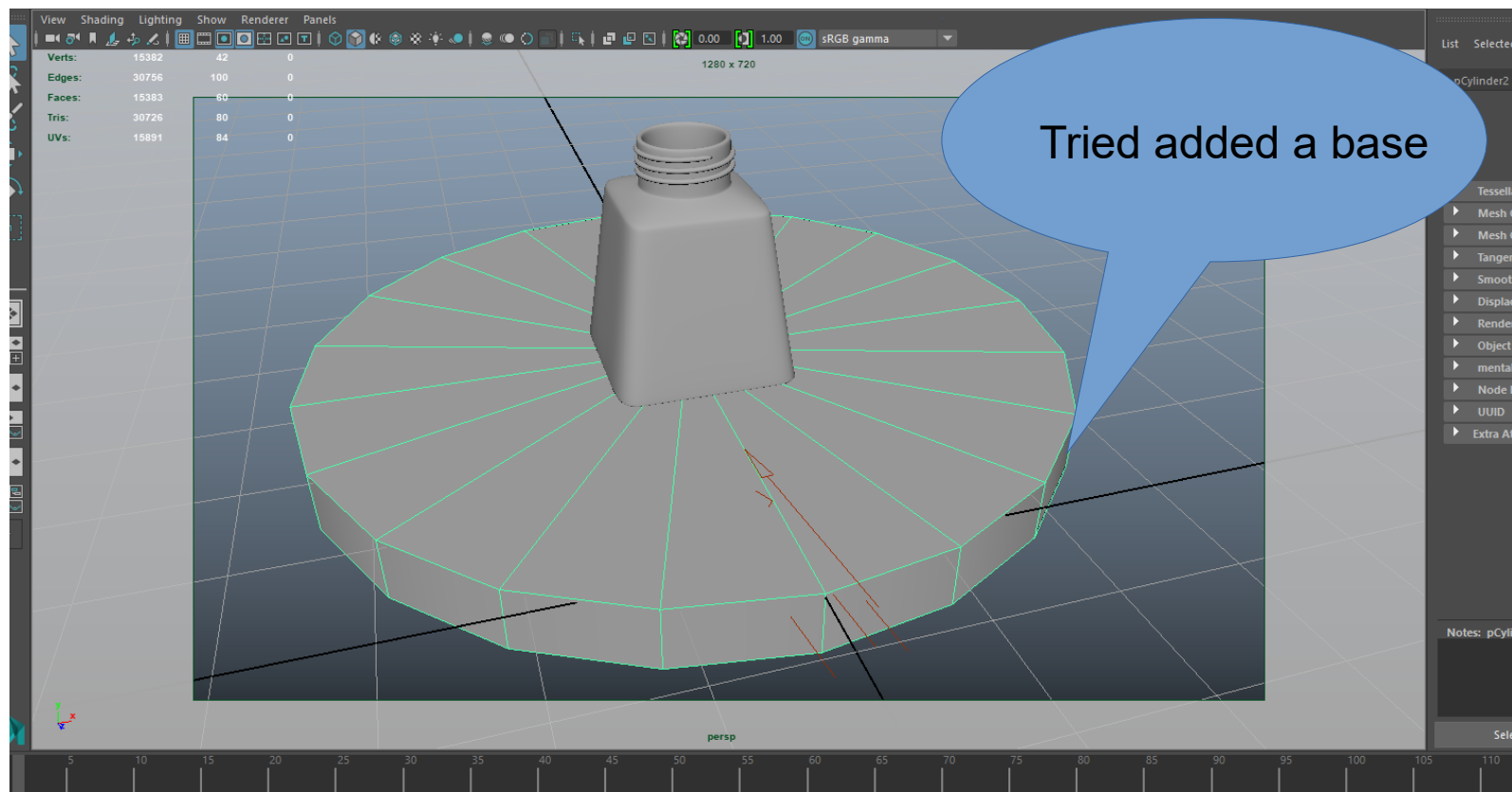
References for inkpot still life

reflections

Plants in pots
Similar to something i want to do








Notes on progress

- Still life scenes are going properly
- Taking a lot of guidance from the references and my sketches
- Had some problems with the heart in the zbrush workflow manipulating the mesh from dynamesh to a re-meshed model was a bit tough i had do a bunch of manual work to set it up so that it works properly
- Texturing was a easy process but the open opportunities allows for a lot of tweaking so just like painting one must force themselves to call it finished
- Inkpot itself was easy enough as it was very simple model

Using reference

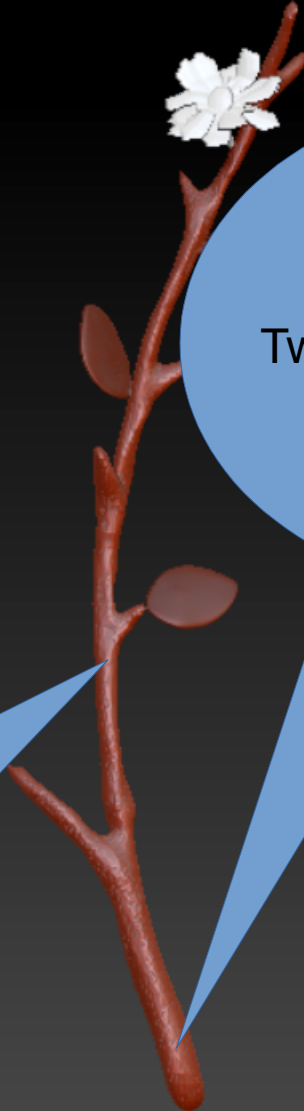
- The collected reference helped me do several things,
- Get the proper form and shape of the heart
- Put all the anatomical aspects at the proper place the cavities arteries veins etc.
- The texturing process was really simplified as i know what type of colours to put where especially with the heart as it is such a complex thing.
- The rust for the the vessel was important so i observed the reference really properly to make sure its accurate



Twigs for the inkpot

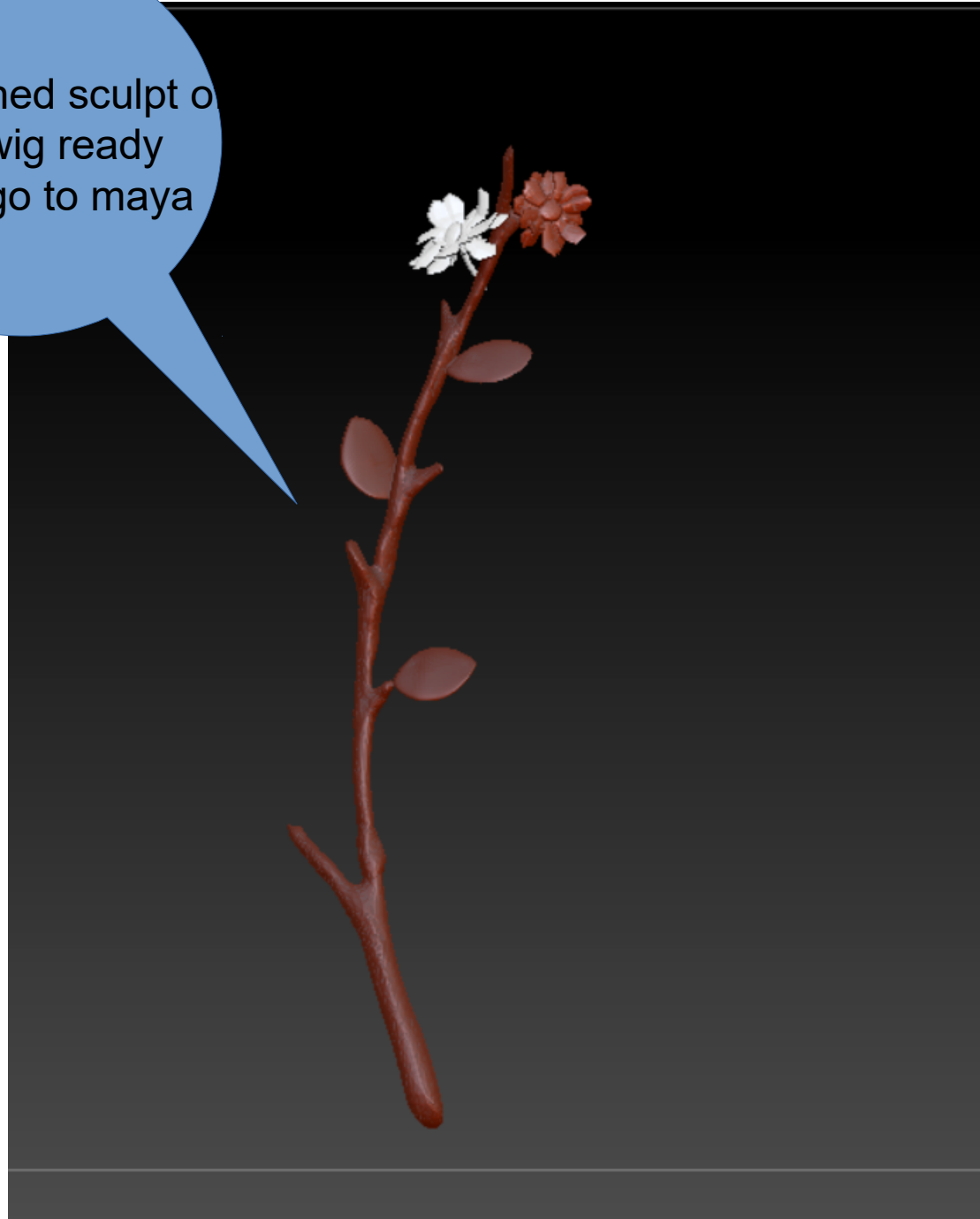
Base sculpt
dynameshed
sphere

Added small
Leaves
Sculpted using
Sphere and duplicated



Went for smaller
Twigs to create a more
Simplified look

Finished sculpt of
Twig ready
To go to maya



Finished scene with camera angles

Render Speed: Real [24 fps]

Current Character: No Character

IK Blend: No Solver

persp

960 x 540

7768
18779
11072
14692
34836

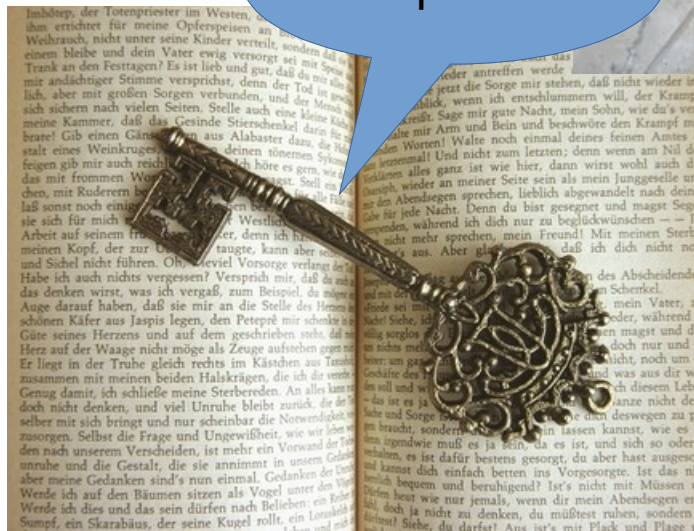
0 0
0 0
0 0
0 0
0 0

References for keys



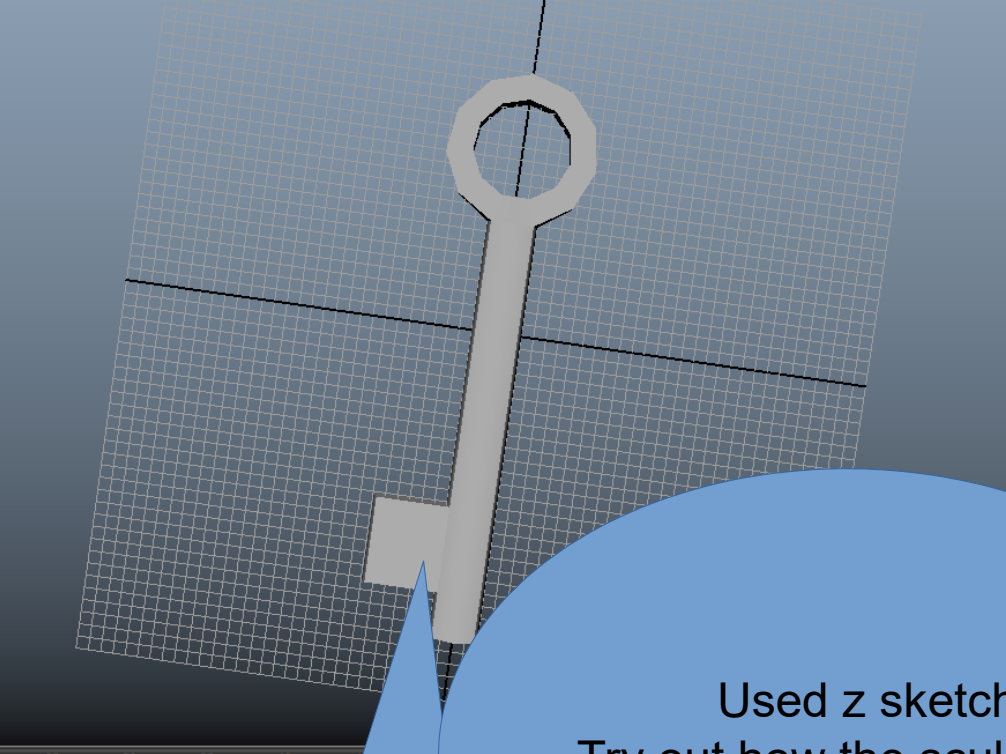
Entire body filled with detail

Sculpted detail



Round ends
Strange heads

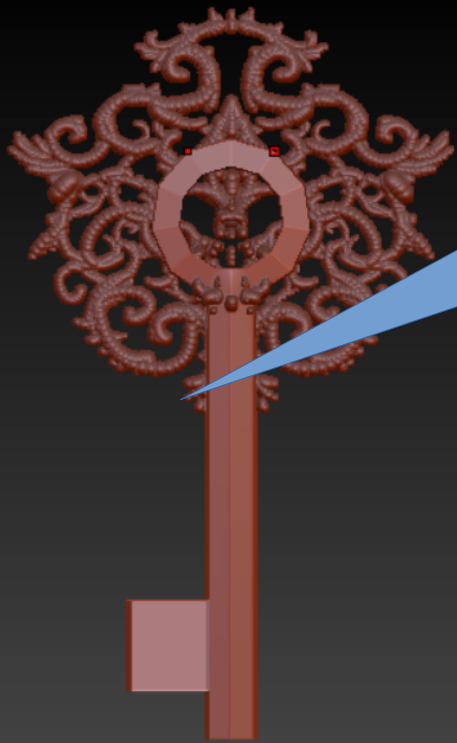




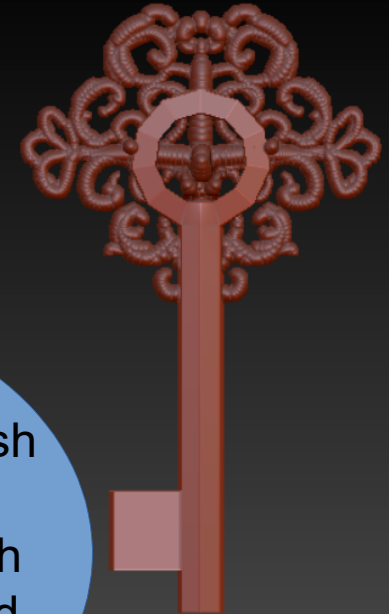
Used z sketch to
Try out how the sculpted detail
Might look in the finished idea

Started base mesh im maya

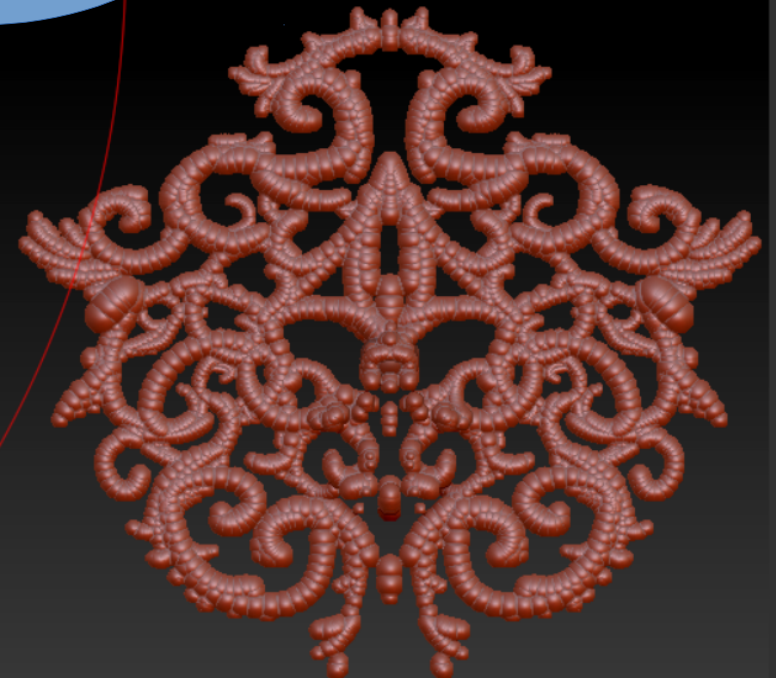
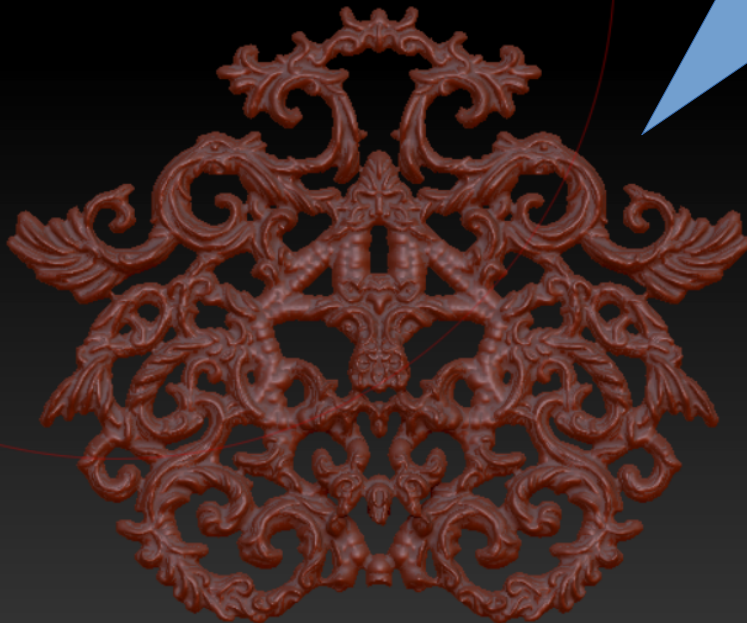


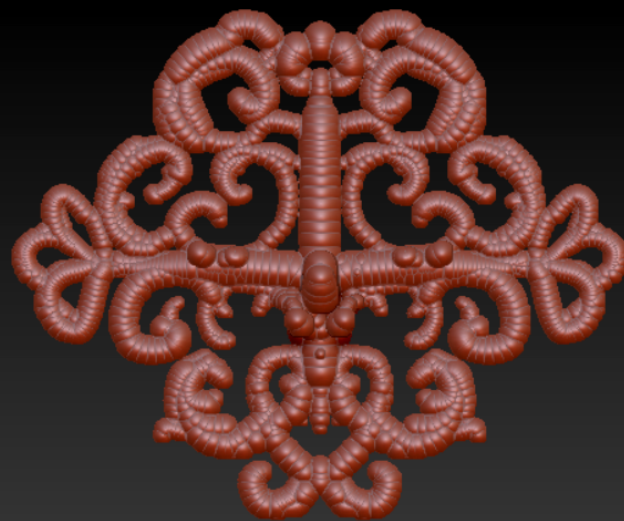
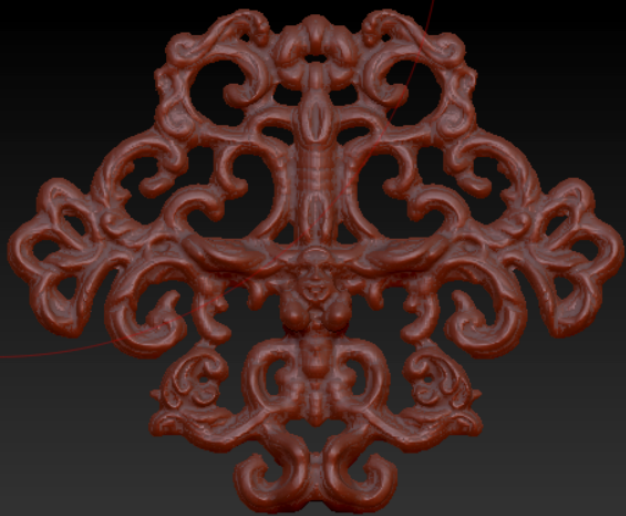


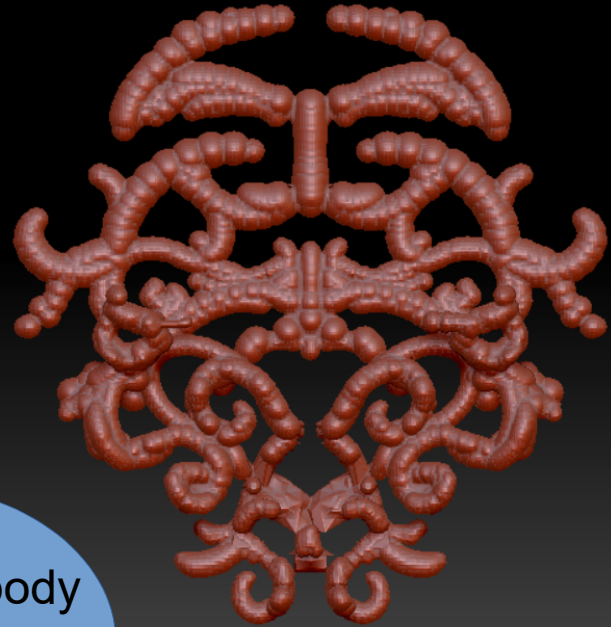
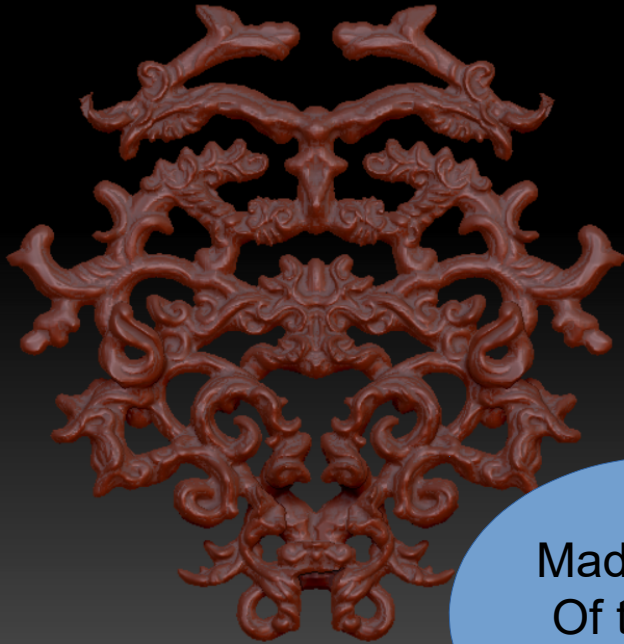
Used zsketch to
Create the heads
Of the keys



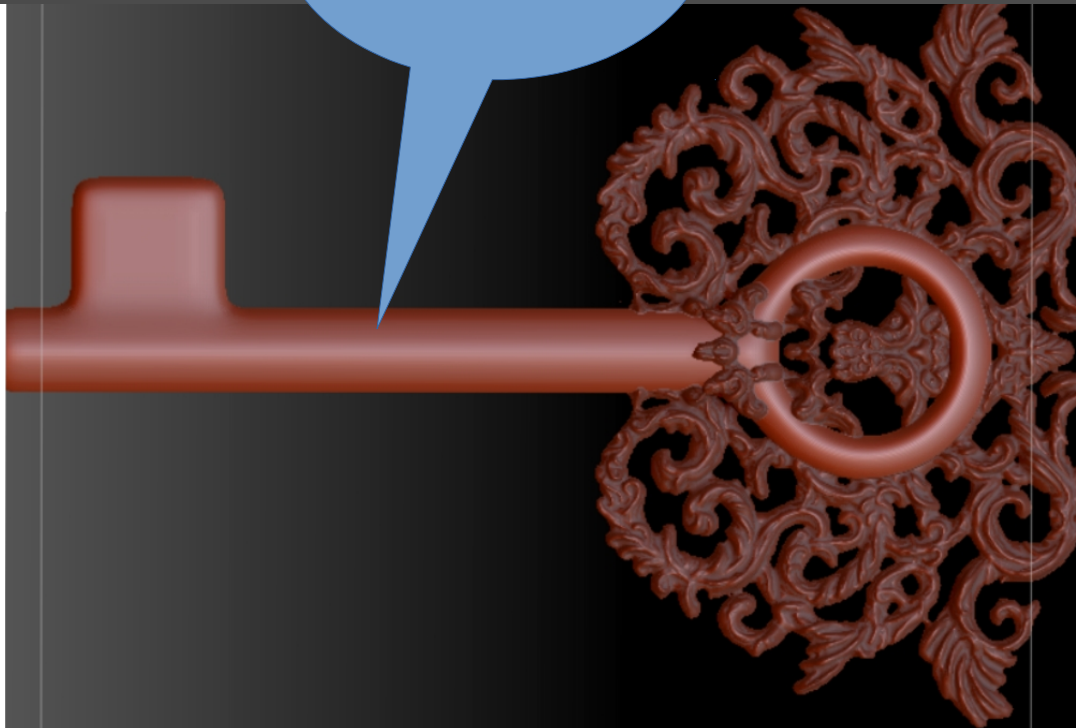
Created actual mesh
With the zsketch
And sculpted it with
Different forms and
decorations



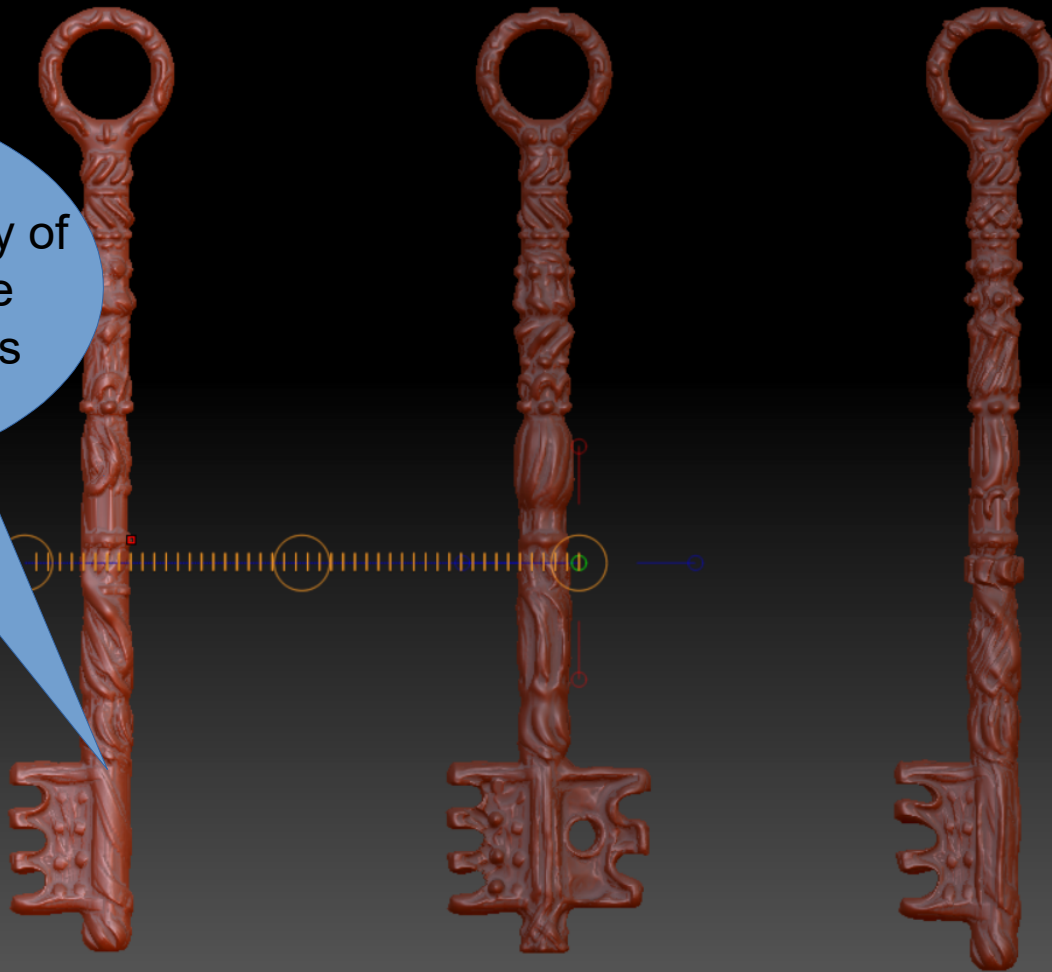




Made the body
Of the key to
Moldable mesh



Sculpted the body of
The keys made
Three variations



Notes on progress

- I used the standard dynamesh workflow to create the twid and the keys
- At this point i feel very confident with this technique
- Creating three different variations for the key was a smooth process the keys in a way started developing themselves and i ender up with three very different looks and styles

Using reference

- The twig was simple enough so didnt need a lot of reference for that my sketch was good enough,
- But for the keys initially i had to take a lot of inspiration from the references but later
- After the base designs were put in it was easy enough for



Finished sculpted
keys

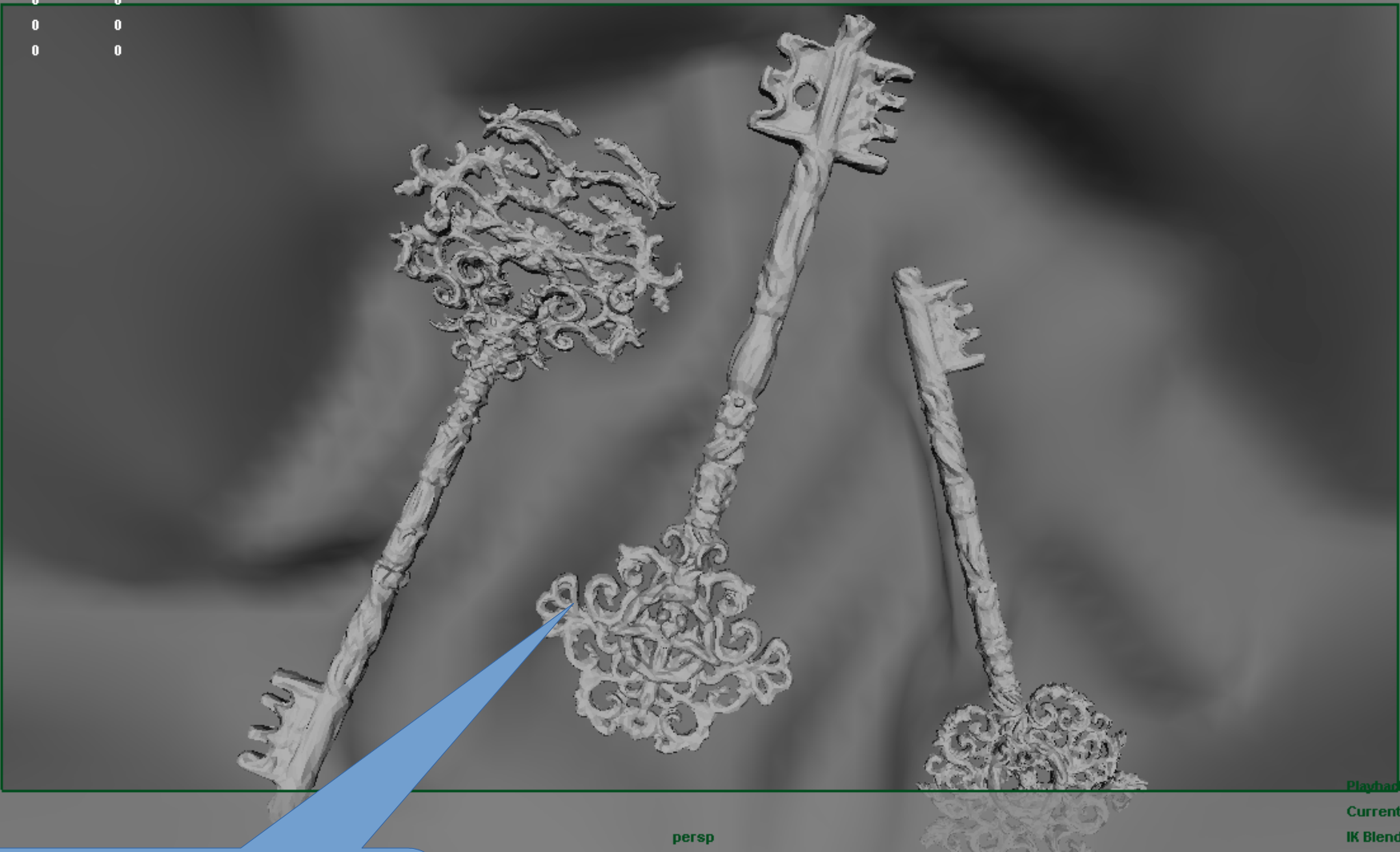


02000
92069
59184
65584
164913

0	0
0	0
0	0
0	0

960 x 540

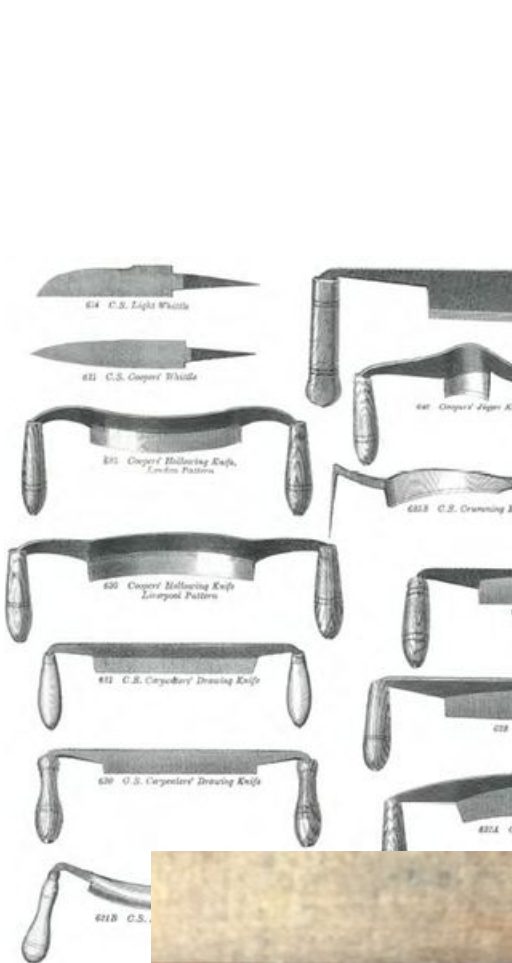
TOP



persp

Playback Speed:	Real [24 fps]
Current Character:	No Character
IK Blend:	No Solver

Brought it into
Maya set camera angles
Background is manually
Sculpted cloth

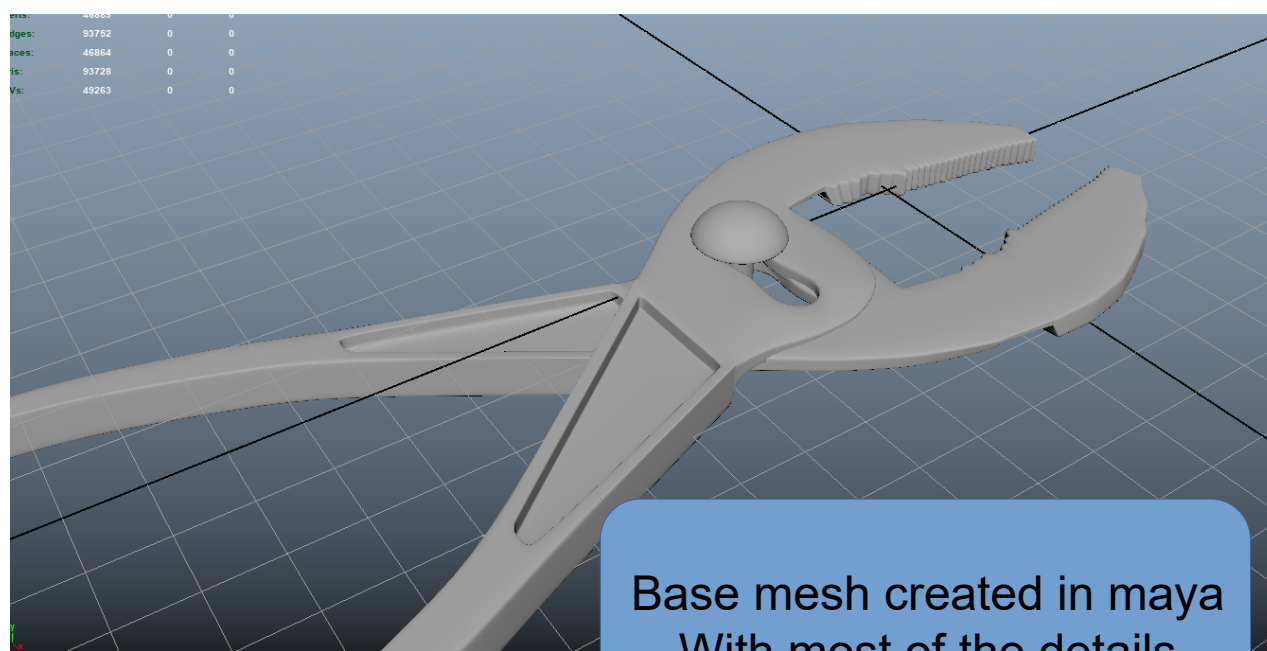


Reference for hand tools

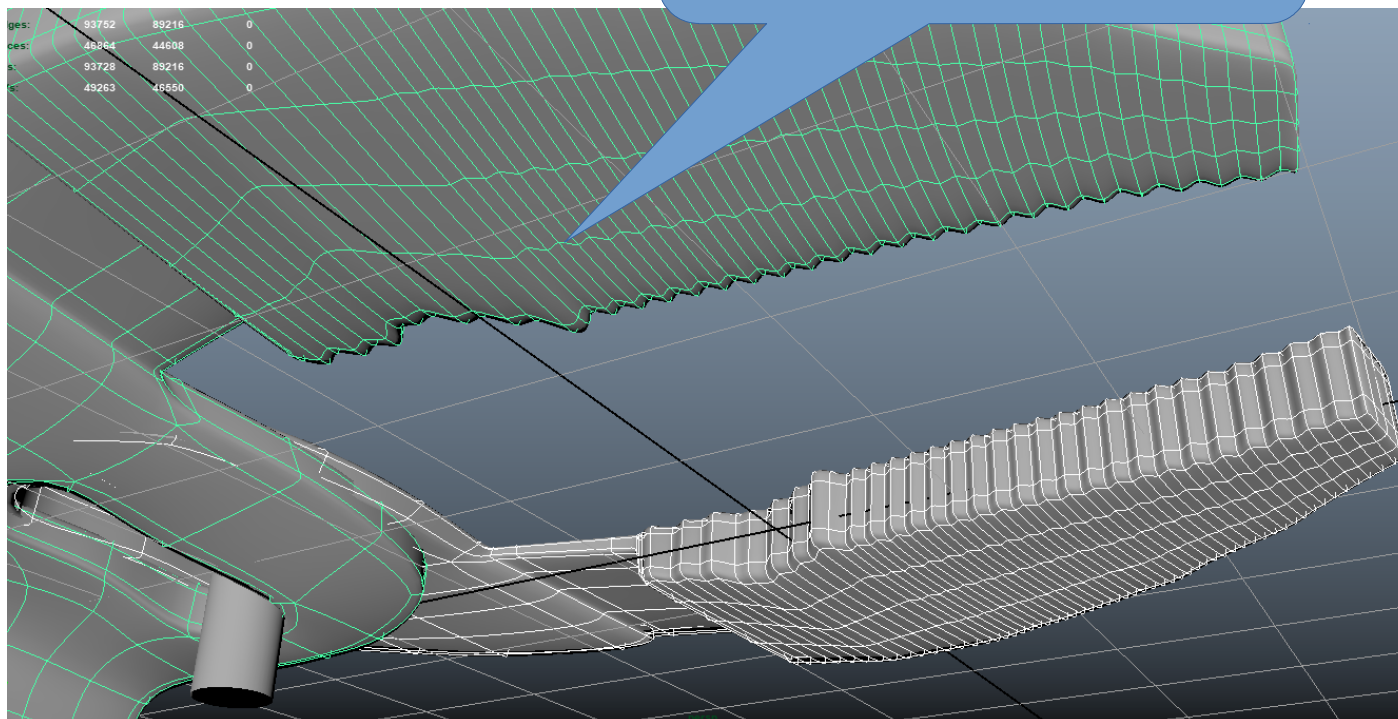


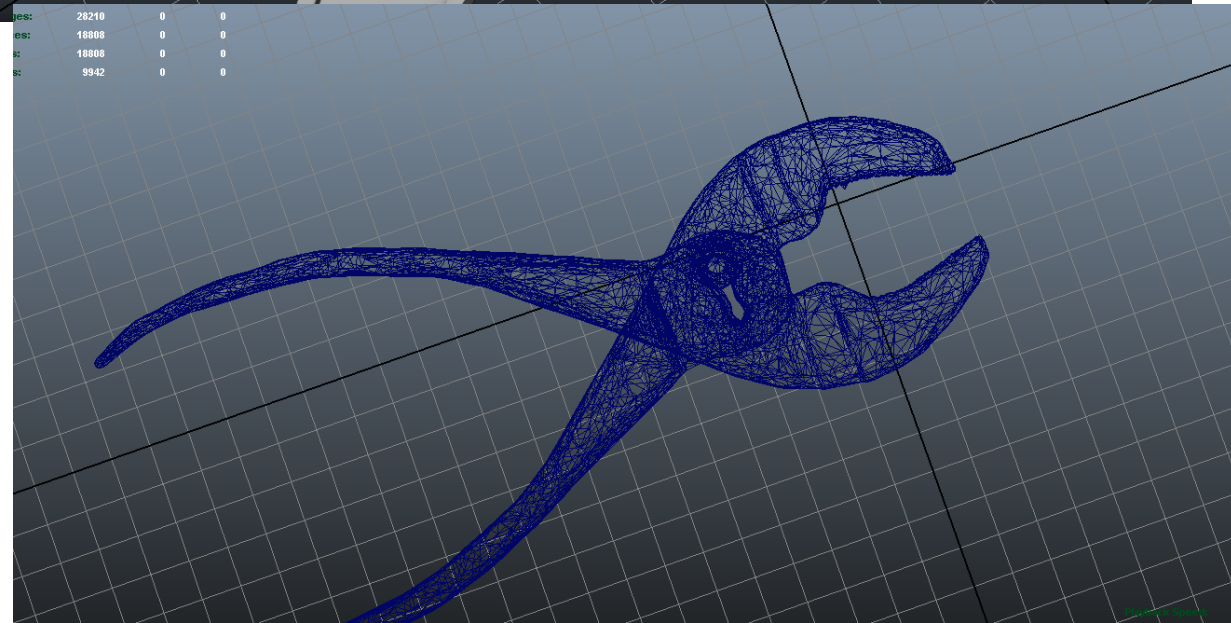
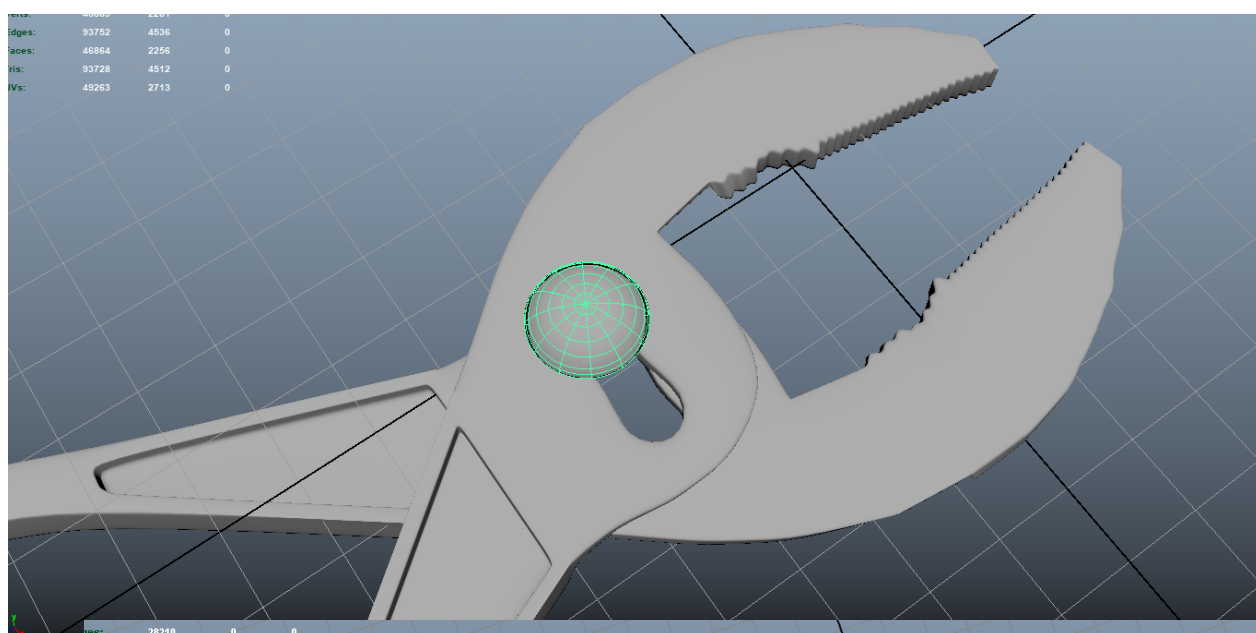
Rough
Crude
Completely metal

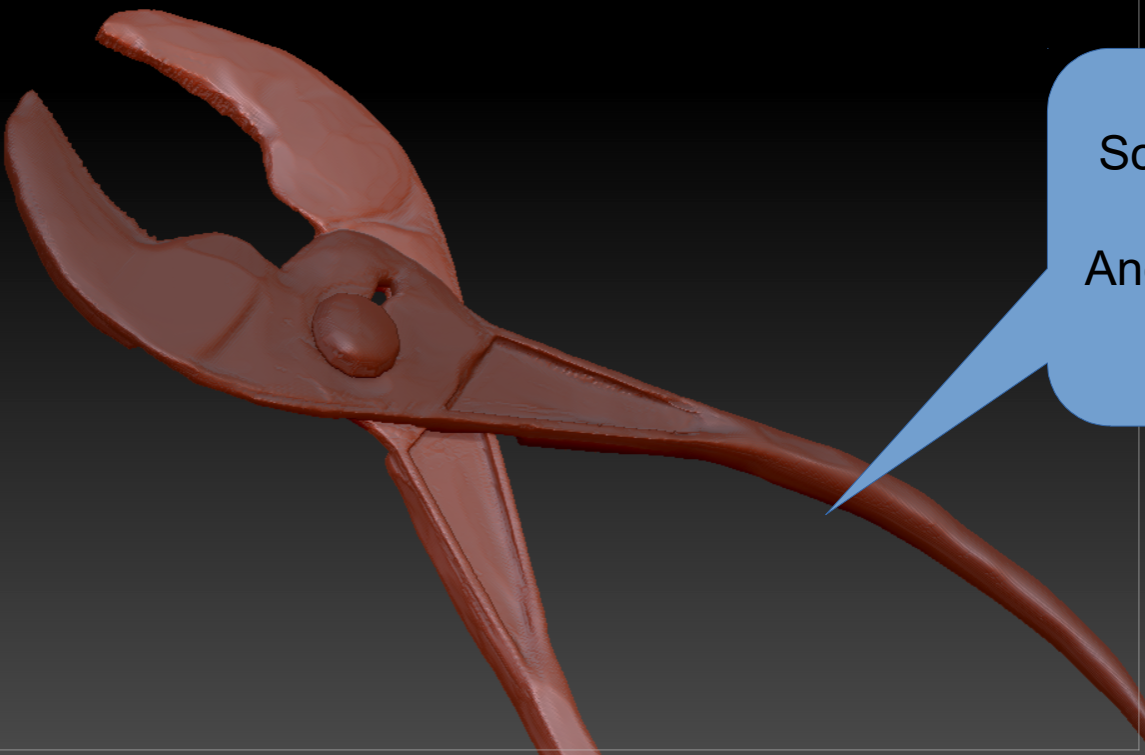




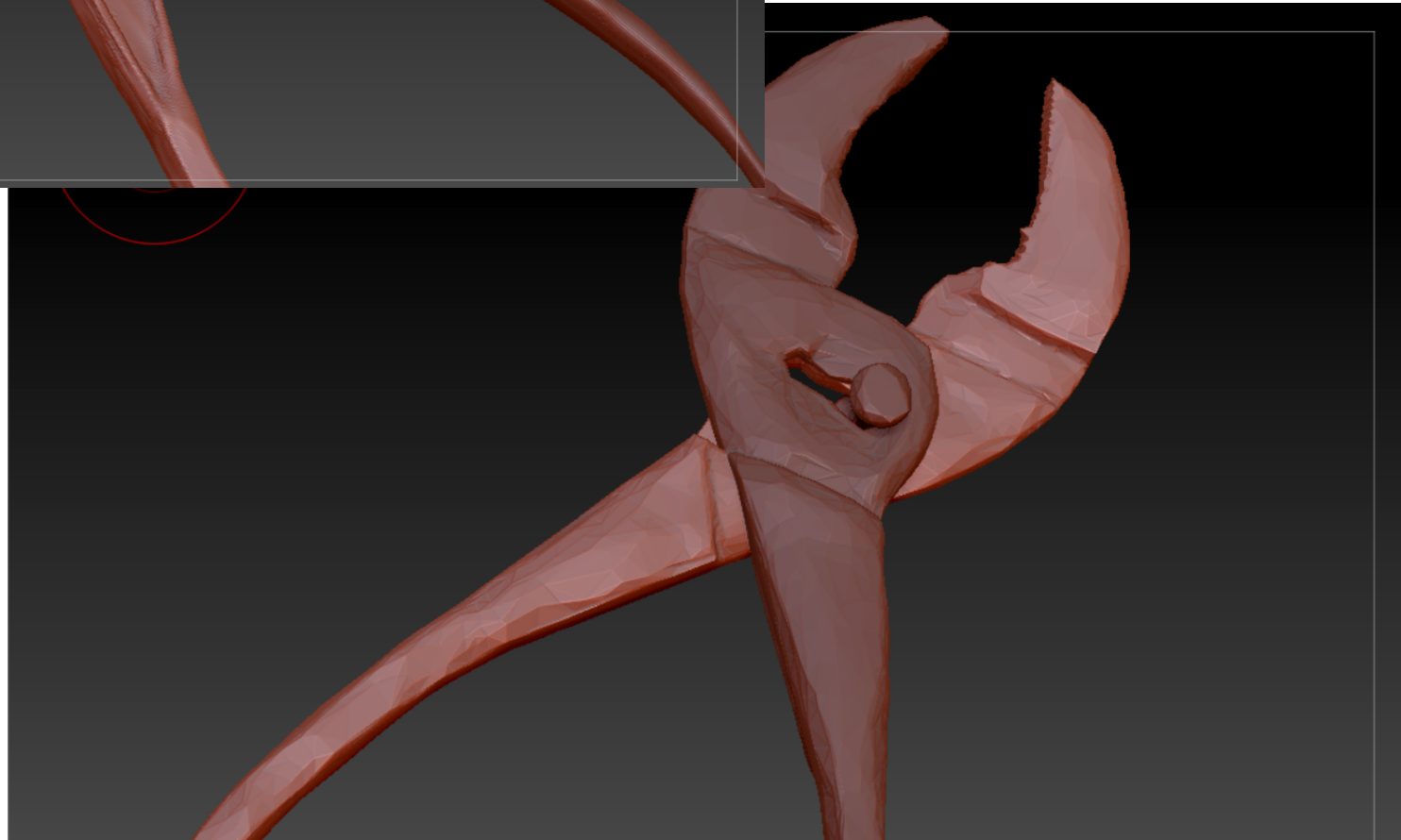
Base mesh created in maya
With most of the details

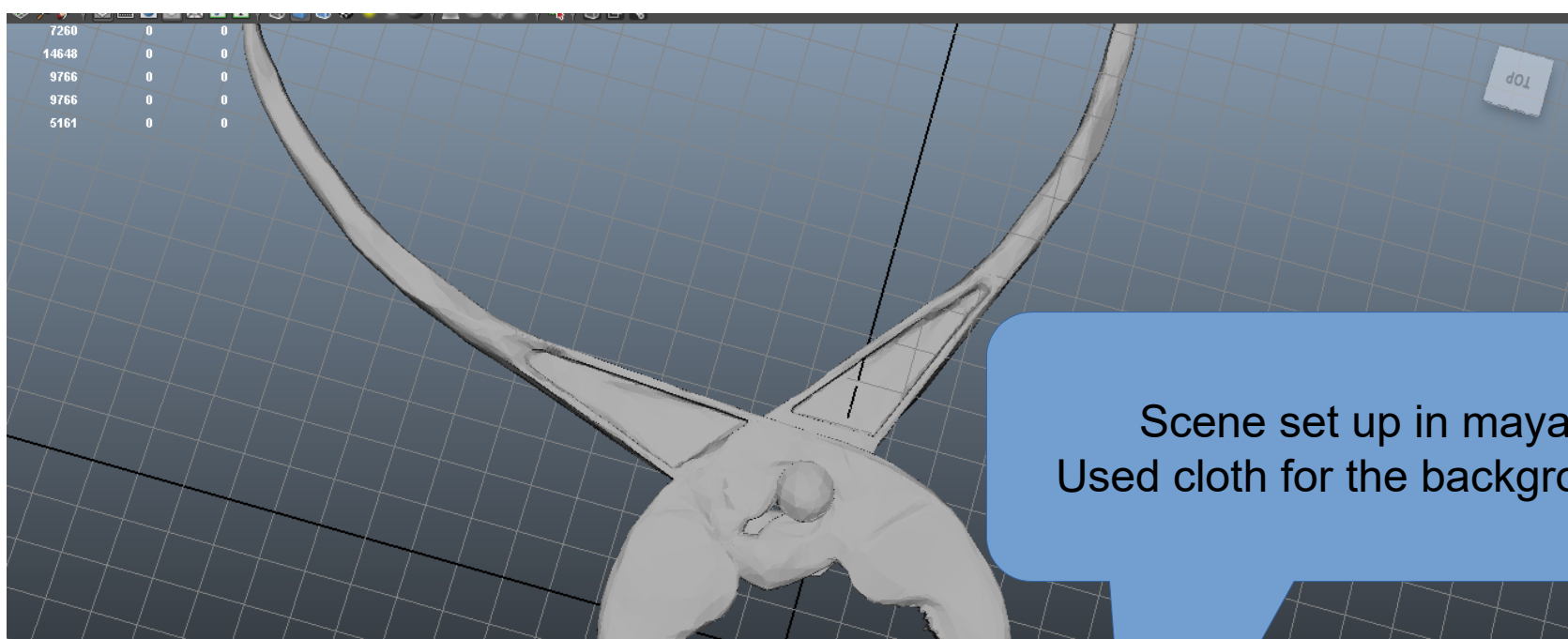




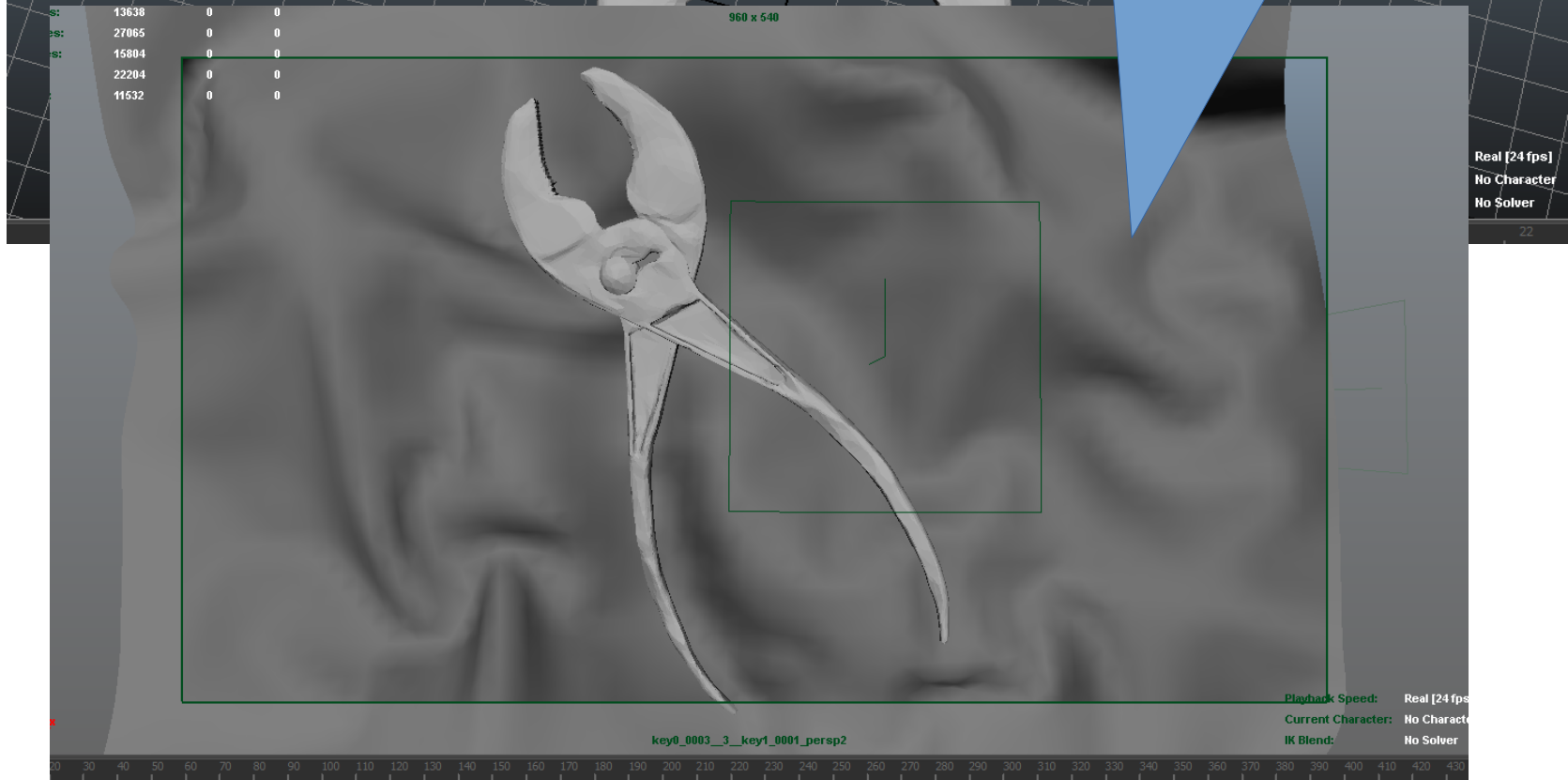


Sculpting details
Damages
And deformations
In zbrush





Scene set up in maya
Used cloth for the background

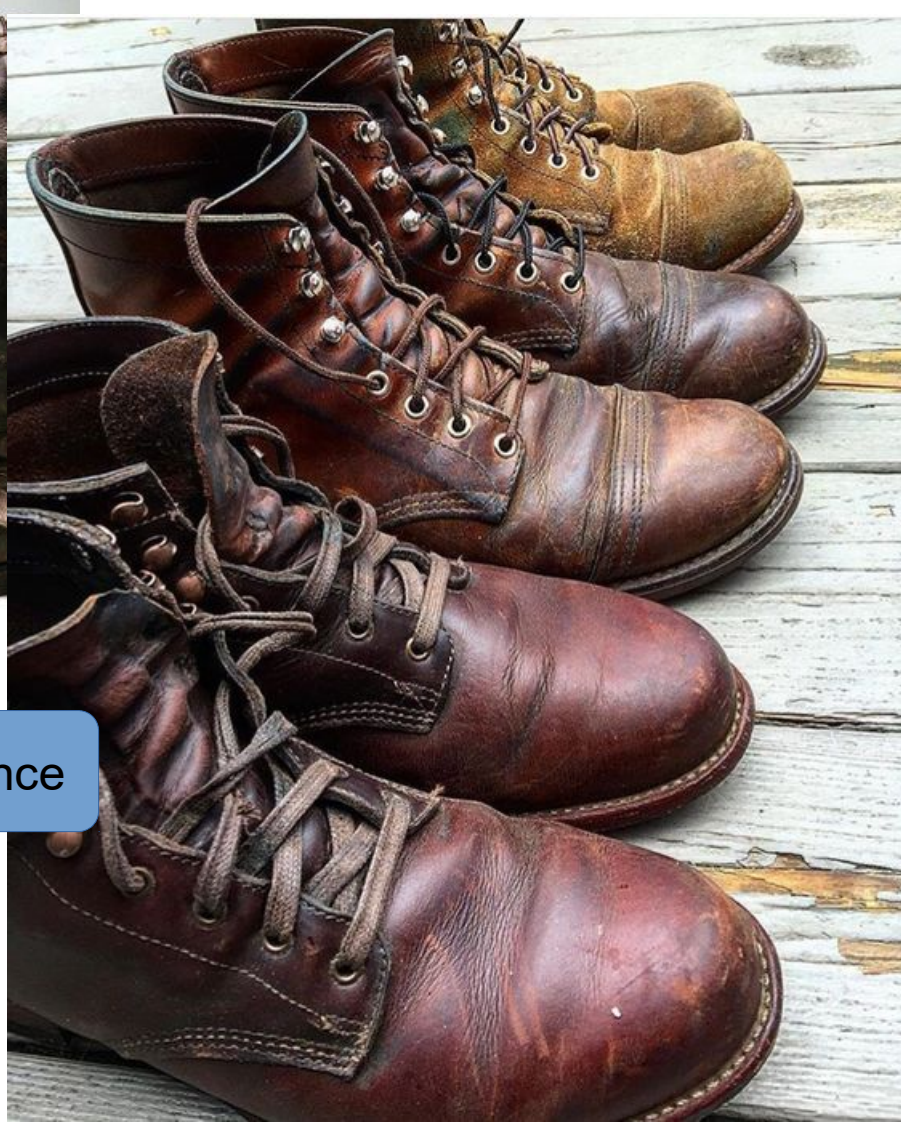


Real [24 fps]
No Character
No Solver

Playback Speed: Real [24 fps]
Current Character: No Character
IK Blend: No Solver

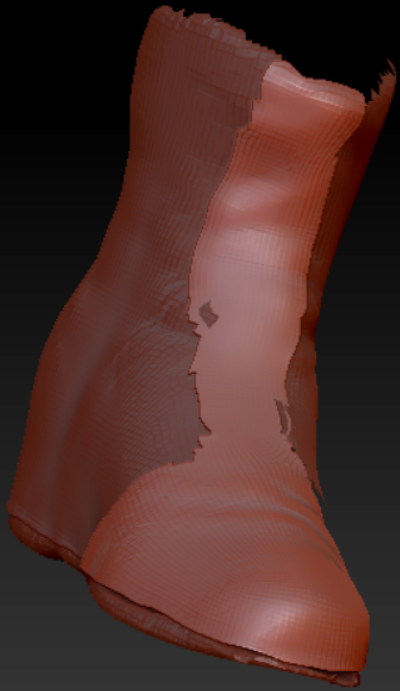
Main inspiration for shoes
Van Gogh painting of peasant shoes



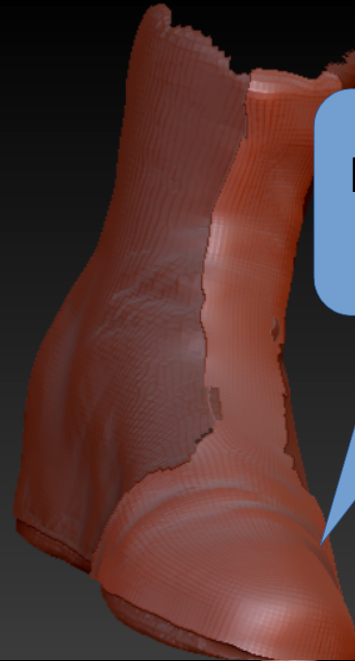


Worn out leather reference

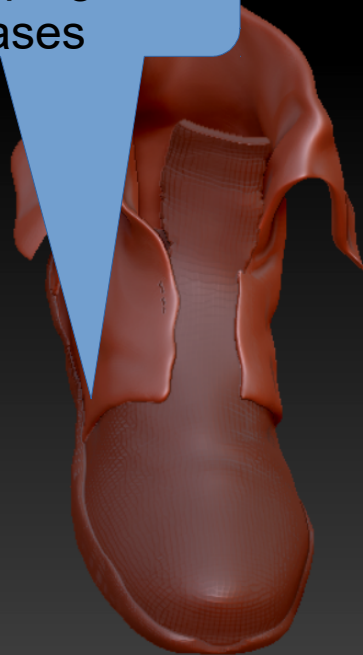




Base mesh using
planes



Added thickness
Started developing folds
And creases

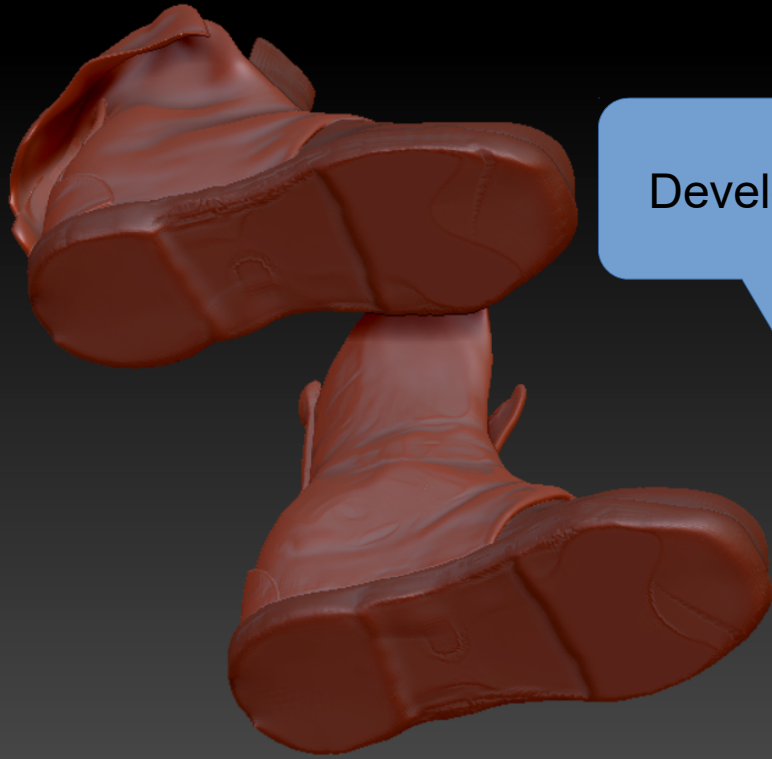


Notes on progress

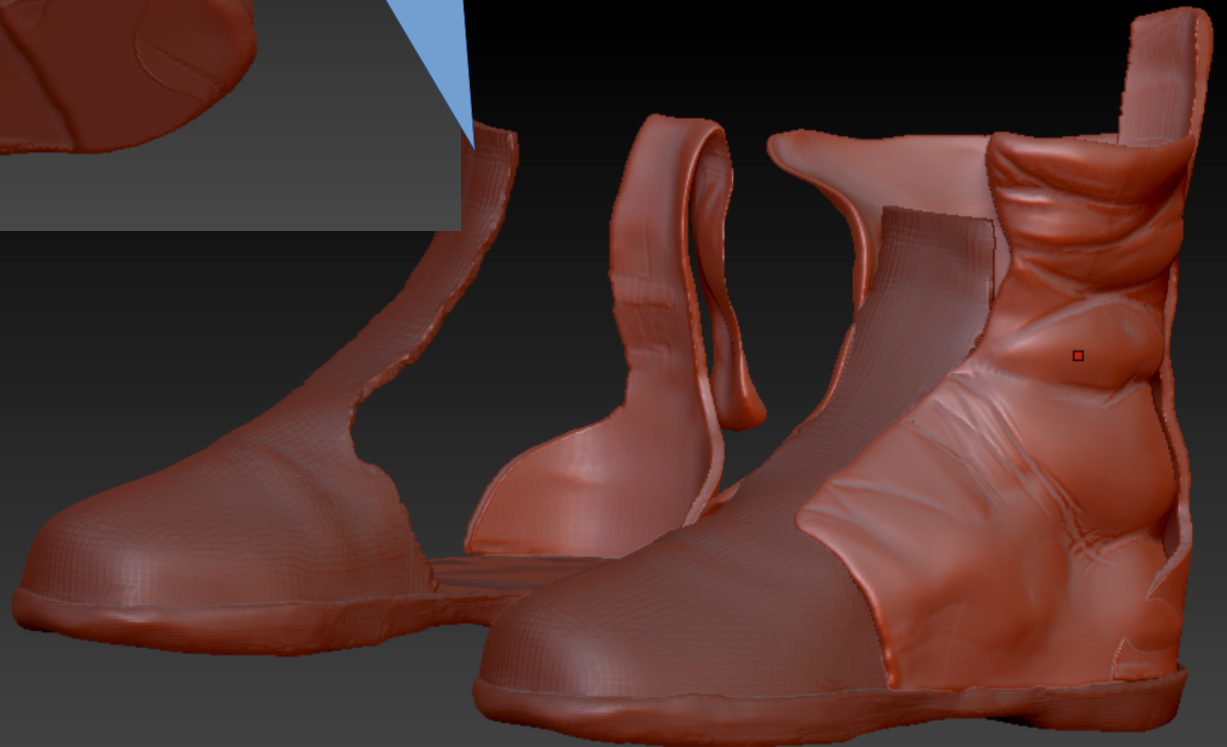
- The organic folds and wrinkles of leather had to be really carefully planned out
- The basic shape of the shoe itself wasnt too hard to do
- Folding the leather to open up on the shoe was a hard task and i had to use several techniques to accomplish that
- In the end i had basically fold it up manually

Using reference

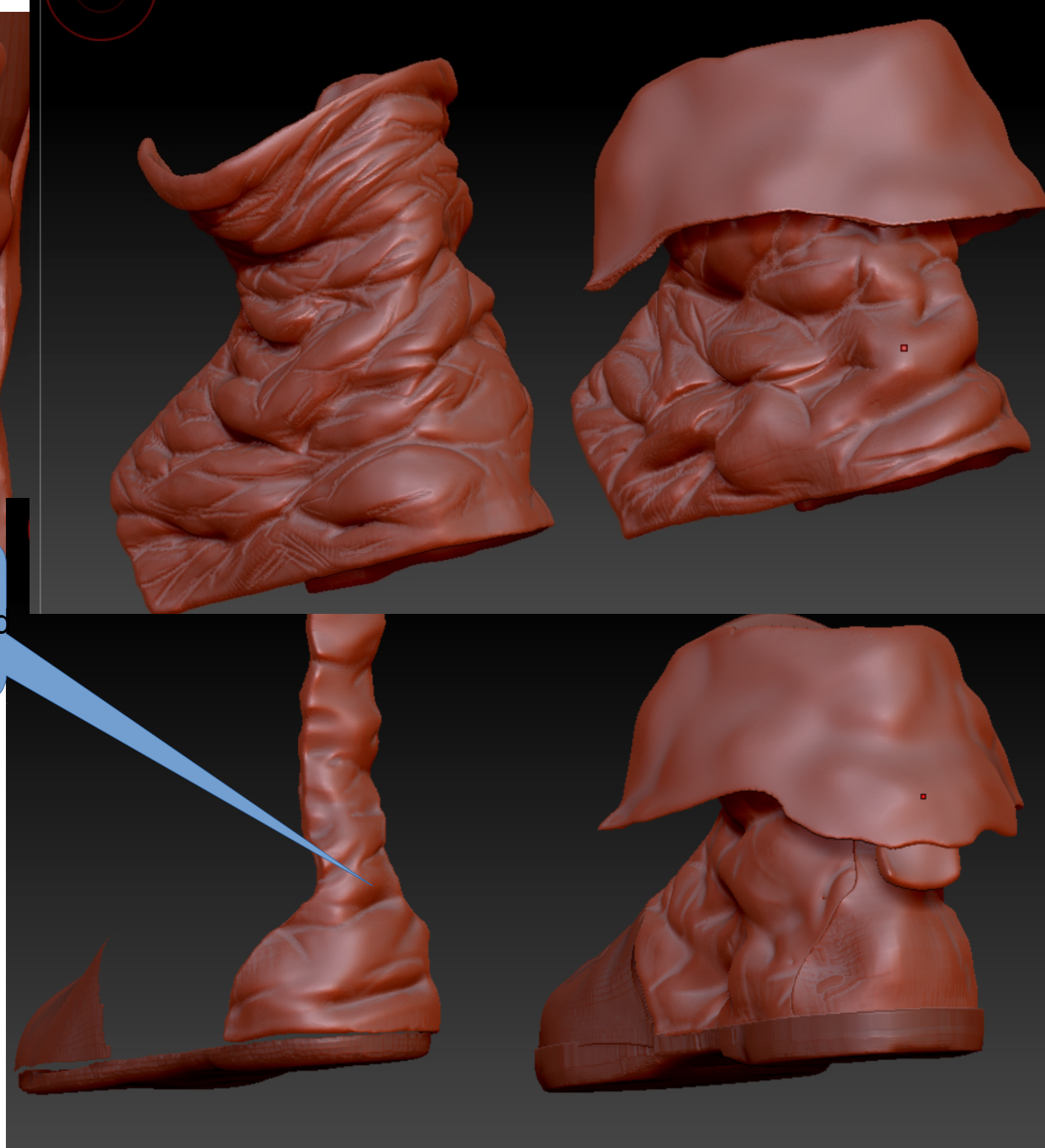
- I had to look at reference a lot for properly doing the folds and wrinkles on the shoes as i wanted them to look very old and worn out
- I noticed a pattern in which these folds were manifesting it was a z pattern i tried using this idea while developing the sculpt
- Leather shoes not only fold and wrinkle but also lose shape this also had to be carried into the model for which i needed the help of the images.

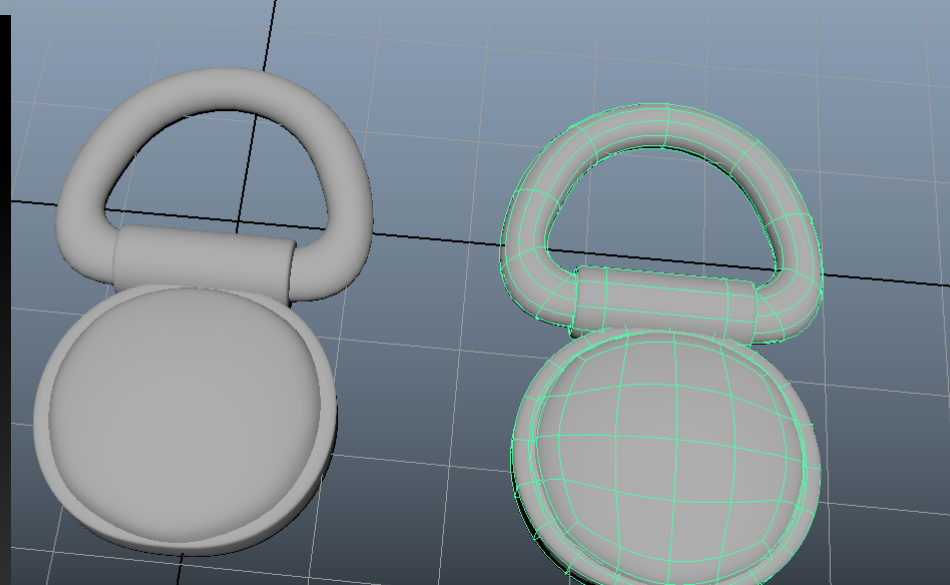
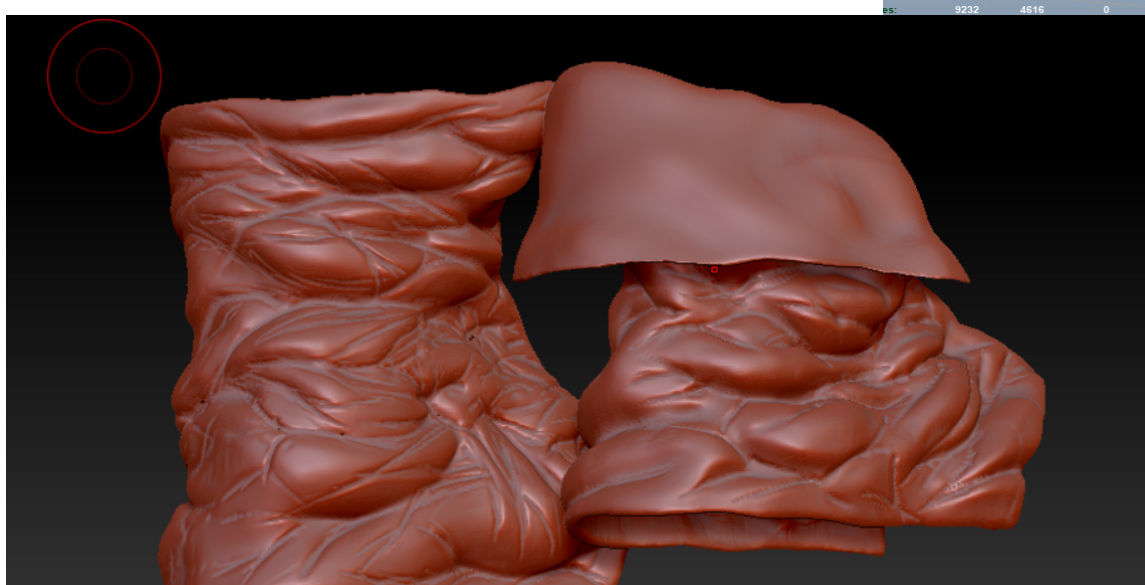


Developing the sculpt details further

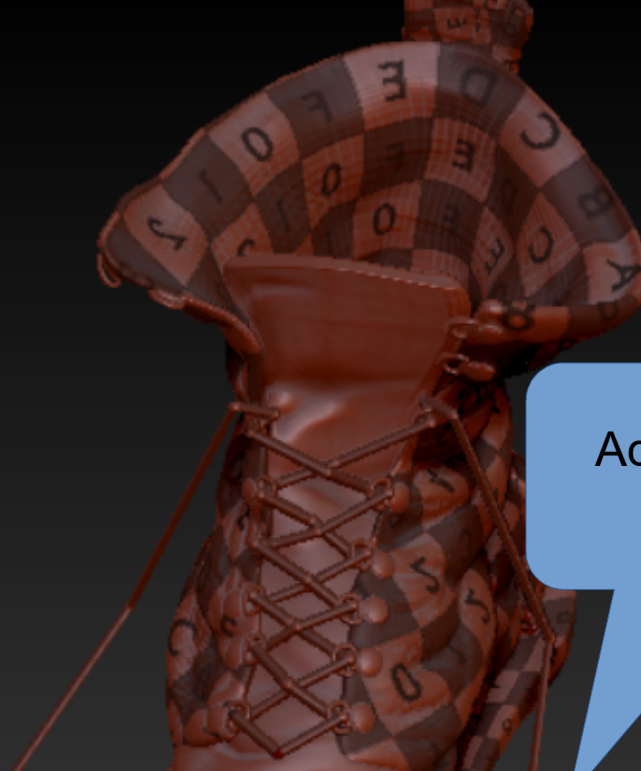
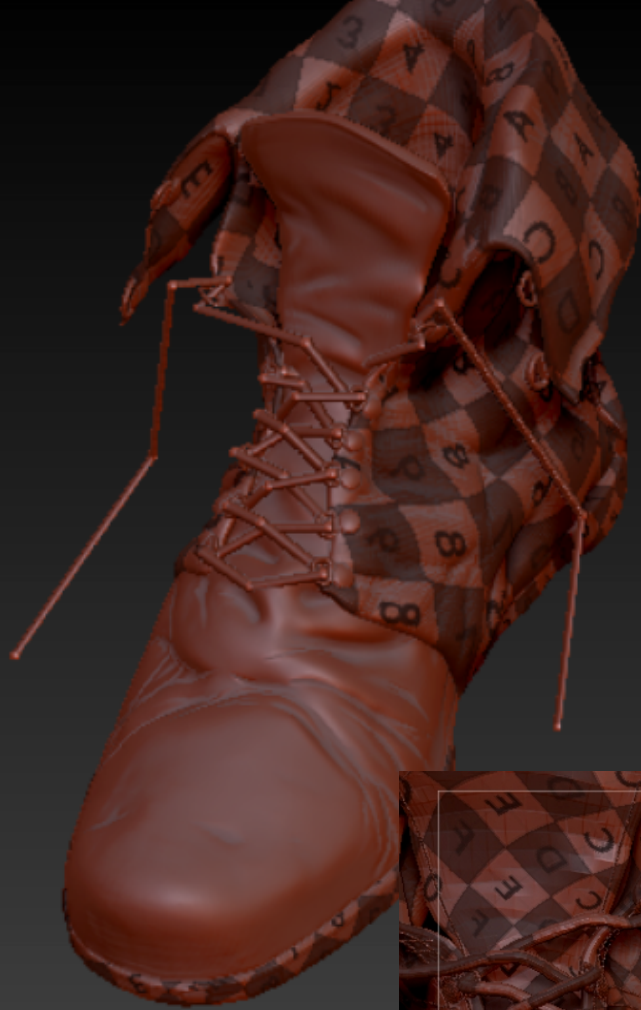


Adding more and
And more aging and
damage

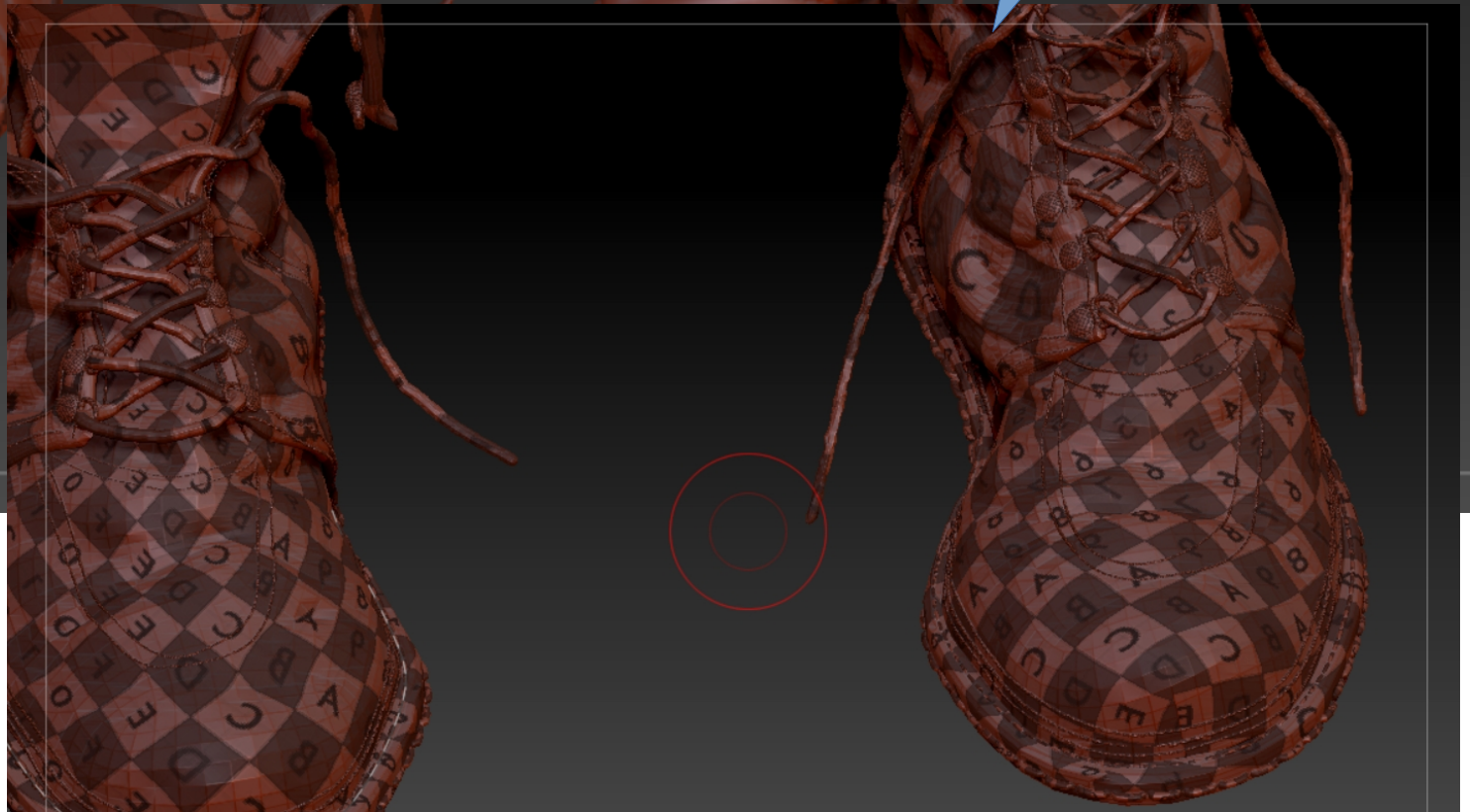


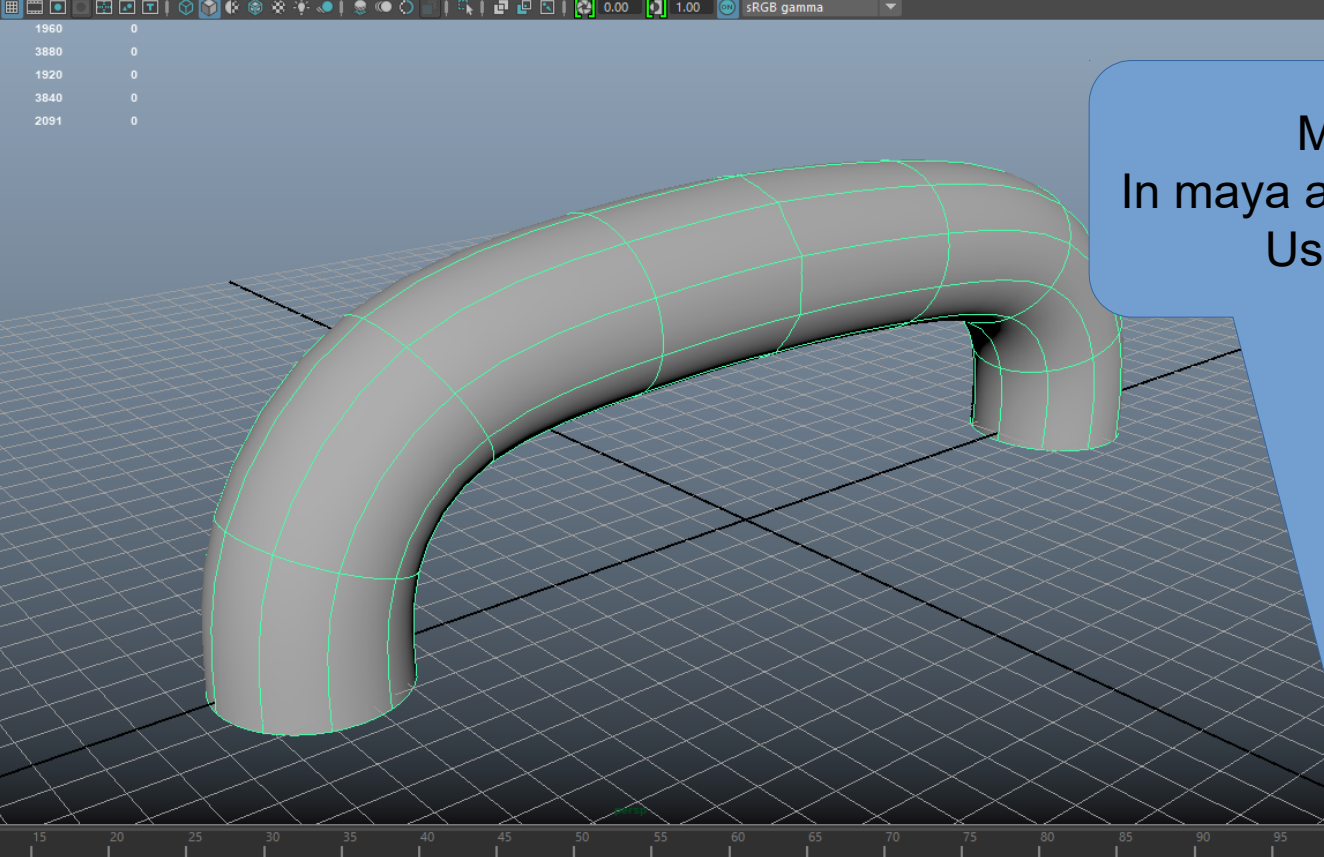


Manually attached
rings to the leather

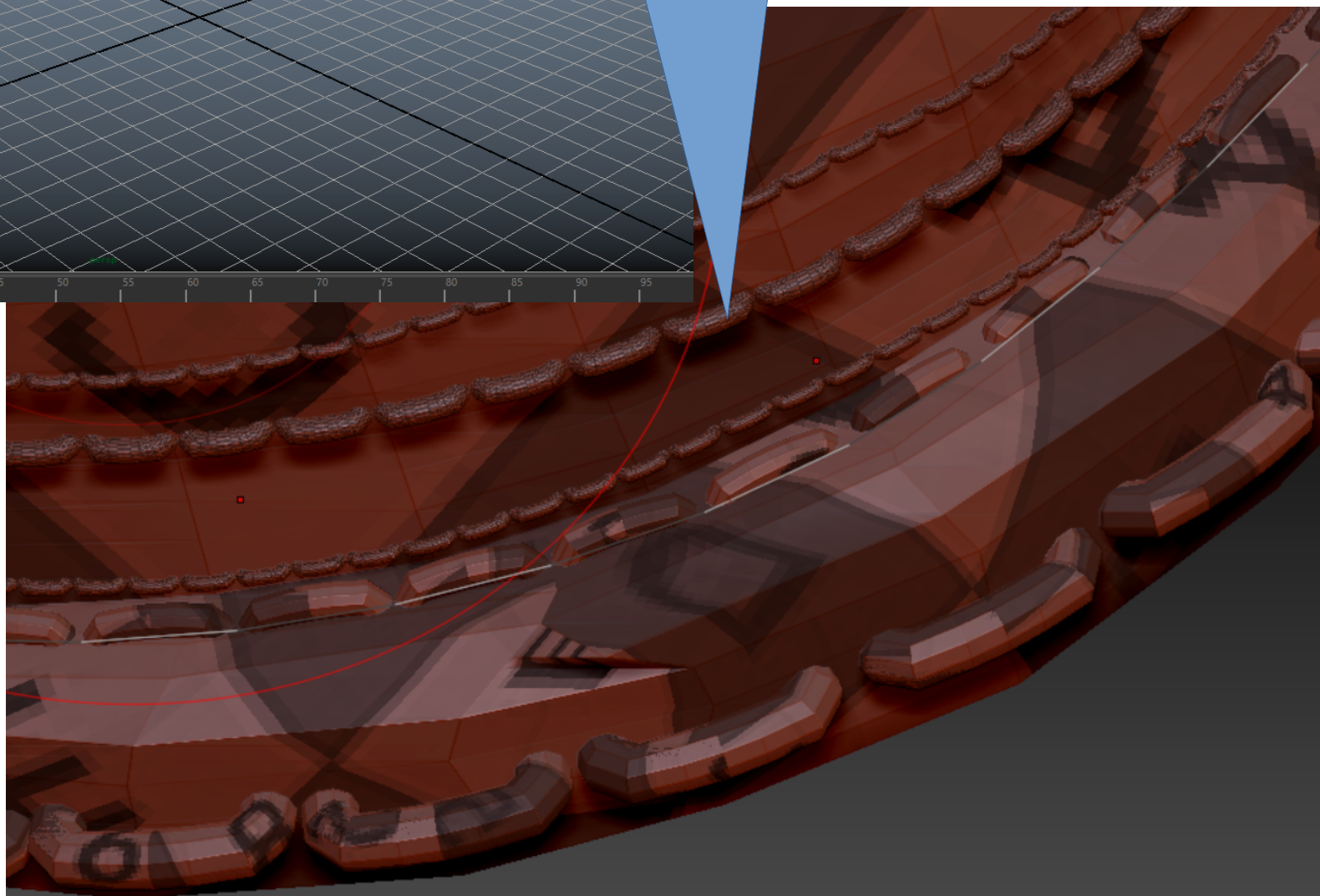


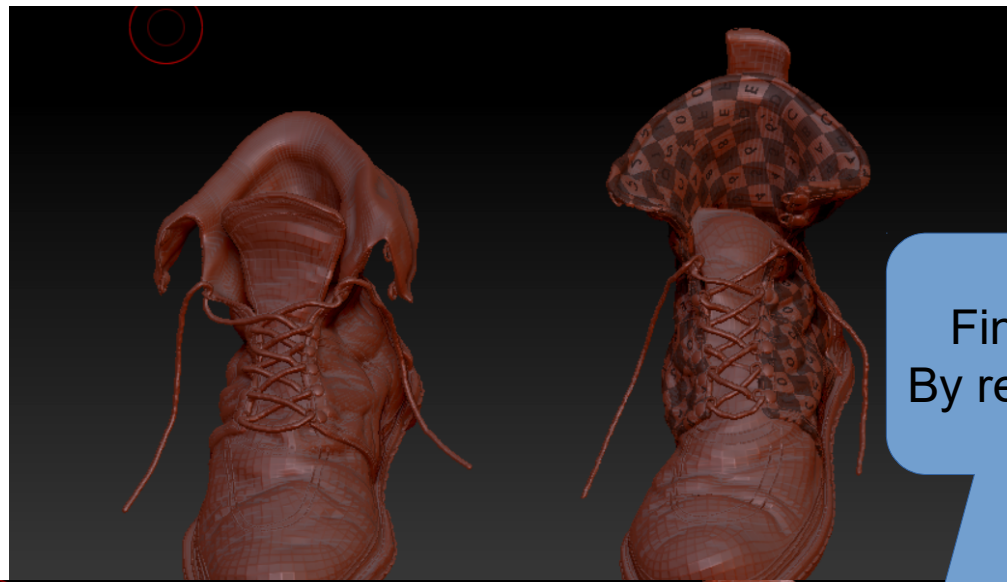
Added laces using
zspheres



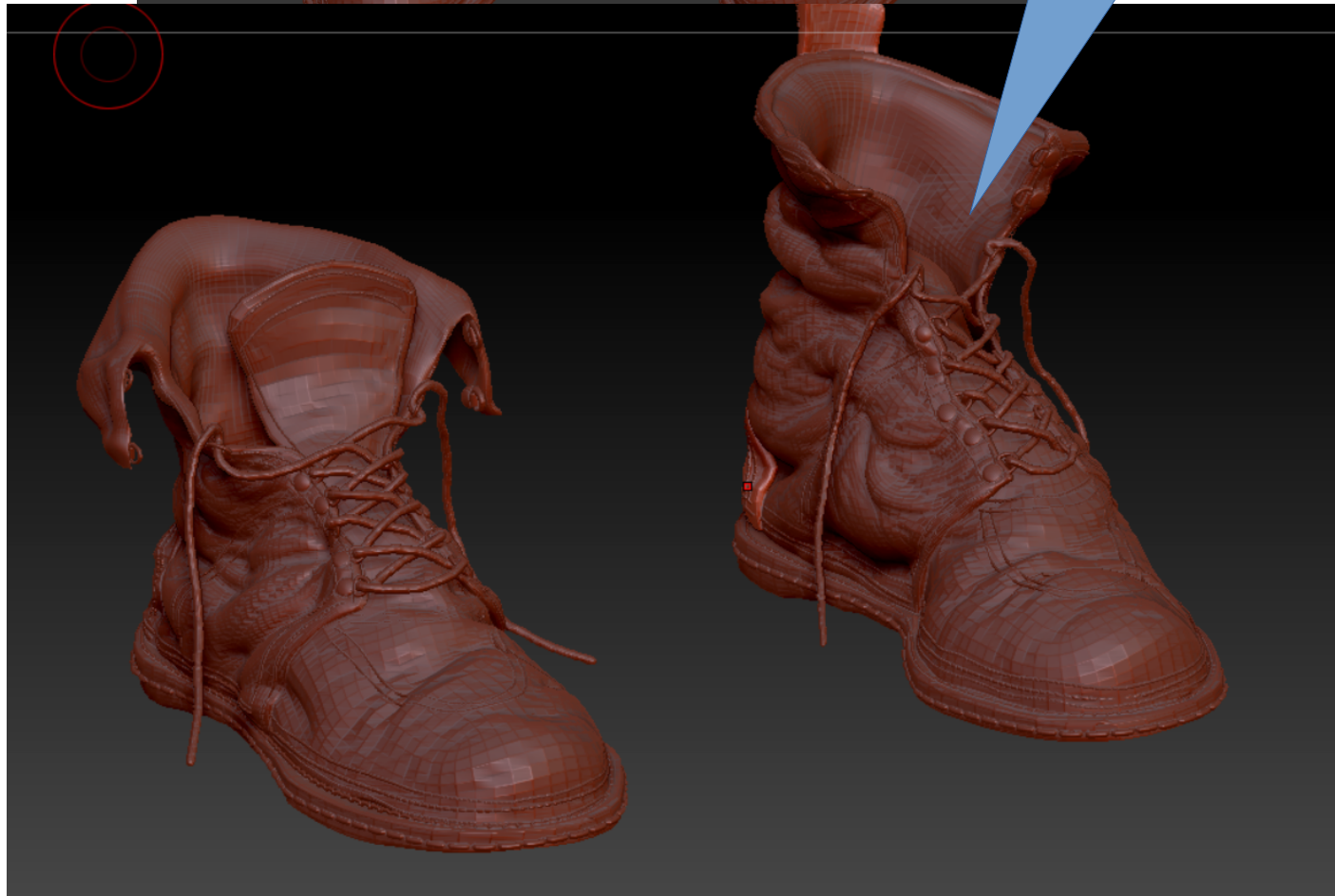


Made base model for
In maya and attached them in zbrush
Using object paint brush





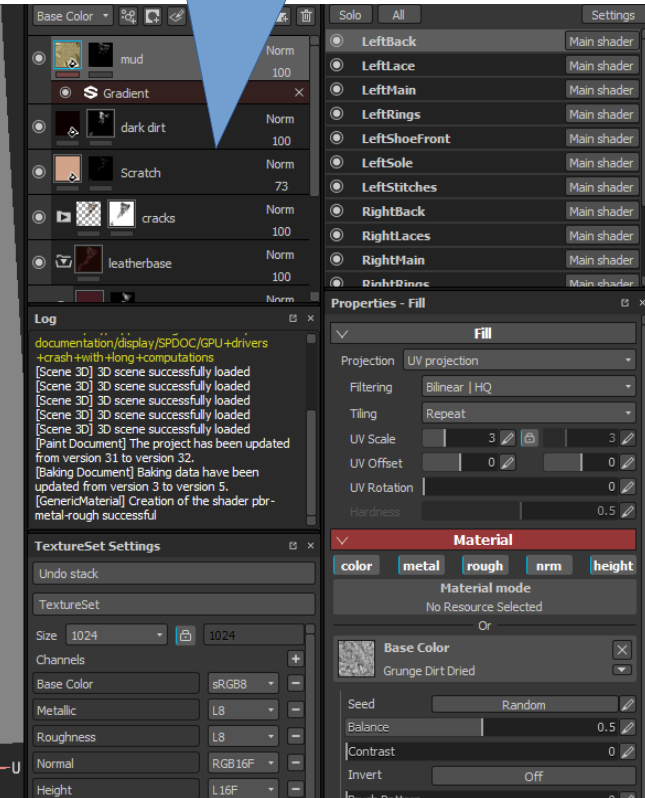
Finished the shoes
By retopologising them

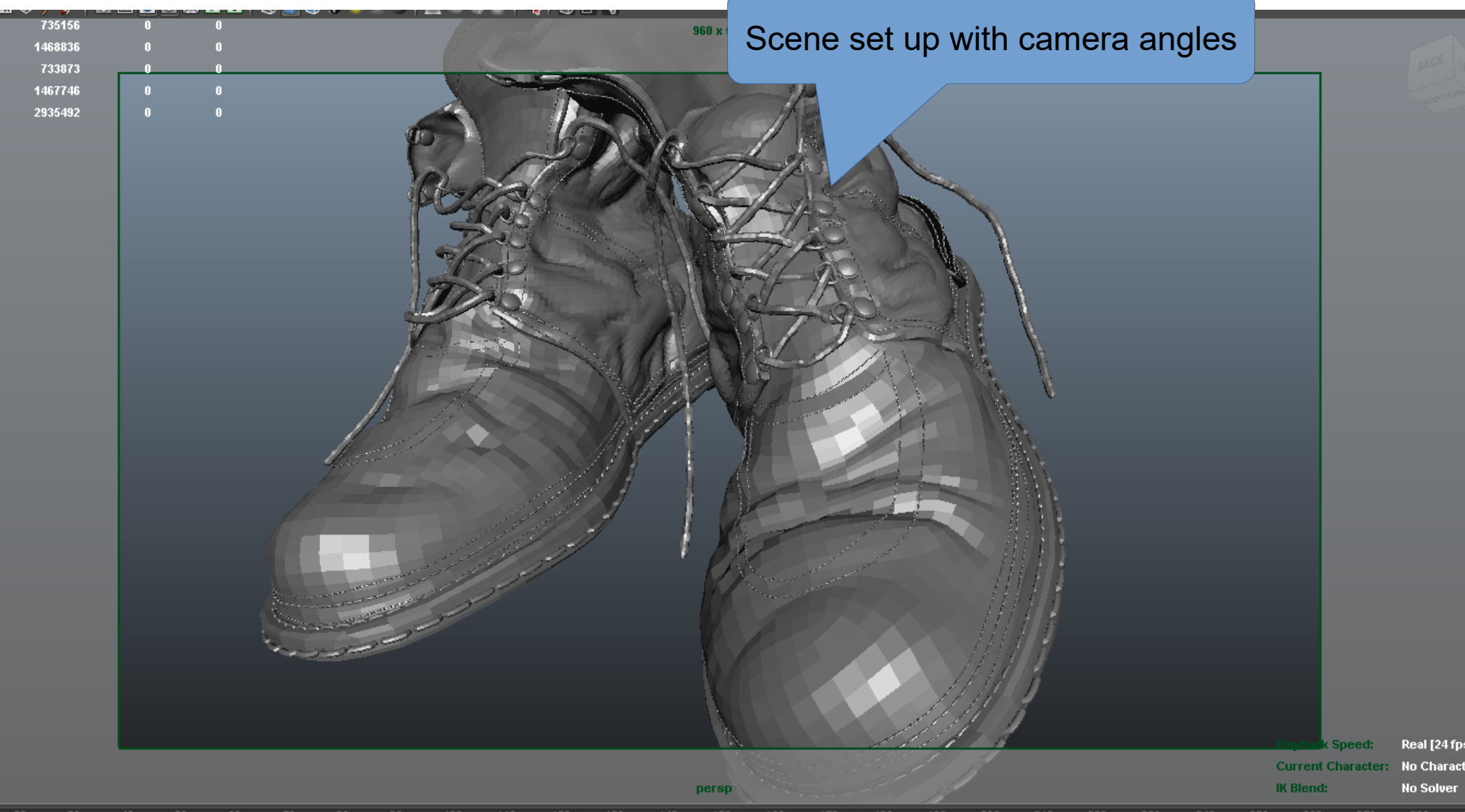


Painted textures
Added clay
Dirt
Scratches
Cracks etc

Balanced all the layers using mask

Materials





735156	0	0
1468836	0	0
733873	0	0
1467746	0	0
2935492	0	0

960 x

Scene set up with camera angles

persp

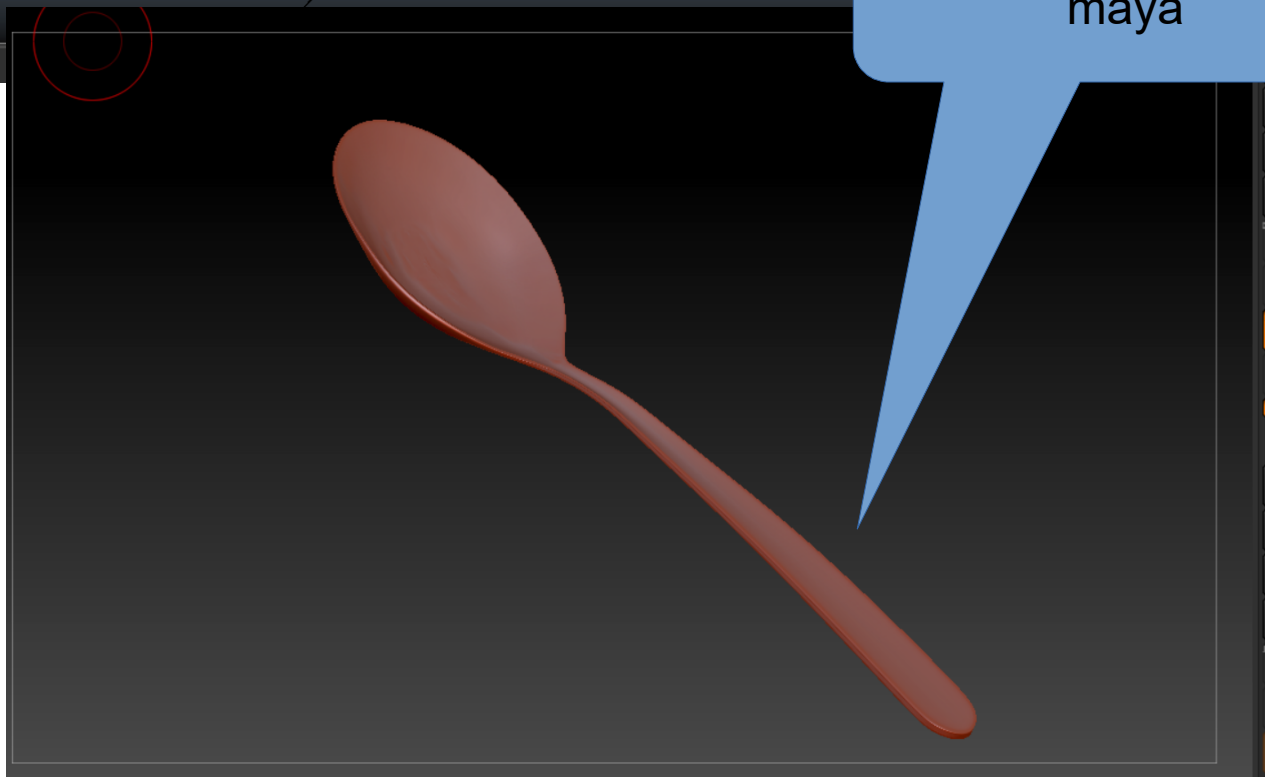
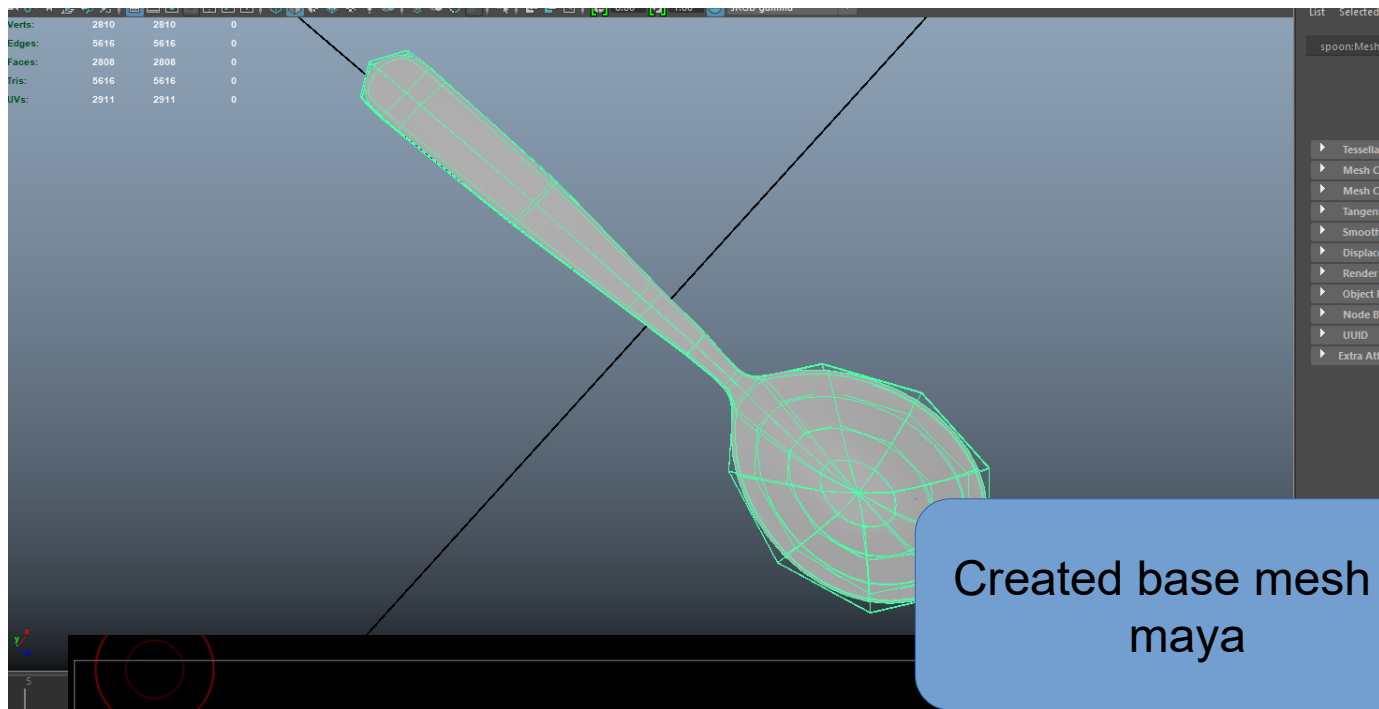
Playback Speed: Real [24 fps]
Current Character: No Character
IK Blend: No Solver

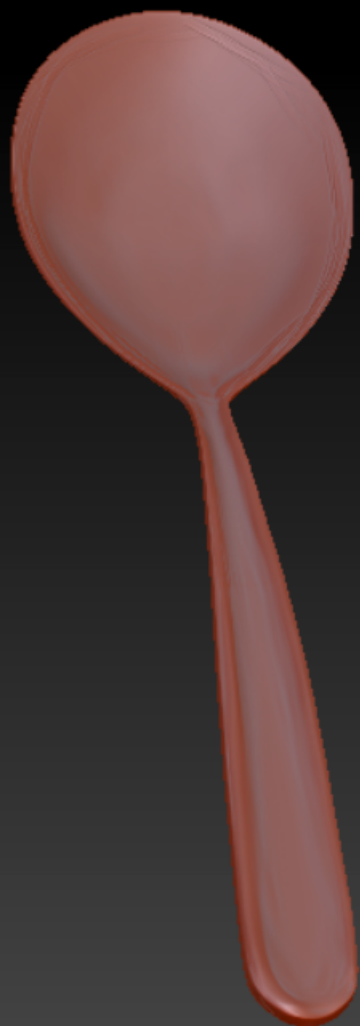
References



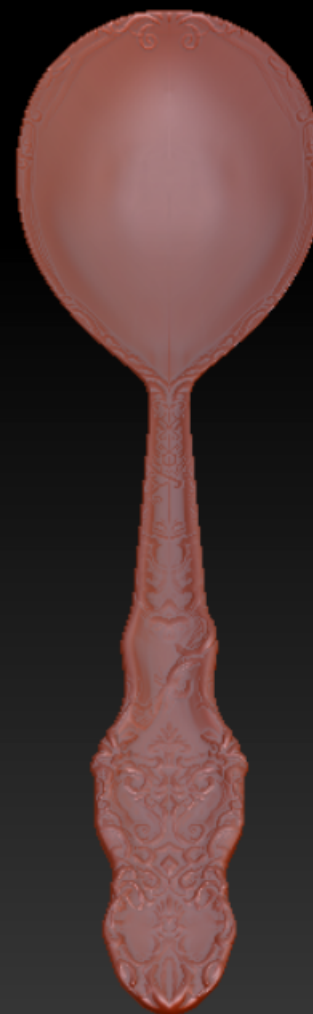
Sculpted details

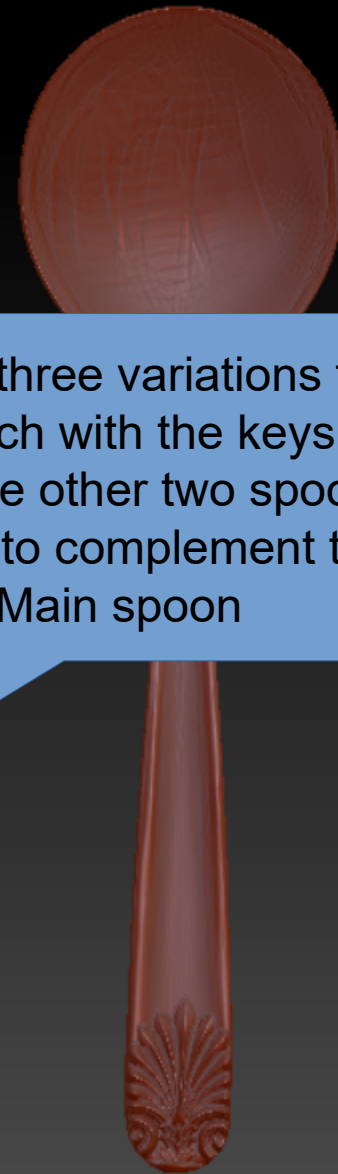






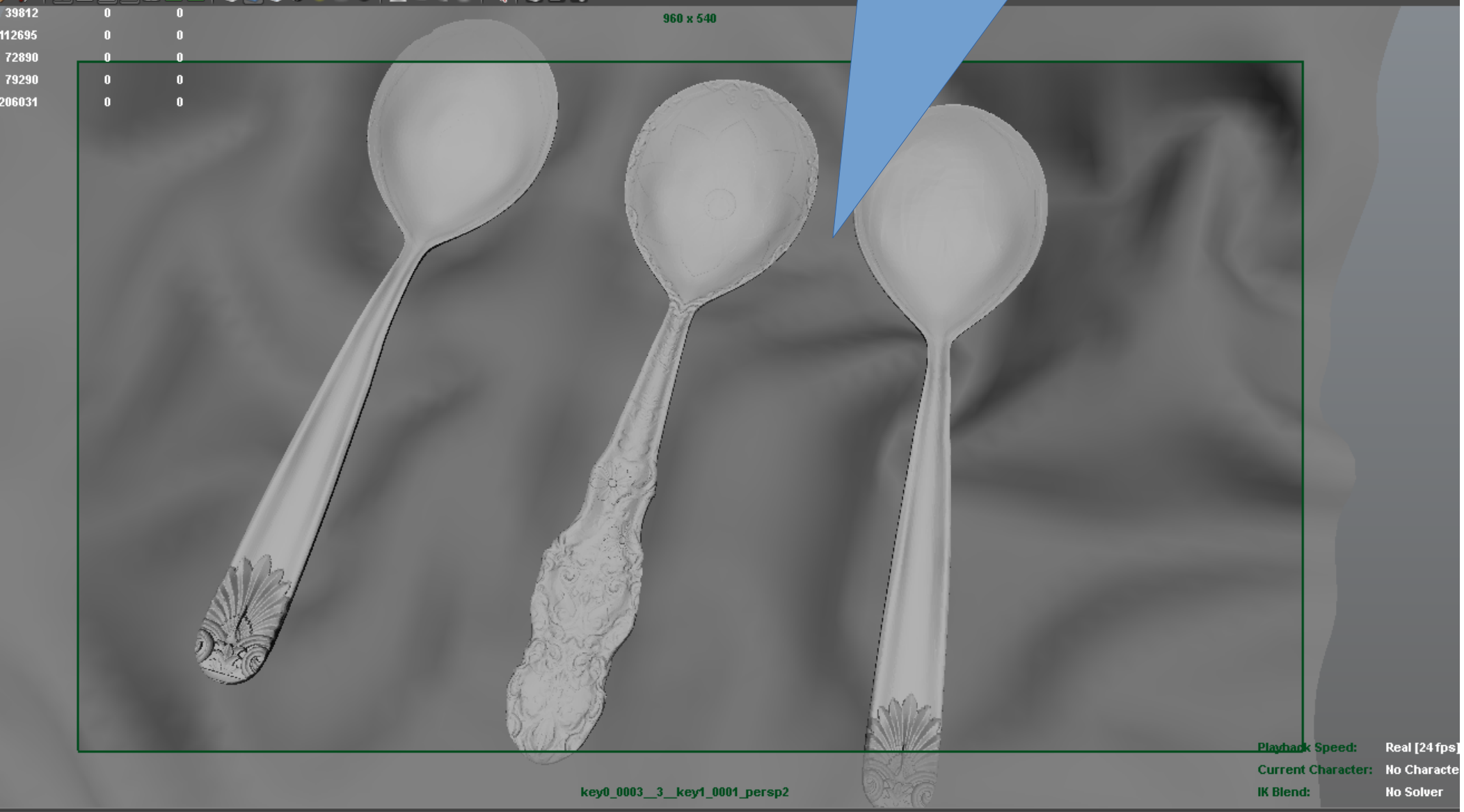
Begain sclupting





Made three variations to
Match with the keys
Kept the other two spoons
Simple to complement the
Main spoon

Scene set up with cloth and camera



References for watch model



Sculpted details



Shape
With and without lid



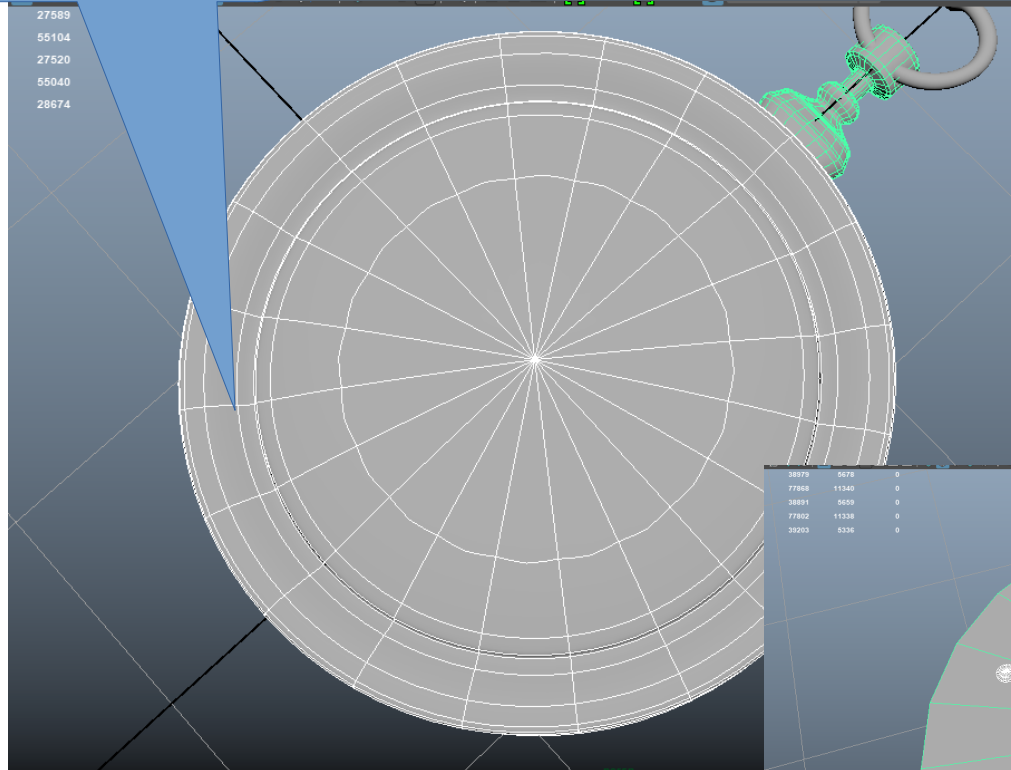
12010 120 0

First went for a simple design
Didn't carry the complexity that i wanted
So trying something a little more layered

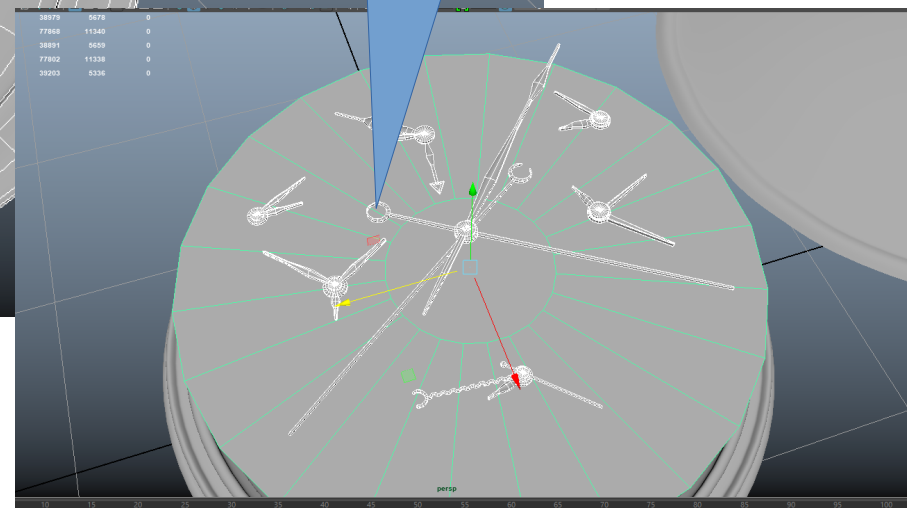
31332 5824 0
15644 2880 0
31248 5760 0
16734 3617 0

Head from reference

Closer look at the mesh



Added hands based on reference



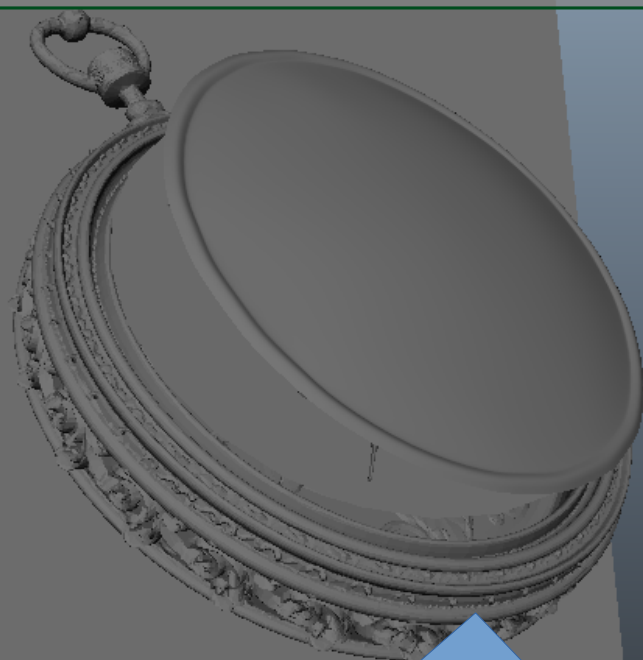


Sculpted the main body using
Clay brush, radial symmetry
And custom alphas

33327
93974
60646
66560
33342

0 0
0 0
0 0
0 0
0 0

960 x 540



Brought it back into maya to set up a scene
Added a dynamic cloth in the back and camera movement
Added animations to the parts of the watch

persp

Playback Speed: Real [24 fps]
Current Character: No Character
IK Blend: No Solver

20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110 120 130 140 150 160 170 180 190 200 210 220 230 240 250 260 270 280 290 300 310 320 330

Modeling

- After finalizing what i was going to model i started gathering as much relevant reference as possible
- I started with the heart for this i used zbrush
- I started with a dynamesh sphere which i shaped into what kind of looked like a heart as per the reference
- I made the base topology using zremesher from here i added the details of veins and other muscle details which i took as normal and displacement map

- Next was the ink pot
- Based on reference i easily modeled the inkpot itself using cylinder primitive
- I used a helix to create the grooves on the neck
- I used zbrush to model a simple twig and leaves using disks
- I added some flowers that i quickly modeled an unwrapped in maya
-

- Keys
- I wanted some old looking keys
- I used zsketch function in zbrush to achieve this i made some crazy looking designs for the keys
- I worked on three keys and i got some good looking designs
- In the end i decimated these models and took out height maps
- I tried different looks for the keys eve though i created them out of the same key

- Plier, the base pier i modeled in maya using reference this i took into zbrush
- i started sculpting the surface defects to make it look more primitive and imperfect and old
- After achieving this decimated the model and took out a obj
- I didnt taking any height maps from zbrush as sufrace detail was going to come from the textures

- Shoes, this was a big project
- For the reference i chose van gogh's painting of peasant shoes
- I started by creating the base model for the shoes in maya i duplicated one base model and reflected it to create the other one
- I took this into zbrush and took a very long time to correctly make the shoes
- I scrupled in the folds and ageing effects on the shoes
- From here i took it into maya to properly do the uvs and get it into painter to be painted
- This was the first modled i textured with painter so it was a good learning experience

- Spoon this was quite easy i modeled a base in maya brought it into zbrush
- I used clay build-up and standard brush to sculpt in some decoration details i duplicated this spoon for two more spoons but decided to simplify these other two spoons to not make the scene too noisy with details.

- Pocket watch
- I had to research a lot of reference to get a good looking stop watch idea
- I modeled the base in maya again and took it to zbrush to sculpt the decorations
- I kept the model as simple as possible one mesh for the glass cover
- One for the main body and one for the surface of the watch combined with all the hands based on reference
- I used custom alphas to achieve the zbrush details , i also modeled damages etc,
- I exported after decimating the model

Unwrap

- Most objects here were unwrapped manually in maya
- Just the stove was done in zbrush as the decimated mesh was not easily getting unwrapped manually or using maya unwrap tools

Texturing

- Texturing for most of the models was done in zbrush and painter,
- As all the objects would be central elements of their shots
- For this reason i used detailed maps and took a long time to paint the textures for them one by one

Camera angles

- All the objects were in their own shots
- For most of them i went for a more abstract look and smooth camera movements
- For some of the shots like with the spoon and keys i put cameras which were more like hand-held

Setting up render

- The appropriate texture maps were put into mia materials in maya and rendered
- Only diffuse pass and beauty pass was taken for most of the shots in this scene

Major problems faced

- Most things in this scene were simple enough and i didnt encounter problems
- But for the heart get it to beat using blend shapes was a challenge, and sculpting it was also a big challenge as the heart is a very complex organ and its easy to get it wrong , it was a slow and tiring process
- The uvs for the shoes were a headache as they had so many different parts to them so all the textures from substance , zbrush etc had to be correctly arranged
- On hindsight i think i should have simplified the uvs for the shoe
- Getting a good shape for the watch was a little effort, but reference helped a lot

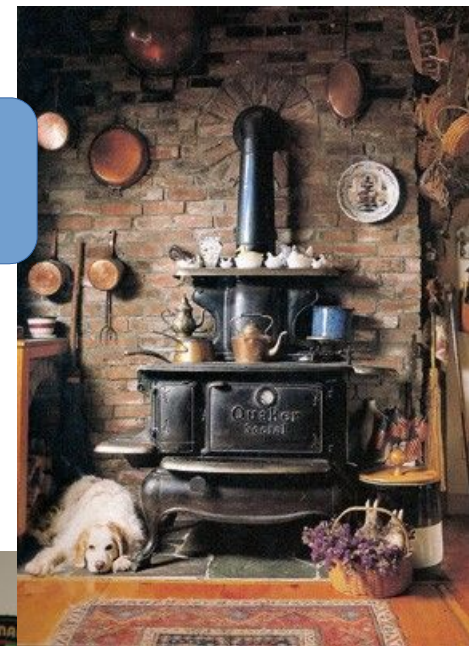
Stove Scene

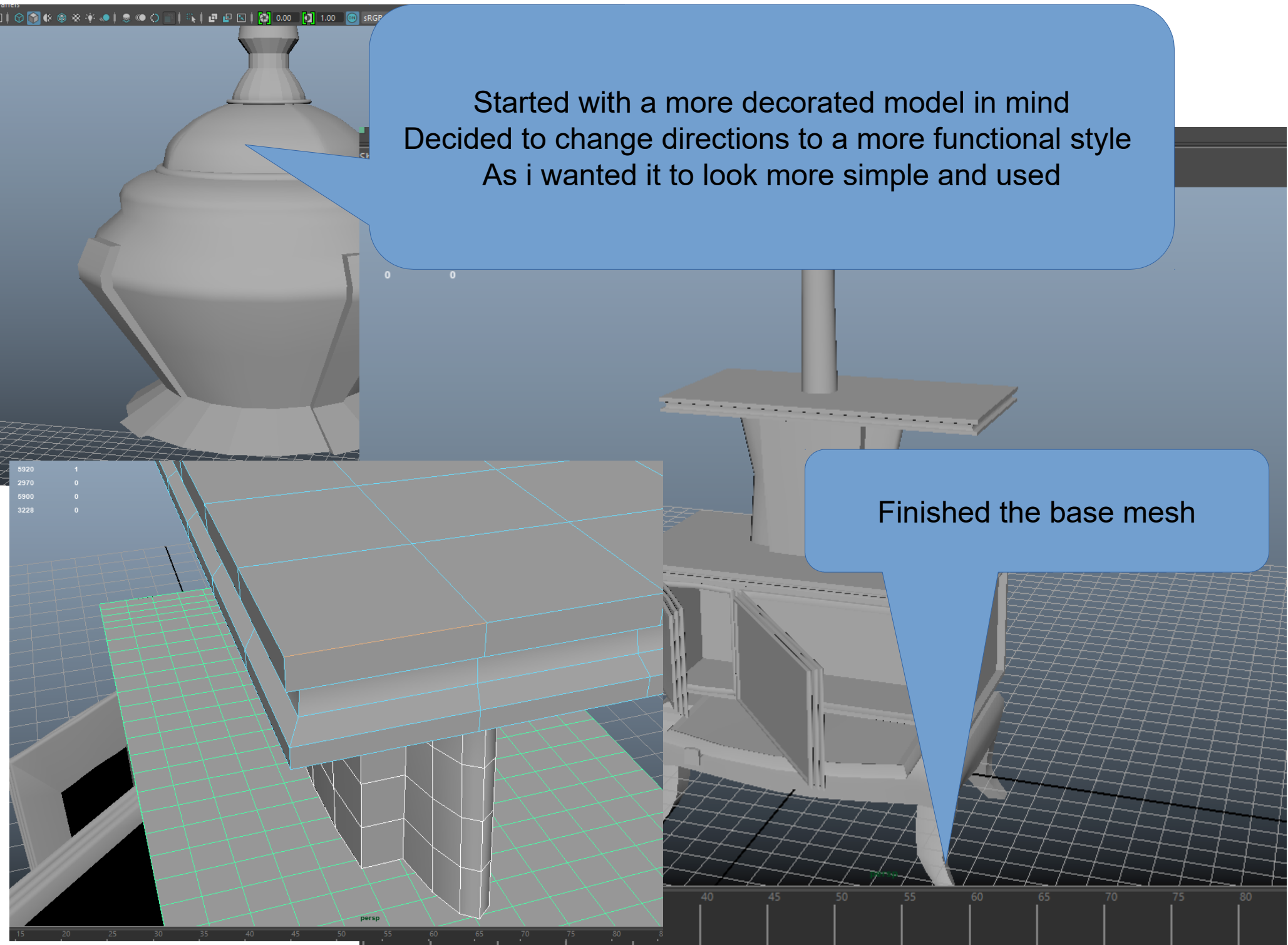
- Fire
- Economic conditions
- Sustenance
- Home
- Comfort
- Danger

References for stove

Different styles

Old and used

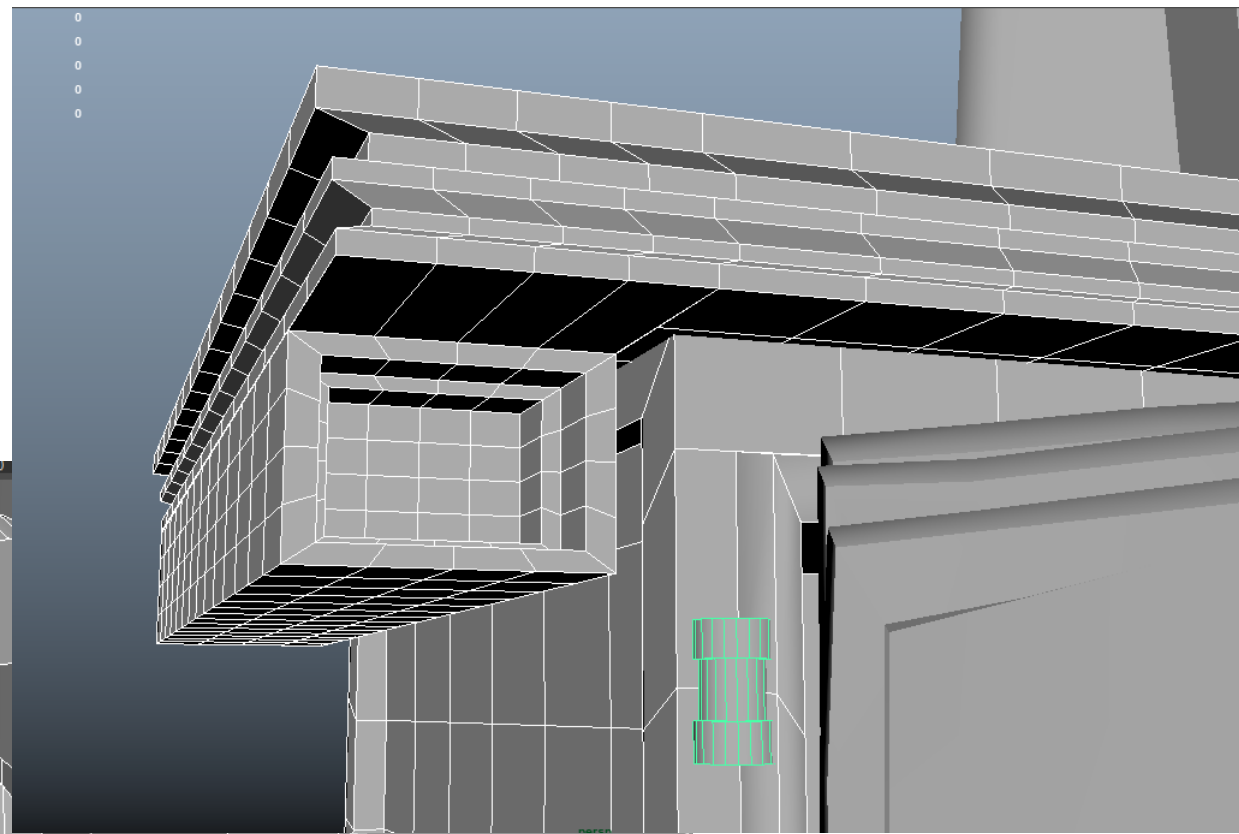
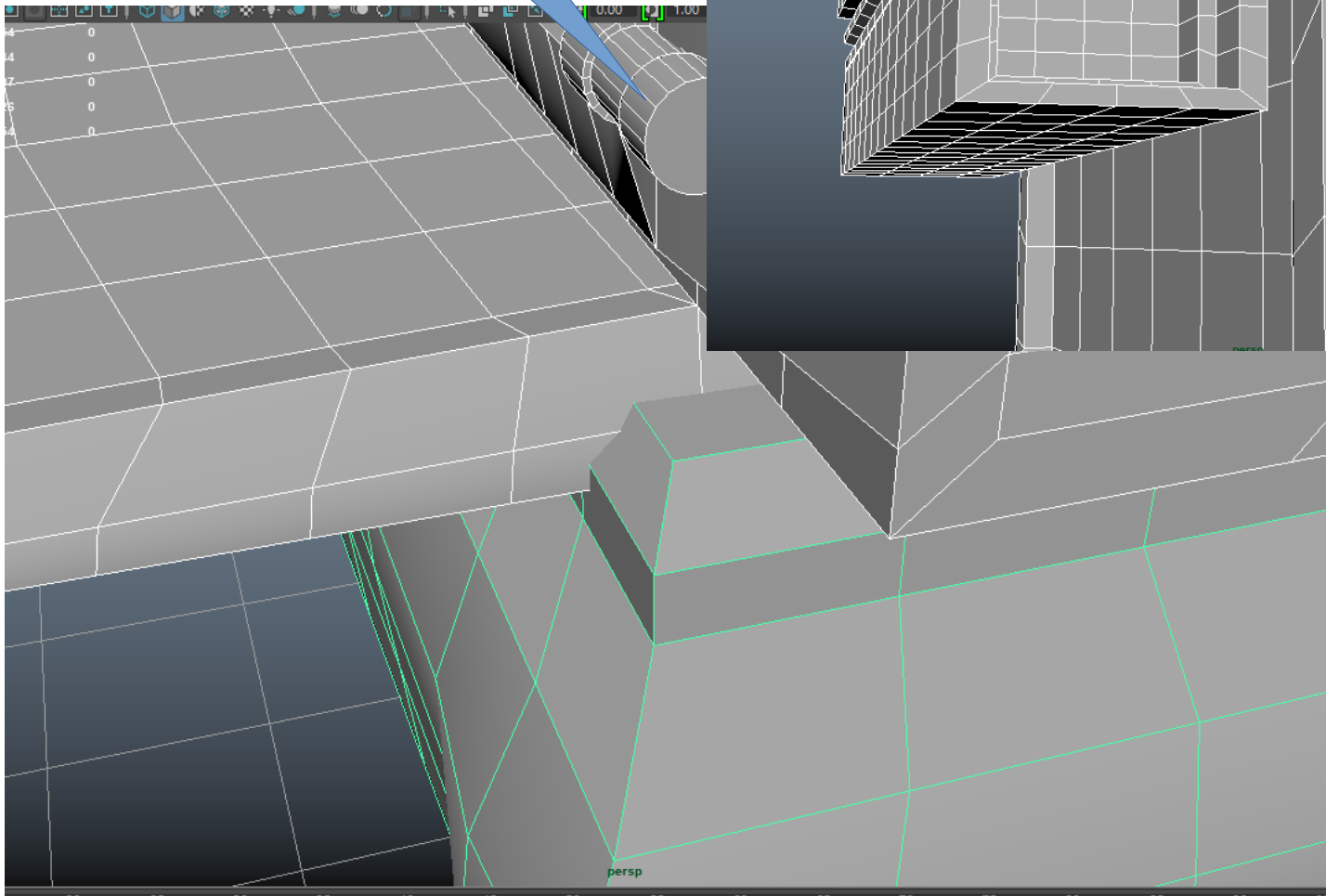


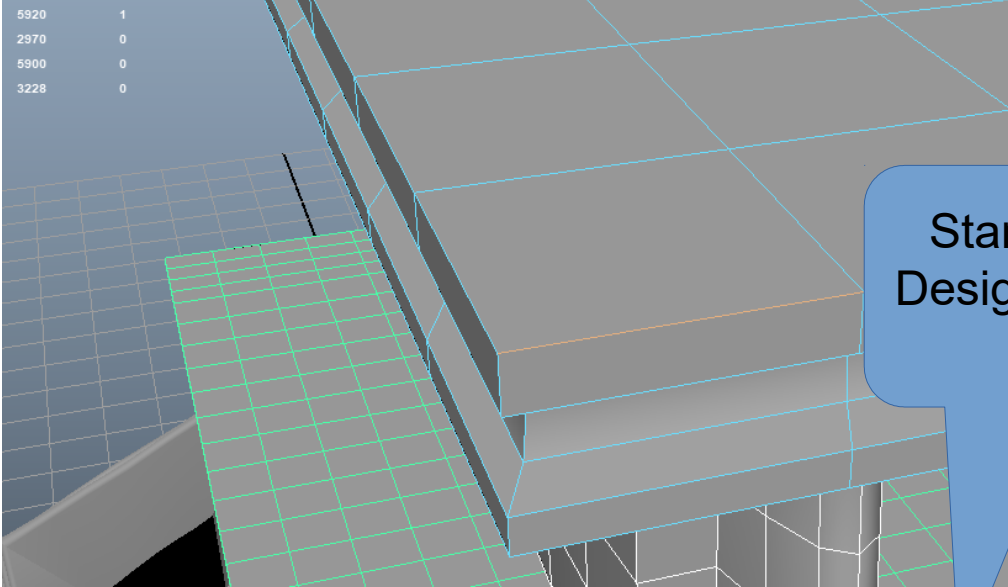
The image is a composite of two 3D software screenshots. The top-left screenshot shows a highly decorative, classical-style model, possibly a vase or pedestal, with a blue callout bubble pointing to it. The bottom-right screenshot shows a more functional, modern-looking model of a pedestal or base, also with a blue callout bubble pointing to it. The bottom-left area shows a wireframe view of a rectangular base with a green grid overlay. The top of the image shows a software interface with various icons and a top bar.

Started with a more decorated model in mind
Decided to change directions to a more functional style
As i wanted it to look more simple and used

Finished the base mesh

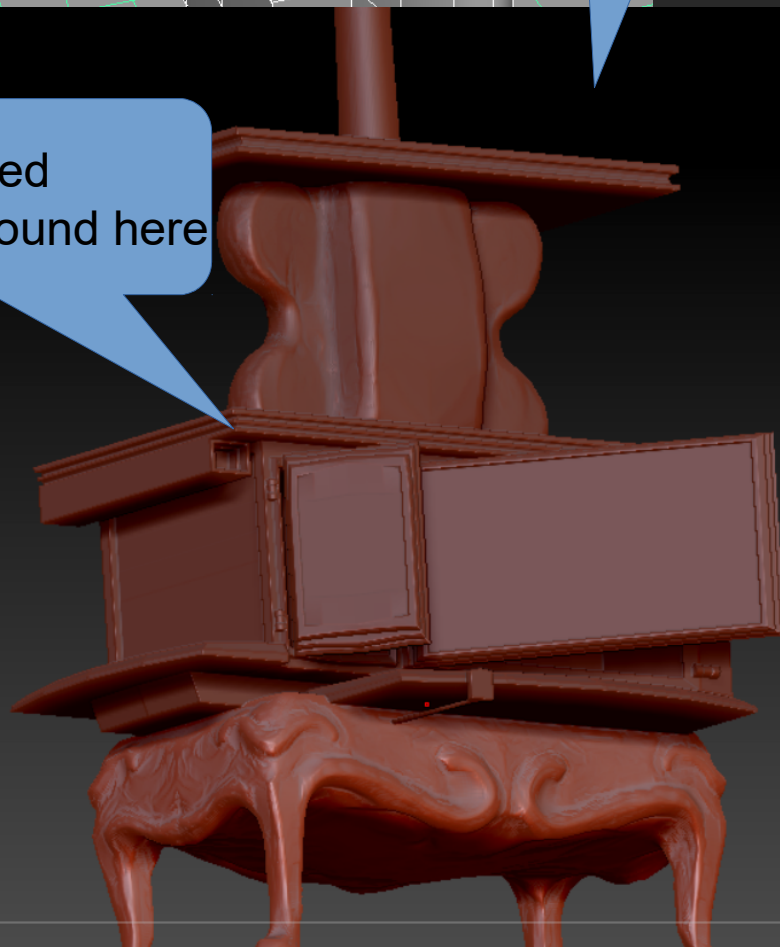
Detailed look at the
Base mesh





Started sculpting
Designs deformation
damages

Changed
The shape around here

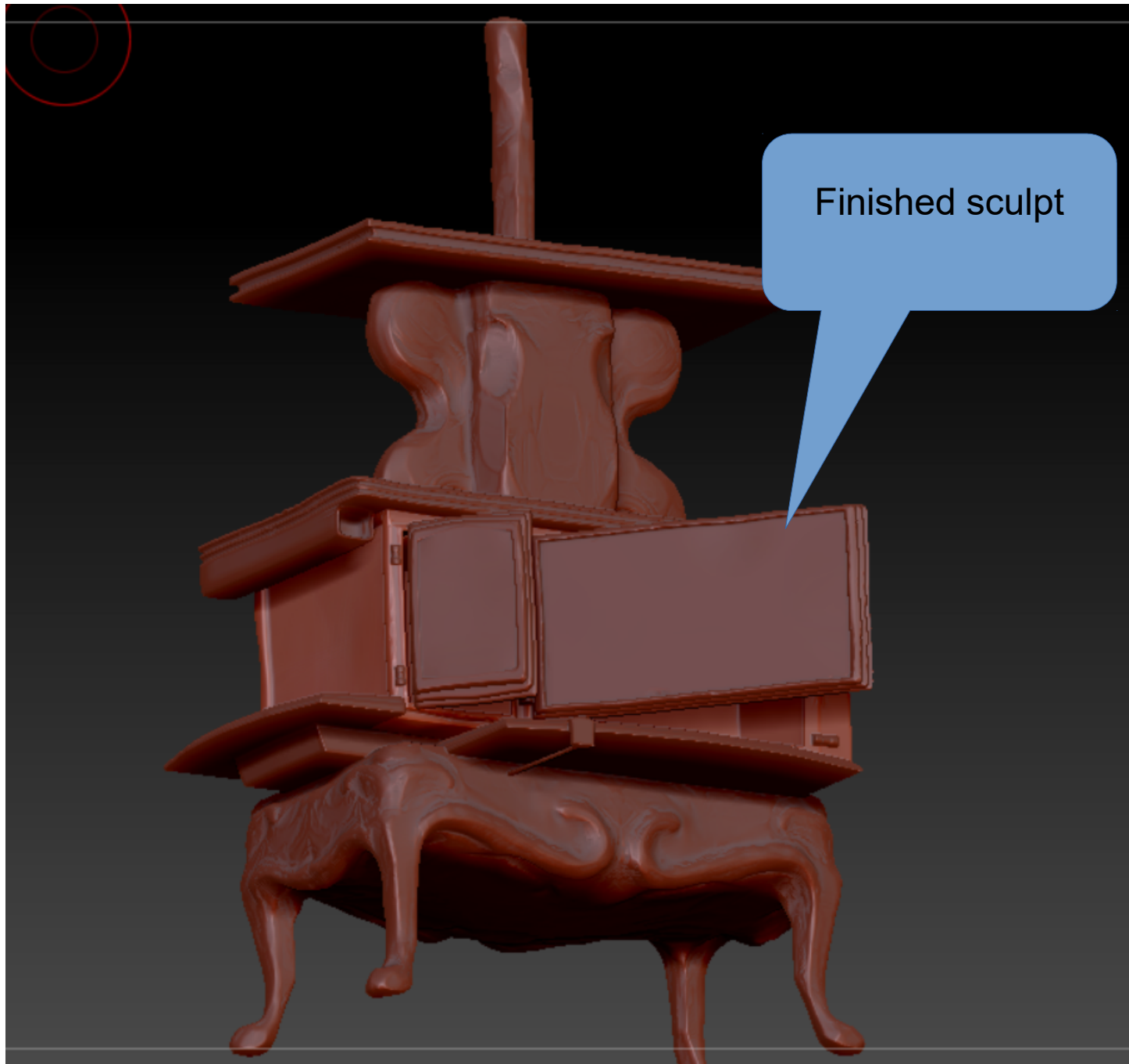


Notes on progress

- The idea for the look of the stove changed suddenly for me at first i wanted to make a highly decorated stove with lots of detail
- But then it wouldn't look used or rustic
- I wanted that look so i went for a more functional stove
- Something that would look as if people actually have been using it,
- Developing the base mesh was simple enough but adding the deformations to the the object in z brush was tough
- As it needed to be very subtle so that it looked like aged metal, for this i rechecked the model over and over again and developed the sculpt very slowly working all the areas together so that the overall look wouldn't be ruined

Using reference

- The reference was crucial for this model, i looked at many new stove designs while creating the base mesh and then looked at how
- The old stoves would change over time as they age
- Its was very subtle for the things were made of hard and sturdy metal but i managed to carry this to my work i think,



Finished sculpt

verts: 70922
edges: 192480
faces: 124583
tris: 135413
f/s: 160170

960 x 540

Set up scene with some camera

camera1

Playback Speed: Real [24 fps]
Current Character: No Character
IK Blend: No Solver

Concept, existing inspiration additional reference

- The stove should look old
- The entire scene will look very dark and dangerous
- The flames will be the main source of light
- The iron should look like sooty and very old so texture wont have too much details
-

Modeling

- Started with a base which i modeled based on many reference images
- I first tried making a really fancy decorated stove
- I later decided it wouldnt be proper so i went for a more simple look so that it would look like the stove was actually in use
- I used the same zbrush workflow to get the imperfections and damages
- I wasnt concerned too much with perfection because the scene would be quite dark and the stove would be not so visible

Unwrap

- The model was simple enough even though the decimation created a strange flow
- So i unwrapped it in maya itself and used the UDIM arrangement to create the obj for texturing in substance painter

Texturing

- The stove was to look old and heavily abused full of soot,
- This made the texturing a little easier as i didnt have to do to many color details only some rust and bumpy old iron feel
- Just a generic floor texture was used to do the floors and walls these elements wouldnt bee seen much so didnt have to concentrate too much on these

Camera angles

- I chose two relatively still shots for this scene on was looking straight at the stove for another scene i put the camera upside down just to capture a more disorientating view of this scene

Setting up materials

- Setting up materials for this scene was simple enough as there were only a few objects
- Mia materials were used with proper maps to set up this scene

For this scene along with beauty pass a occlusion pass was taken

Hands

- Experience
- Age
- Ups and downs of life
- Gifts of aging
- Pride
- Respect
- Strength and weakness

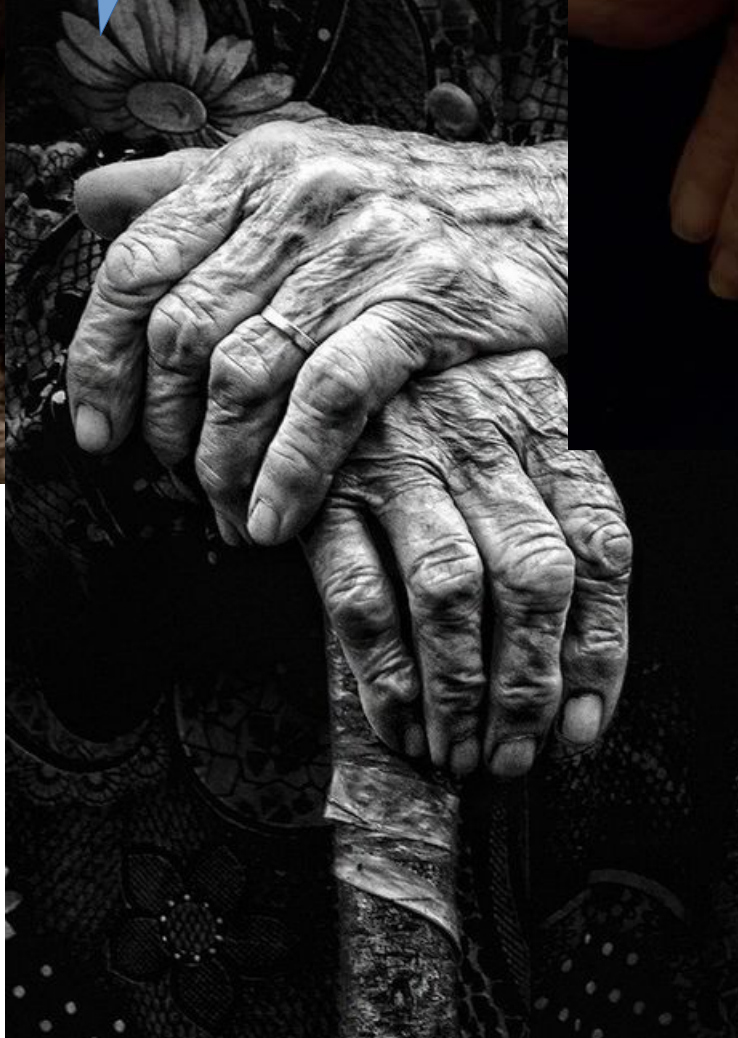
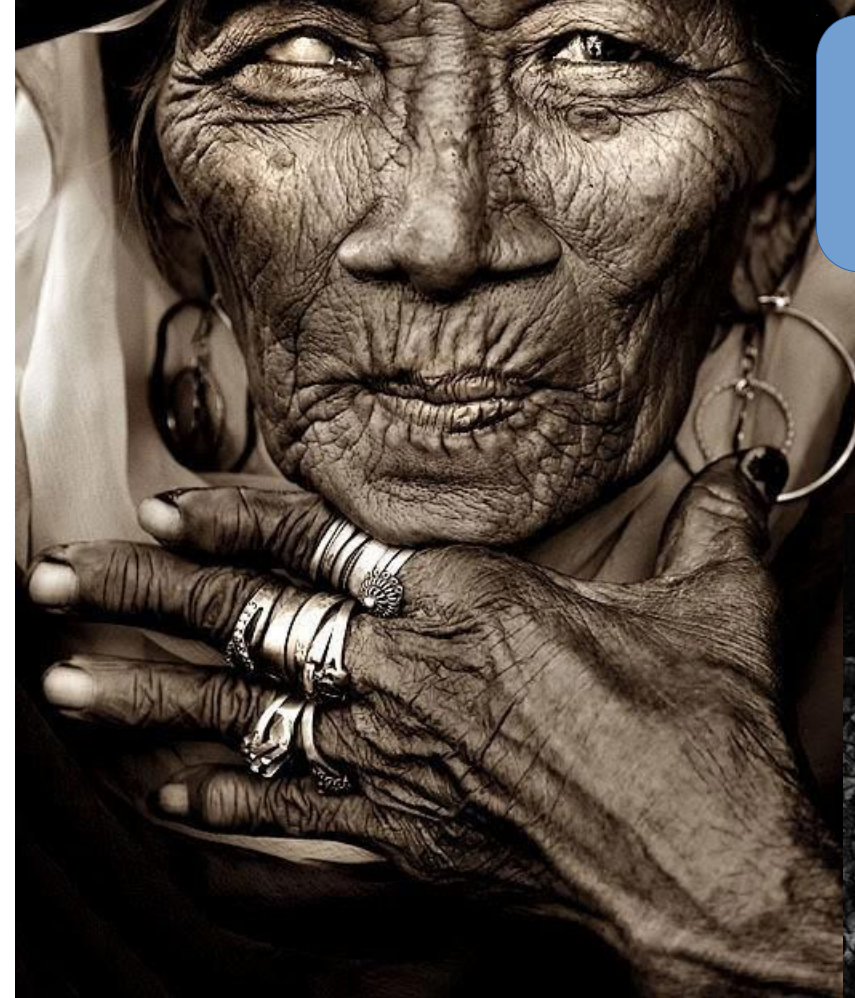


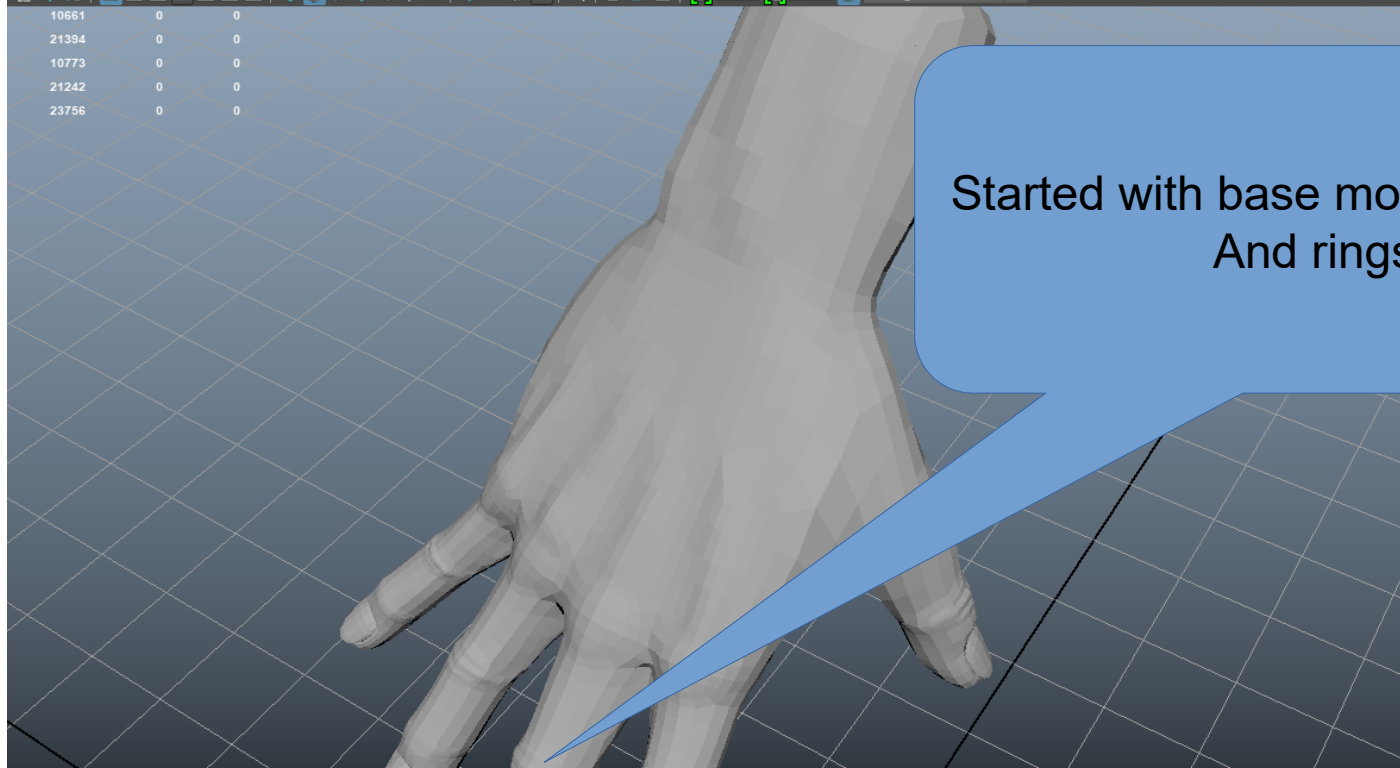
Main inspiration for hands idea

Big rings
Aged hands
Royal grand vibe

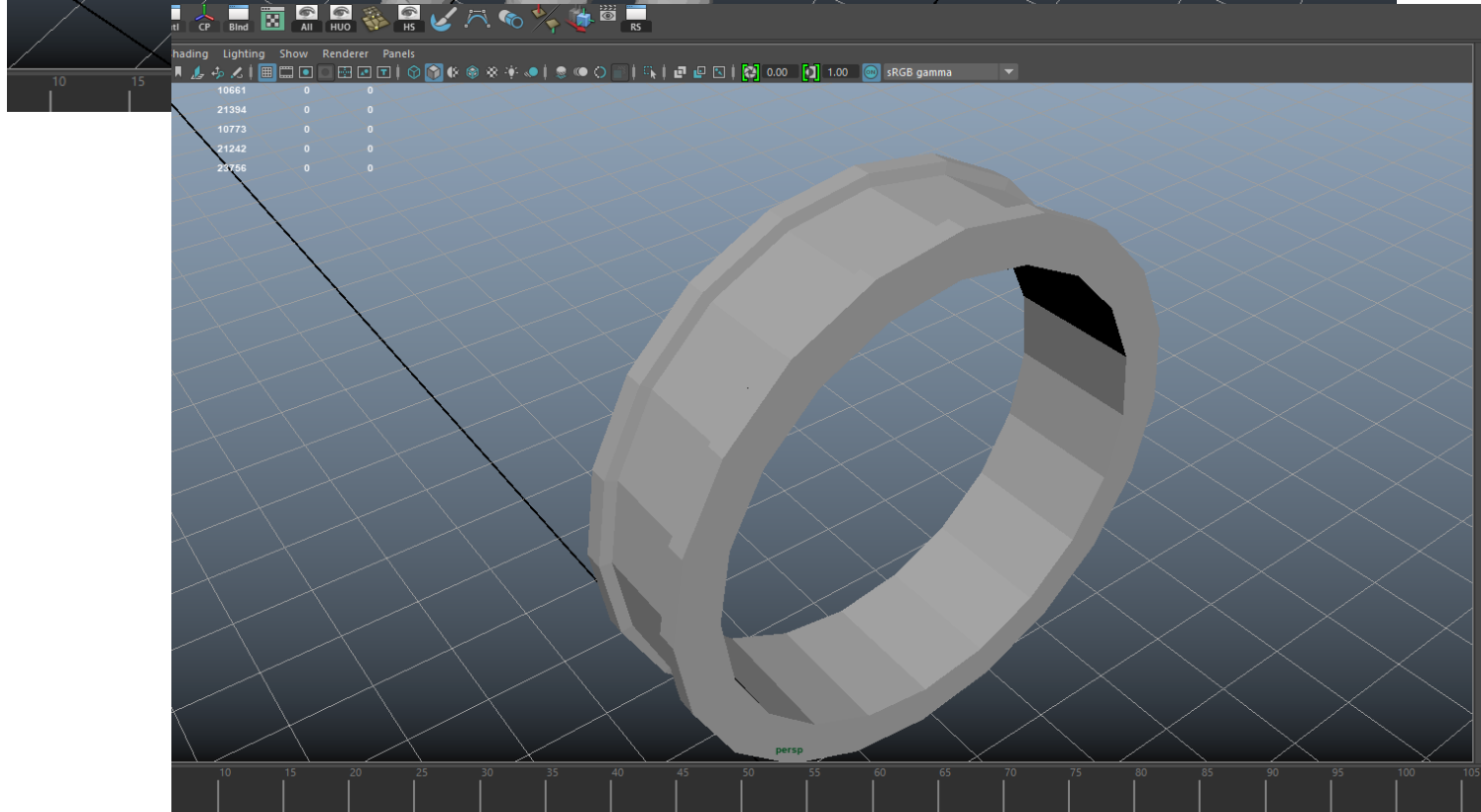


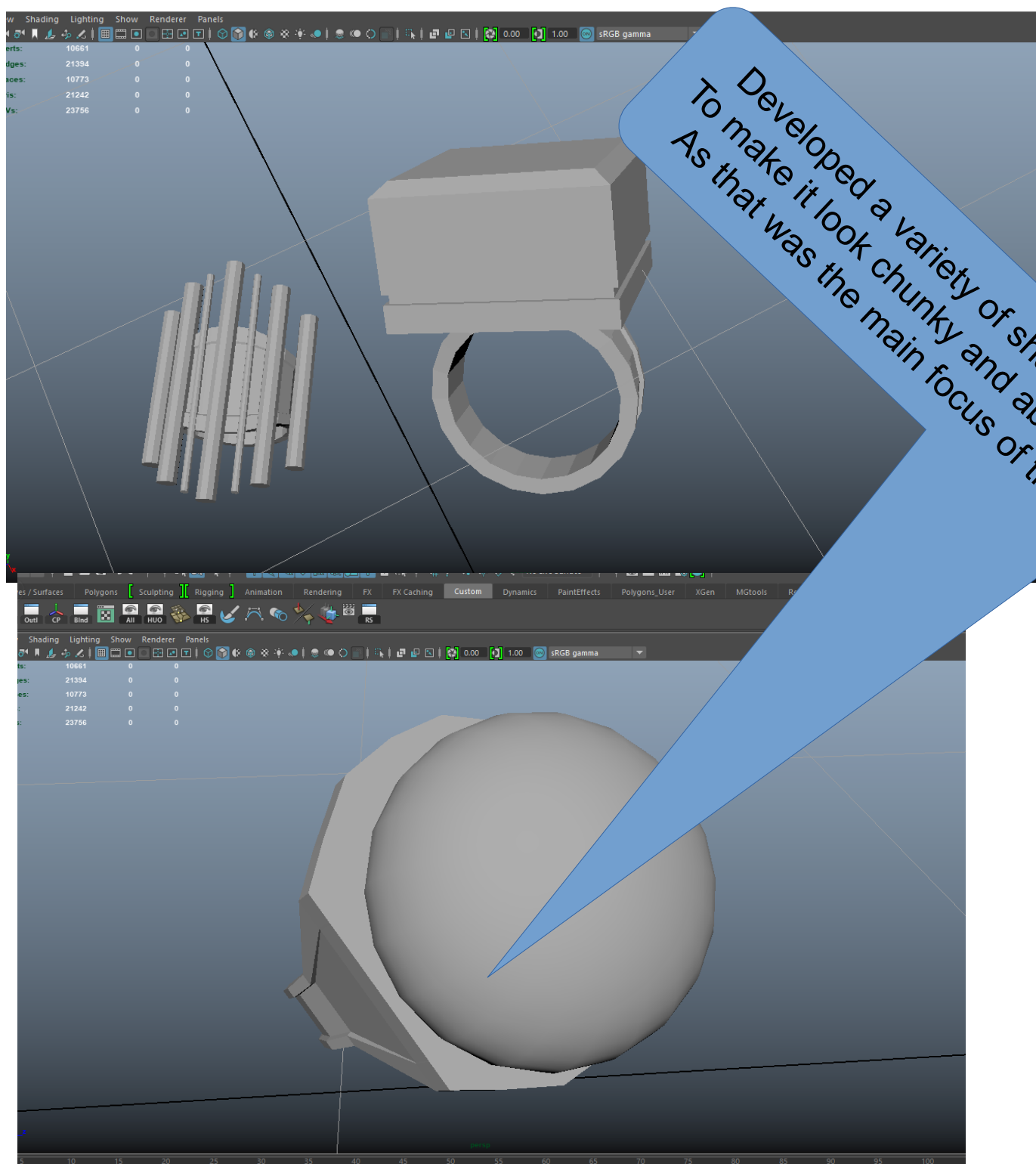
References for wrinkles
Old hands
Old hands with rings





Started with base model for hands
And rings

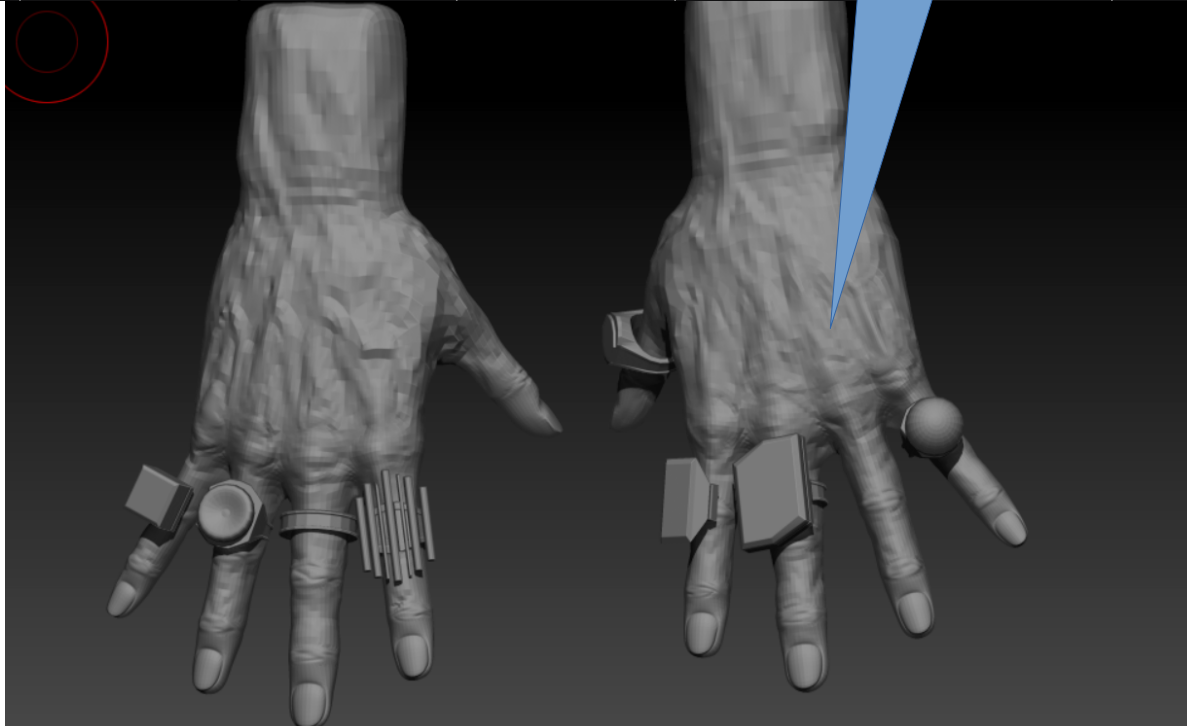
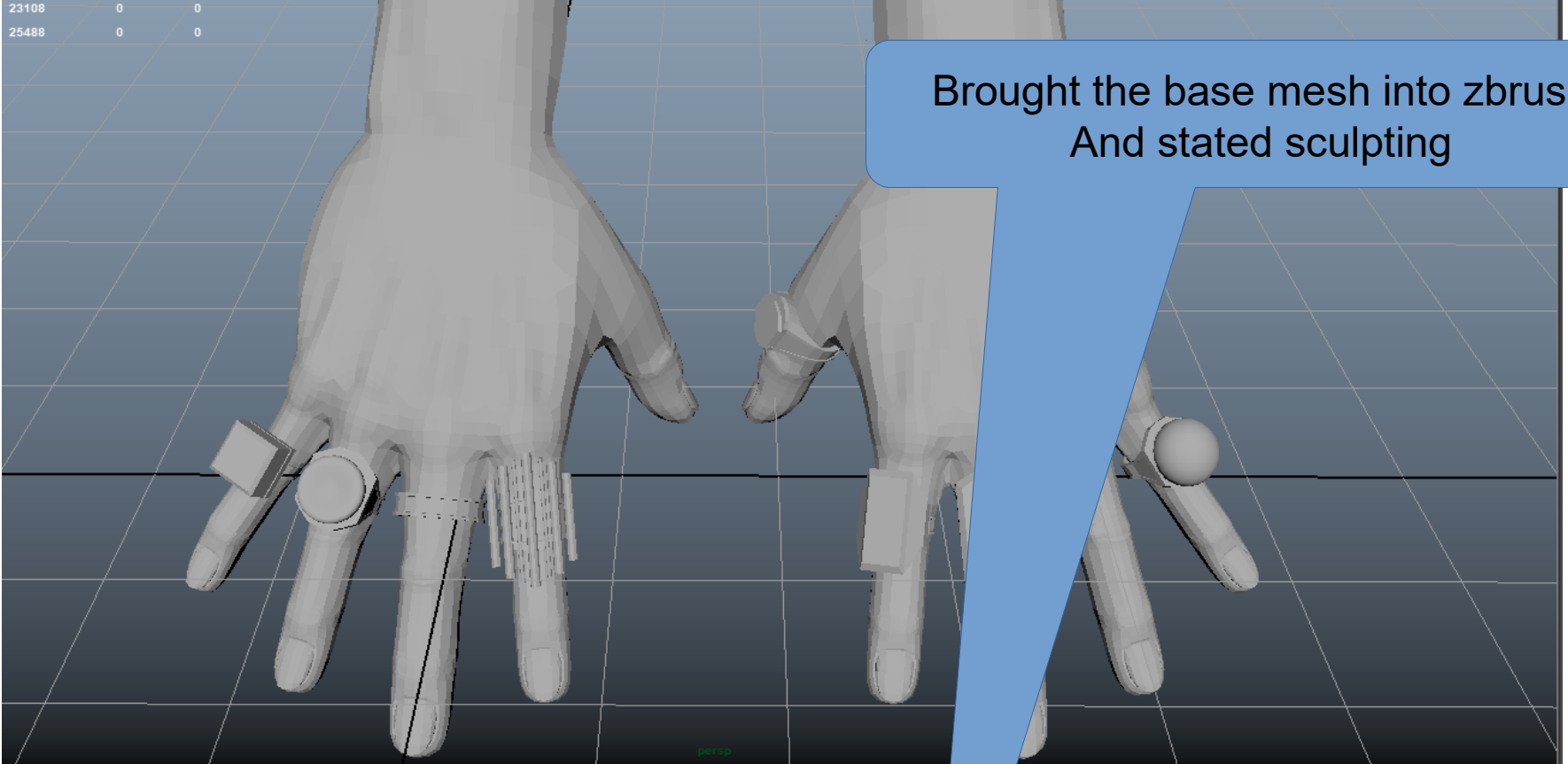


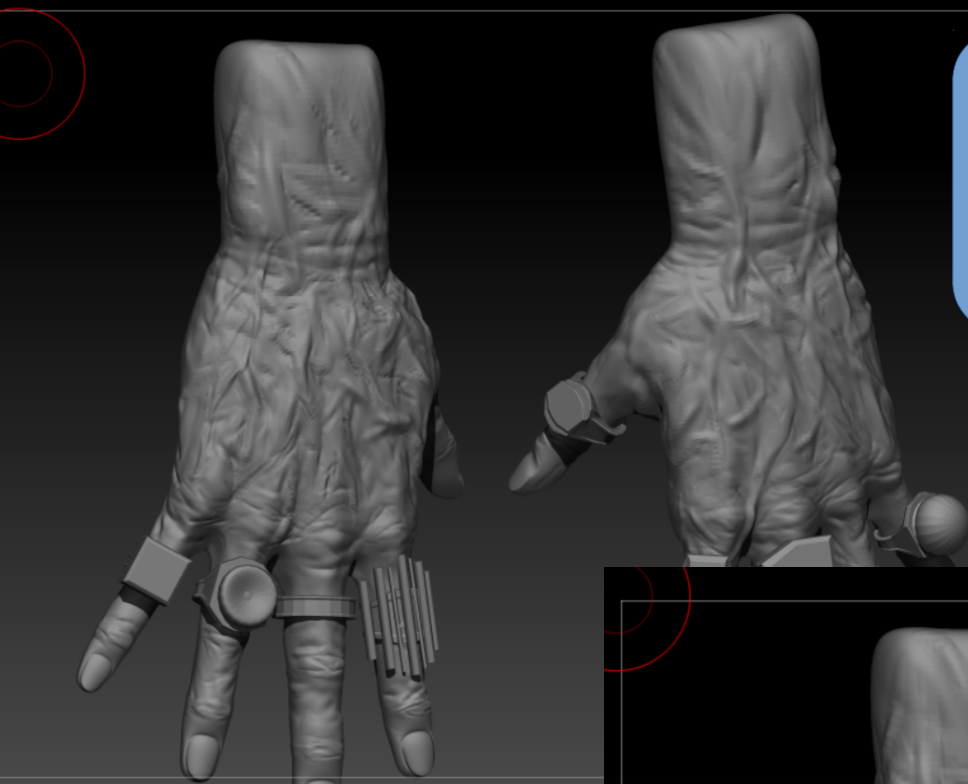


Developed a variety of shapes for rings
To make it look chunky and absurdly large
As that was the main focus of the scene

23108 0 0
25488 0 0

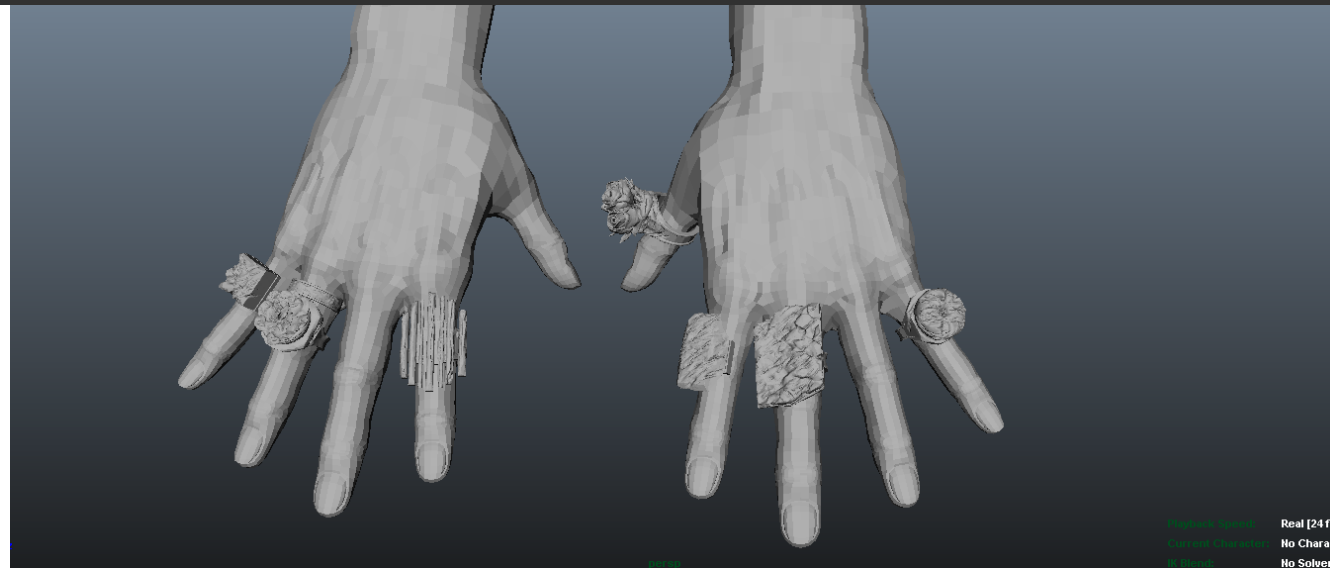
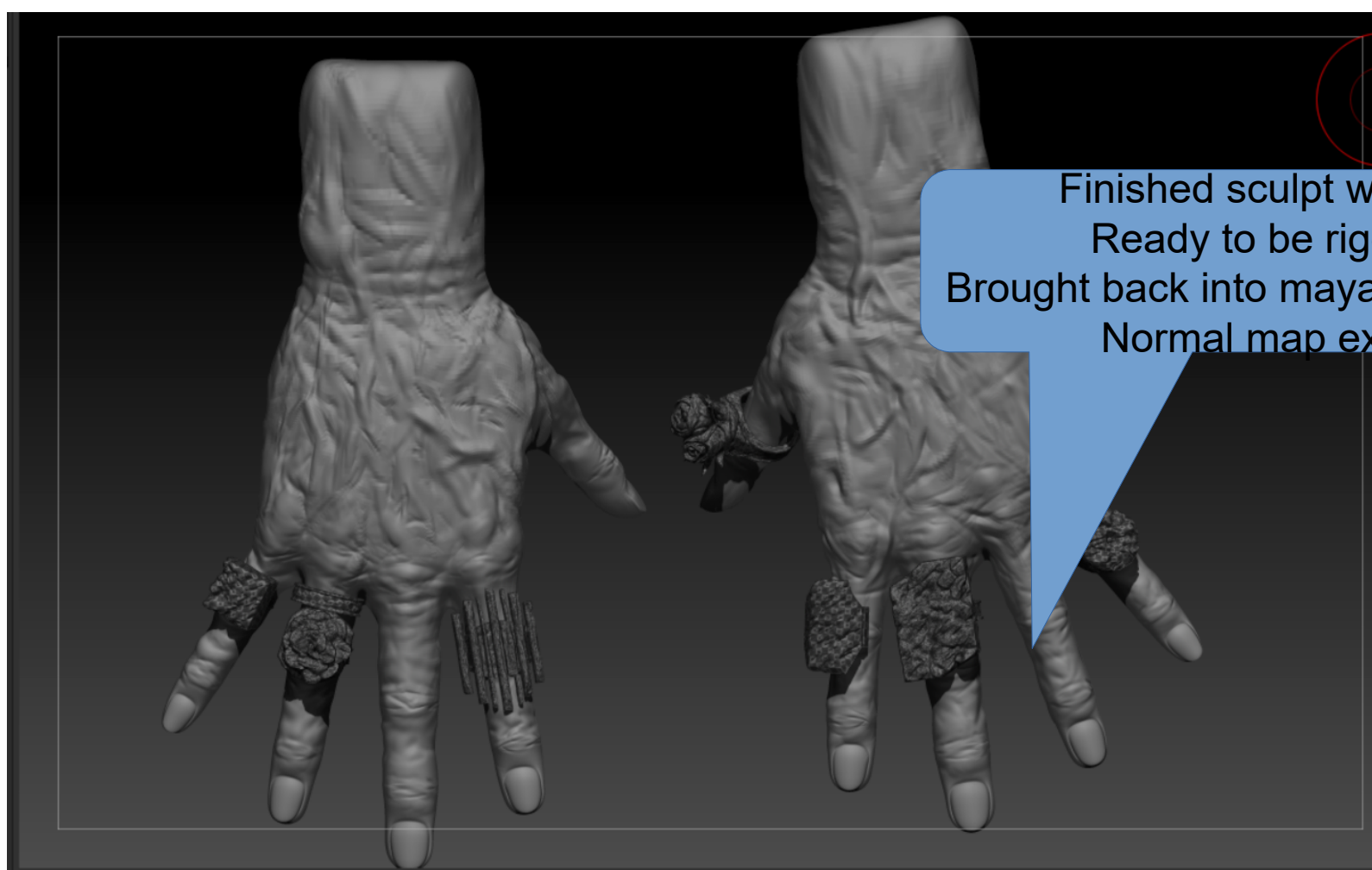
Brought the base mesh into zbrush
And started sculpting





Added more detail to the hands
To make them look old
Sculpted the rings right after that



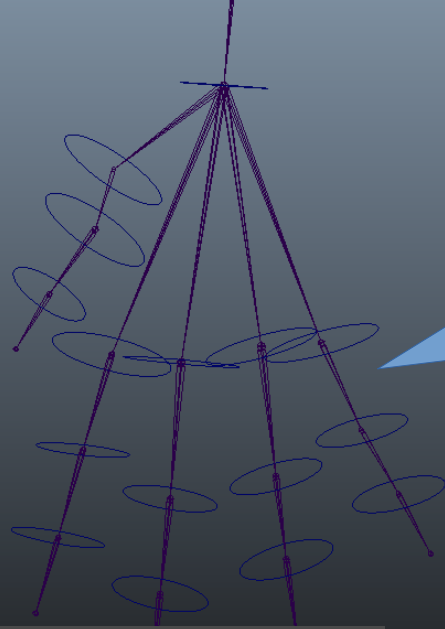


Notes on progress

- The hands came out well, they look old and very realistic
- Even the rings look quite okay too me even though i wasn't feeling too confident about them in the beginning
- The iterative sculpting process that i used for the hands developed the details slowly and properly making them look very natural .
- It was really smooth to take the normal maps output also, as the uvs were so clean for the hands

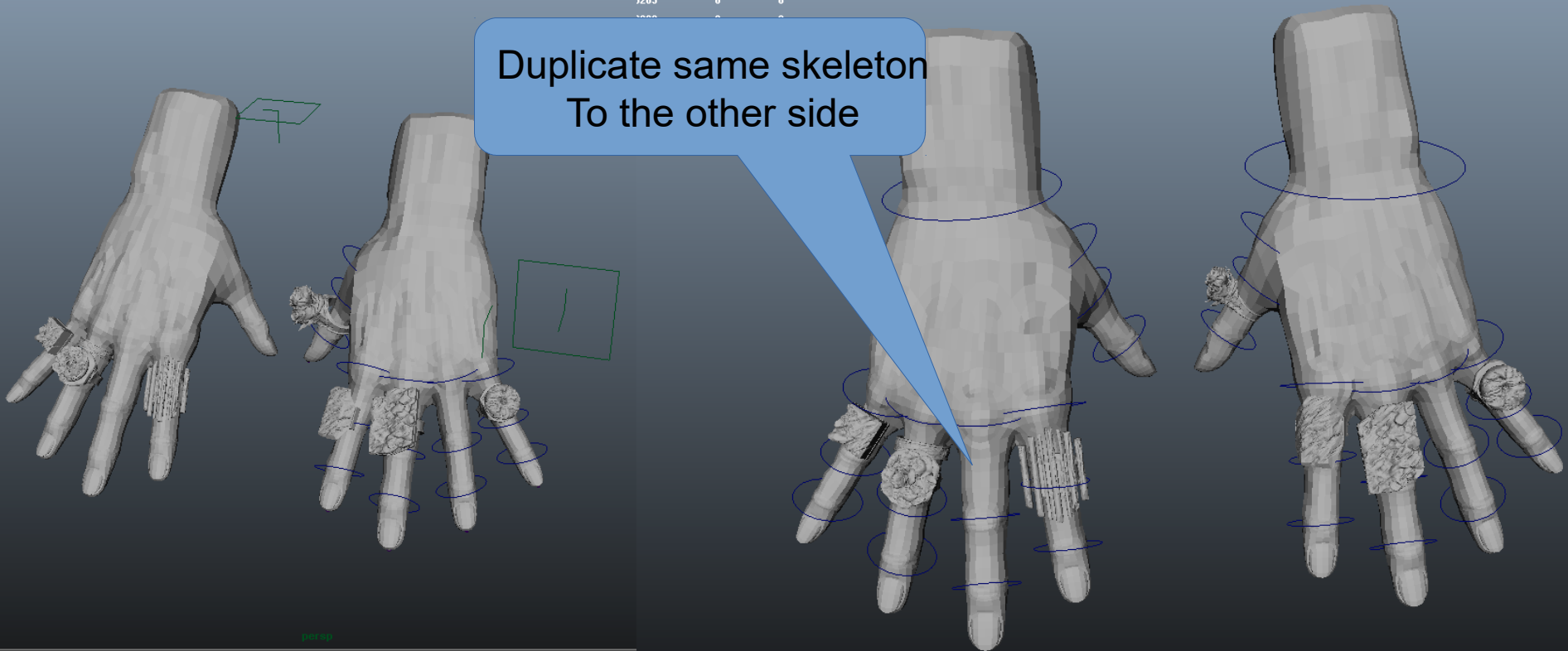
Using reference

- Natural things like wrinkles folds of the skin are really hard to execute without having proper references
- So i relied on them heavily to create the hands themselves
- But other than that i knew the rings would mostly have a rocky feel to them so i sculpted it out of imaginations
- And even the floral designs on the rings turned out well



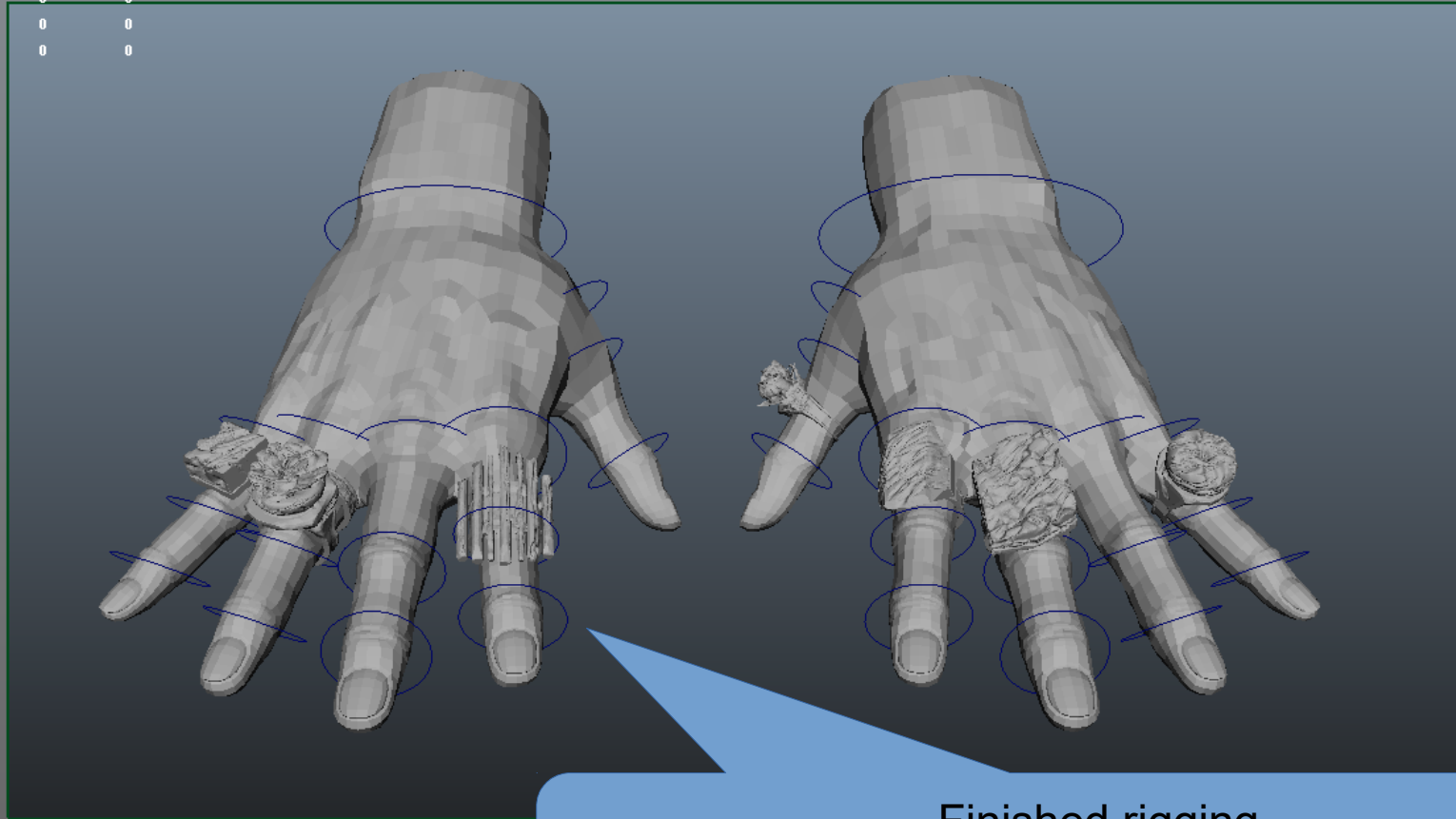
Basic skeleton for the hand

Duplicate same skeleton
To the other side



315203
206980
215788
629748

0	0
0	0
0	0
0	0



Finished rigging
Attached the rings to the
Fingers set up camera angles and simple animation

Concept, existing inspiration additional reference

- The hands should look old
- Again the fire will be the main source of light and the focal point
- The rings should also be very good looking as they will be catching the viewers eye

Modeling

- Started with a standard hand base model
- I took this into zbrush and slowly developed the anatomical details
- Fat vines tried to make the hands look as old as possible
- Made them asymmetrical also to increase the realism
- I kept working on the details until i was happy then i exported an obj with proper topology as it was going to be animated
-

- I started sculpting the rings after that
- Based on some reference i decided to model the base rings
- I made these rings very big, a little absurd even, i wanted them to look old like ancient rock
- I even wanted some flower ideas to come into the rings
- Using dynamesh on these rings i was able to create somethings that i was happy with
- I decimated them when sculpting was finished
-

Unwrap

- Thanks to the clean topology the unwrapping of the hands was very easy and the standard process of cutting seams at the exact spot was used to unwrap the hands

Texturing

- For the hands i wanted a different type of feel so i didnt go for a skin texture, instead i decided to go for a different material like marble or porcelain
- I added some golden decorative patterns to add interest and make the scene look stranger
- Along with this the rings were painted sooty charcoal black

Camera angles

- For this scene i used a very plain, standard camera angle so that i could focus on the animation of the hands mostly ,
- I added some movement to the camera just to make it not fully still

Setting up materials

- Mia materials with all the maps were used for all the objects in the scene
- The stove had to be set up so that it looked like old iron with soot on it
- After this was done the scene was set for render

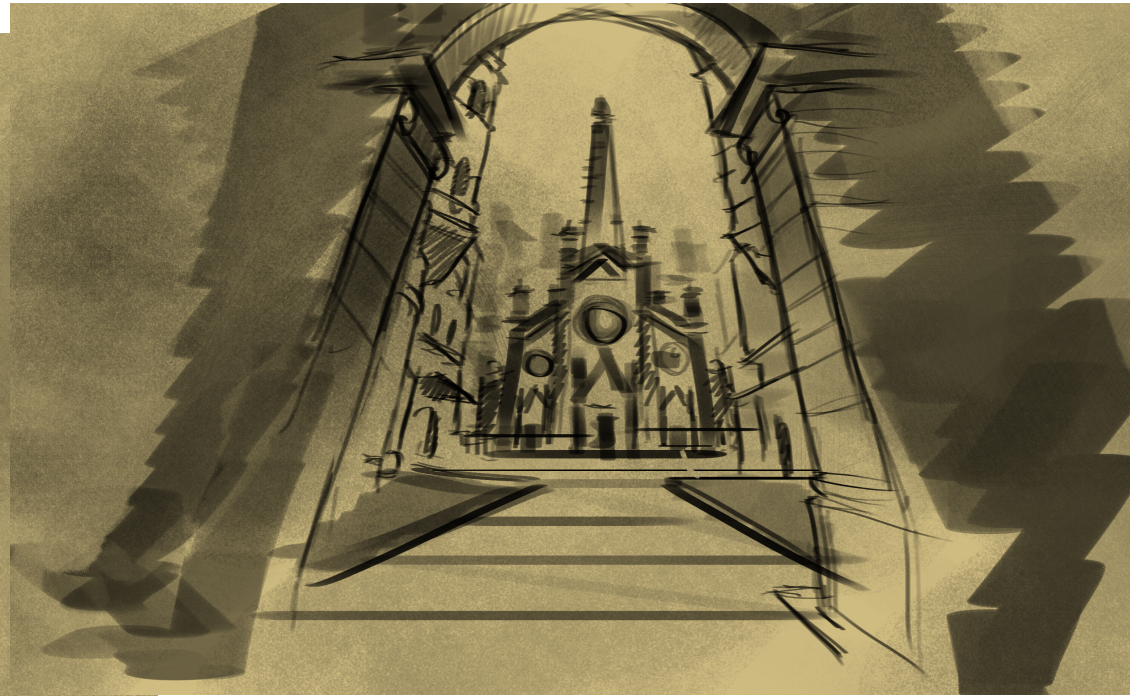
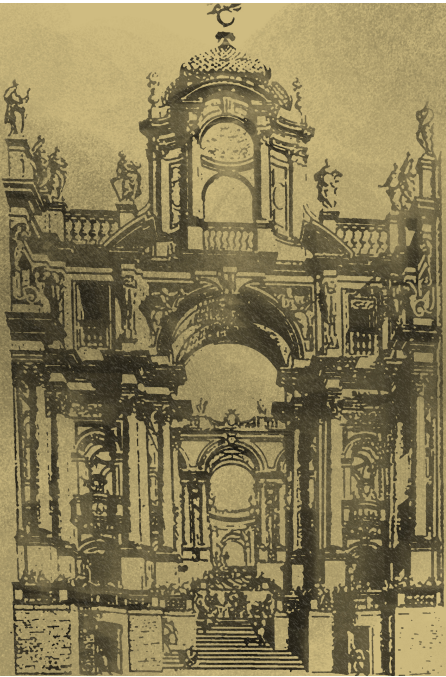
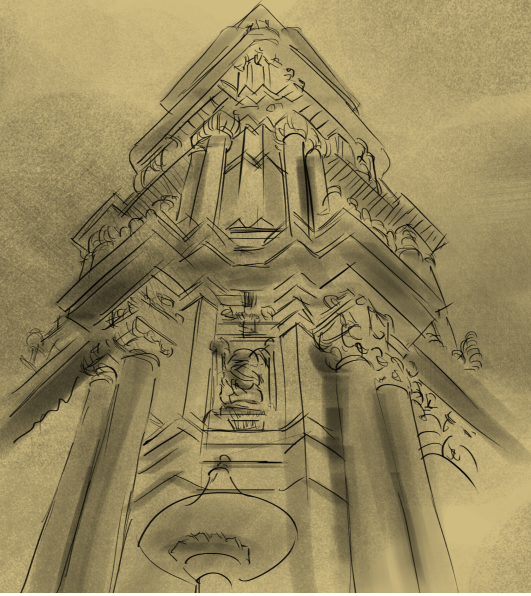
The particles of flames were rendered seperately and occlusion and beauty was set up for the stove itself

After this the renders were ready to be composited

Building

- Power
- Labour
- Seeing
- Height
- Grand
- Artistic achievement

References for building
From vmp output

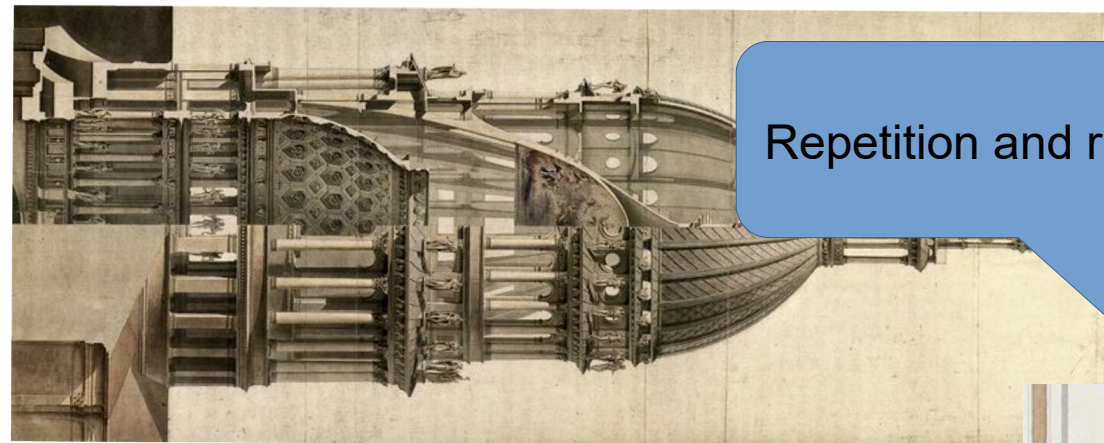
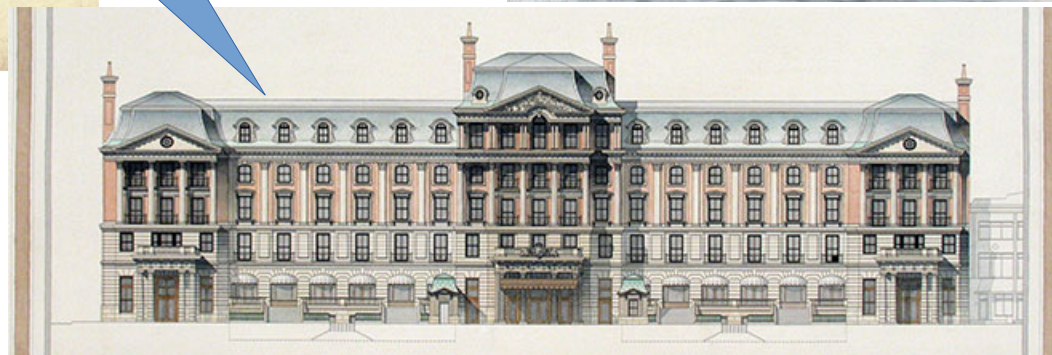
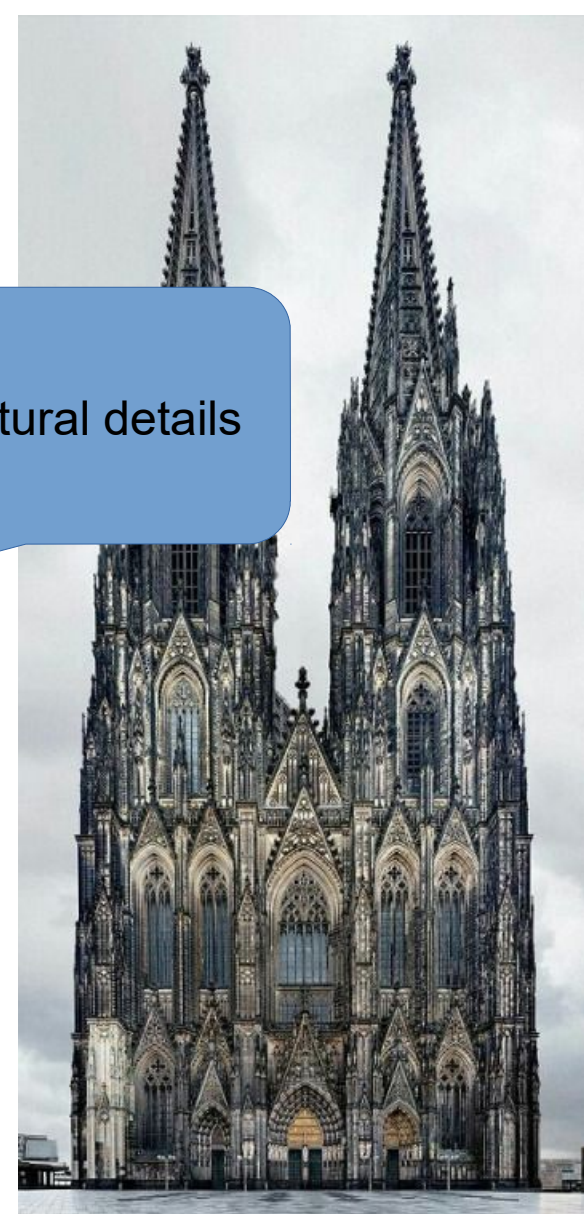


Clean lines

Starting reference

Structural details

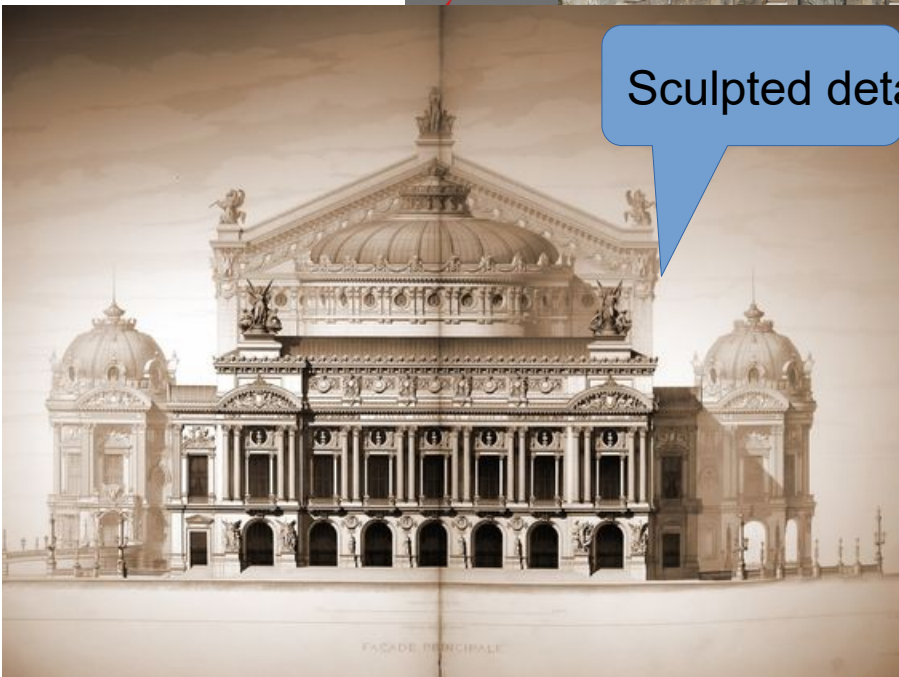
Repetition and rhythm



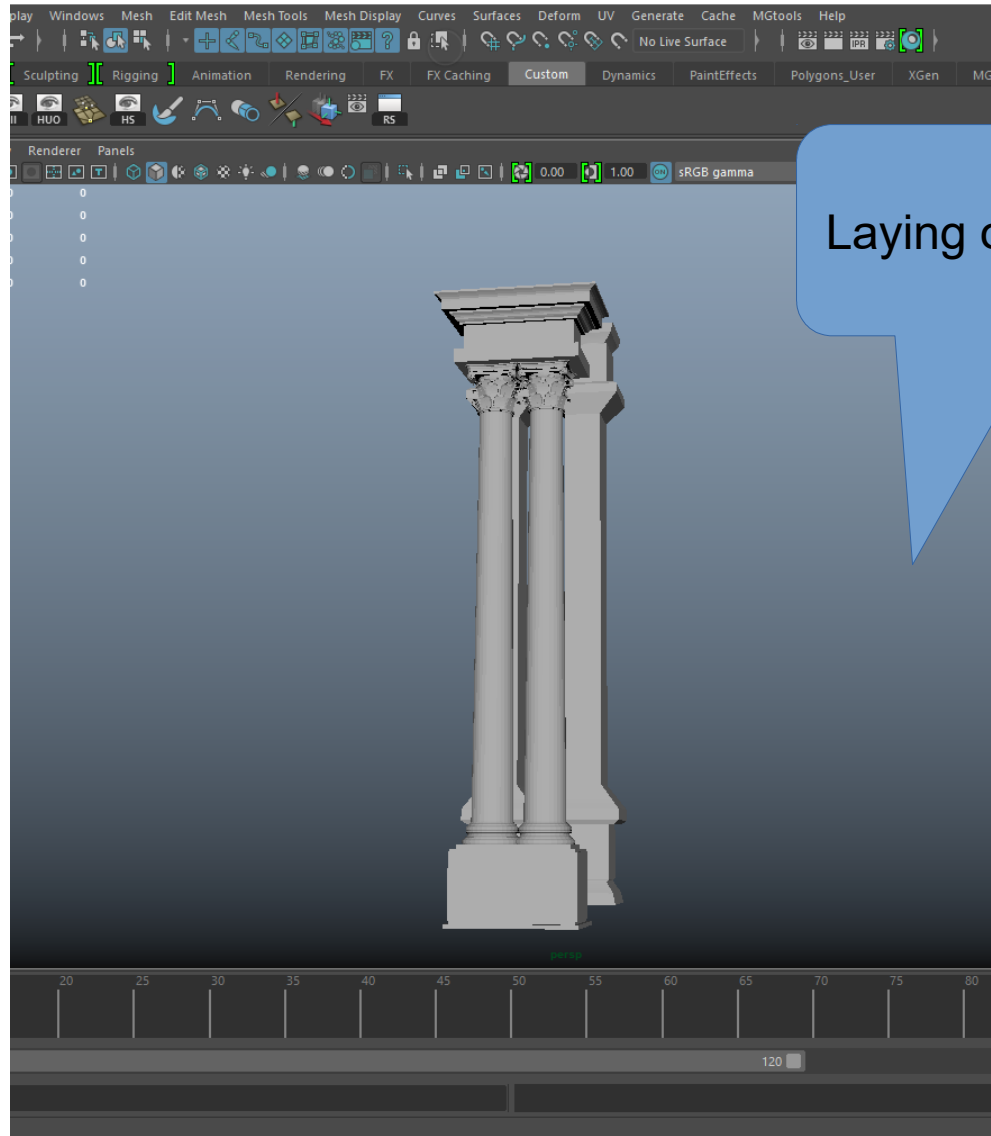


Sculpted details

Sculpted details

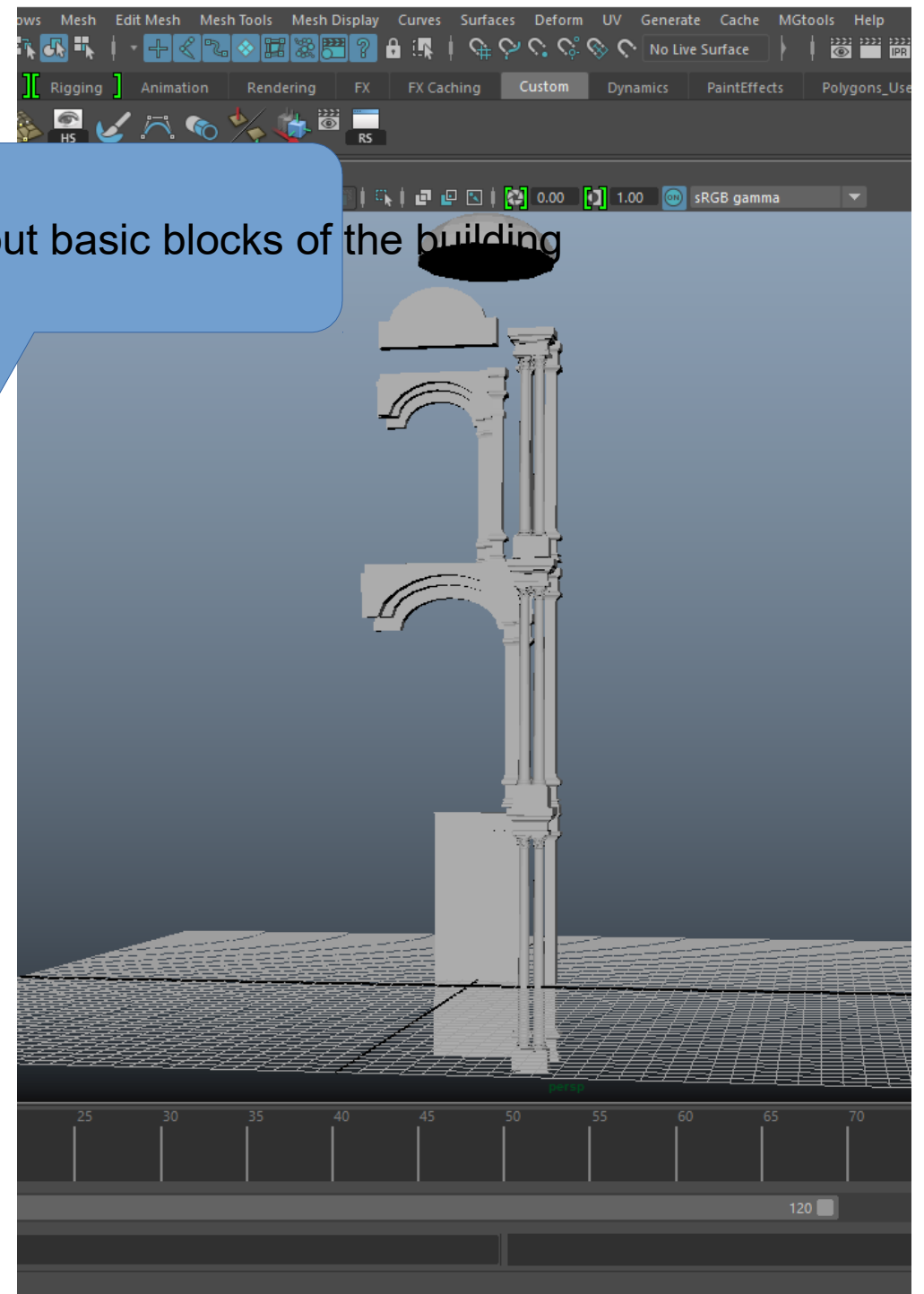


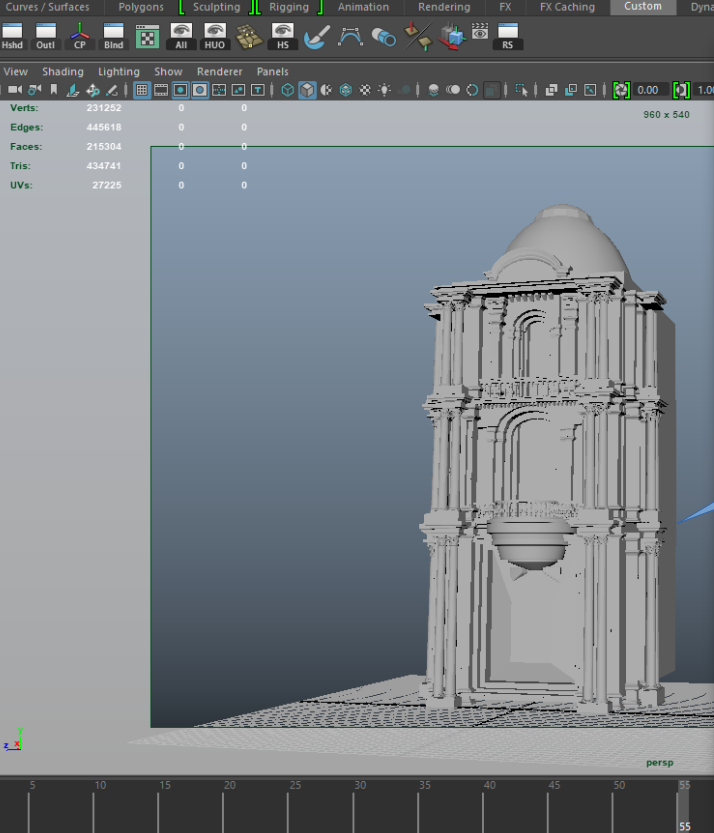
s\Final project\Scenes\buildings1\Balcony1.ma*



Laying out basic blocks of the building

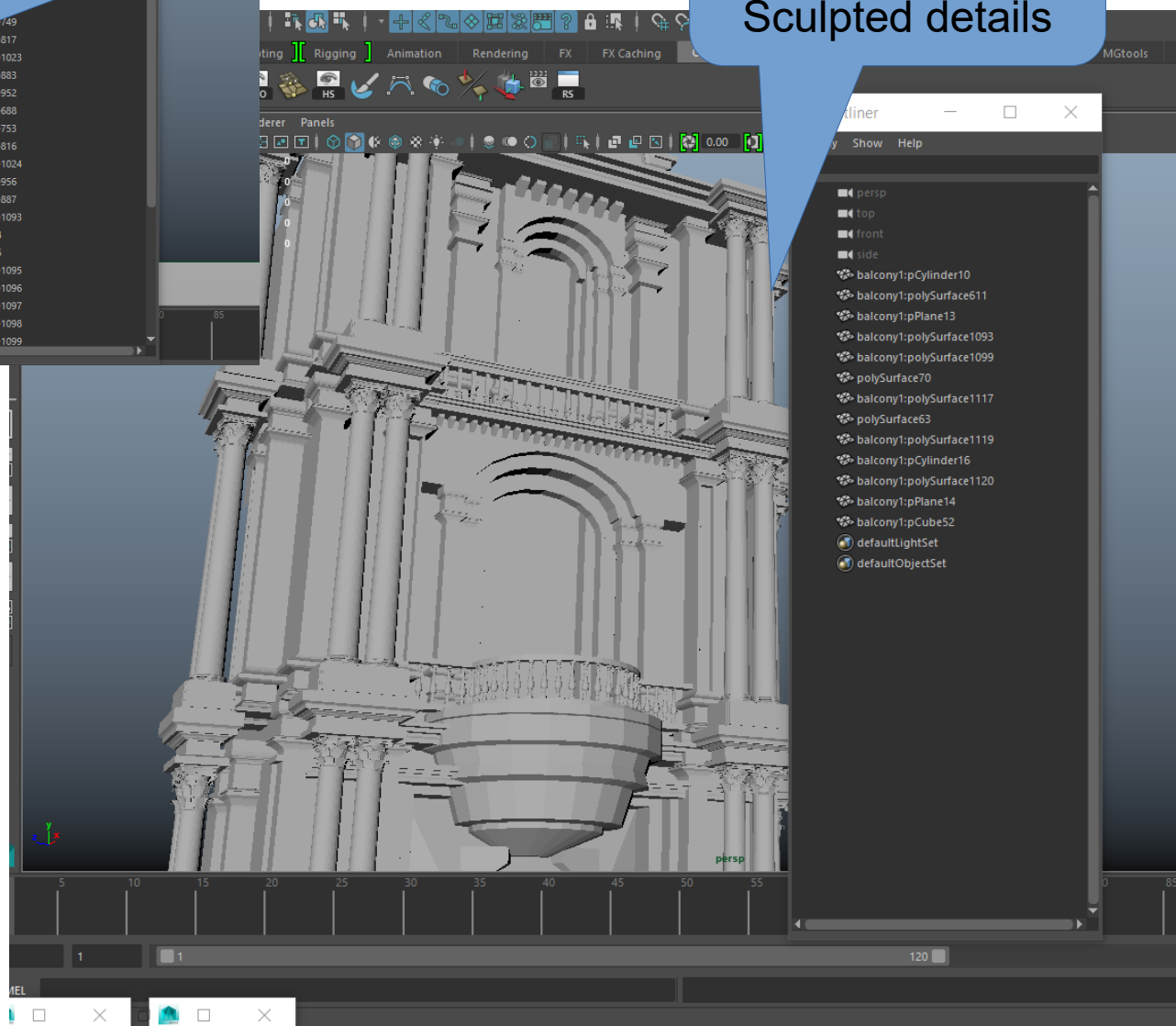
ject\Scenes\buildings1\Balcony1.0003.ma*





Duplicated blocks and mirrored the building to achieve symmetry

Main areas
That will host
Sculpted details

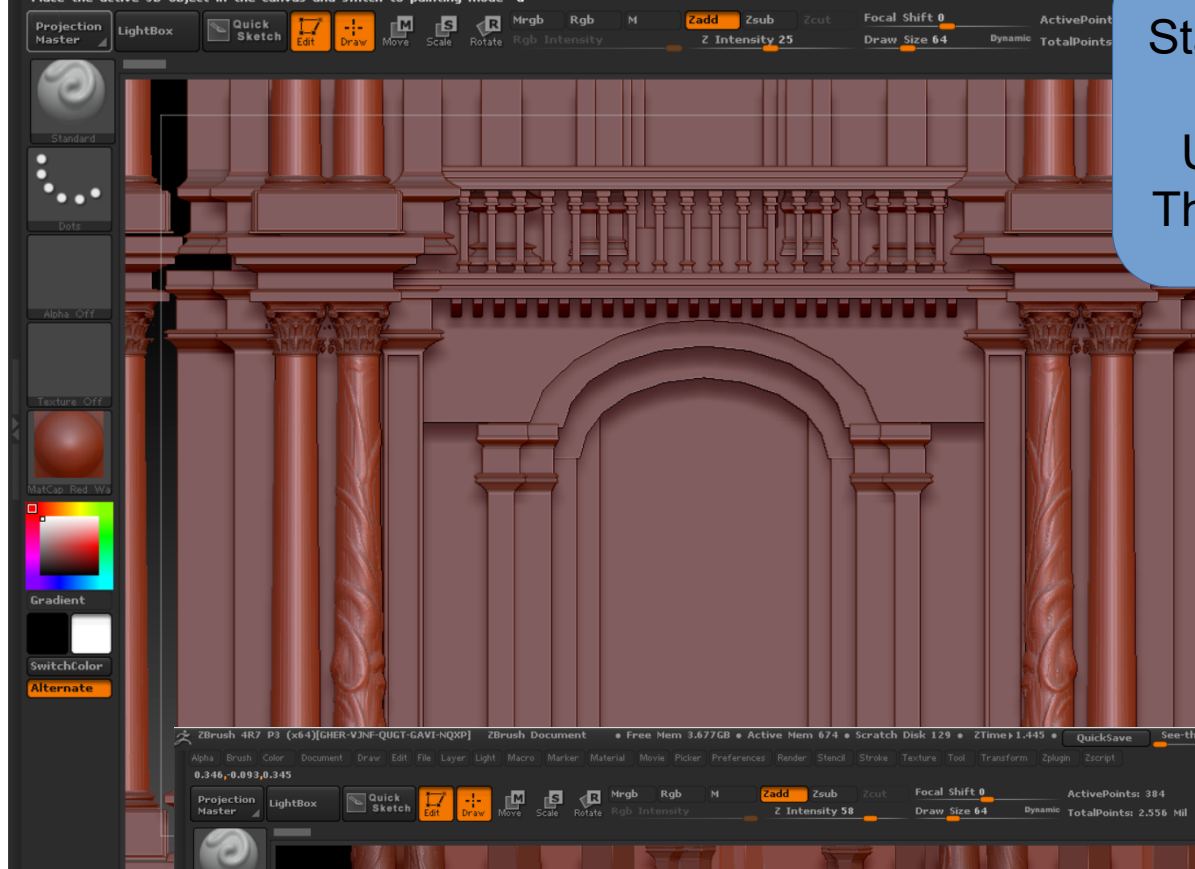


Notes on progress

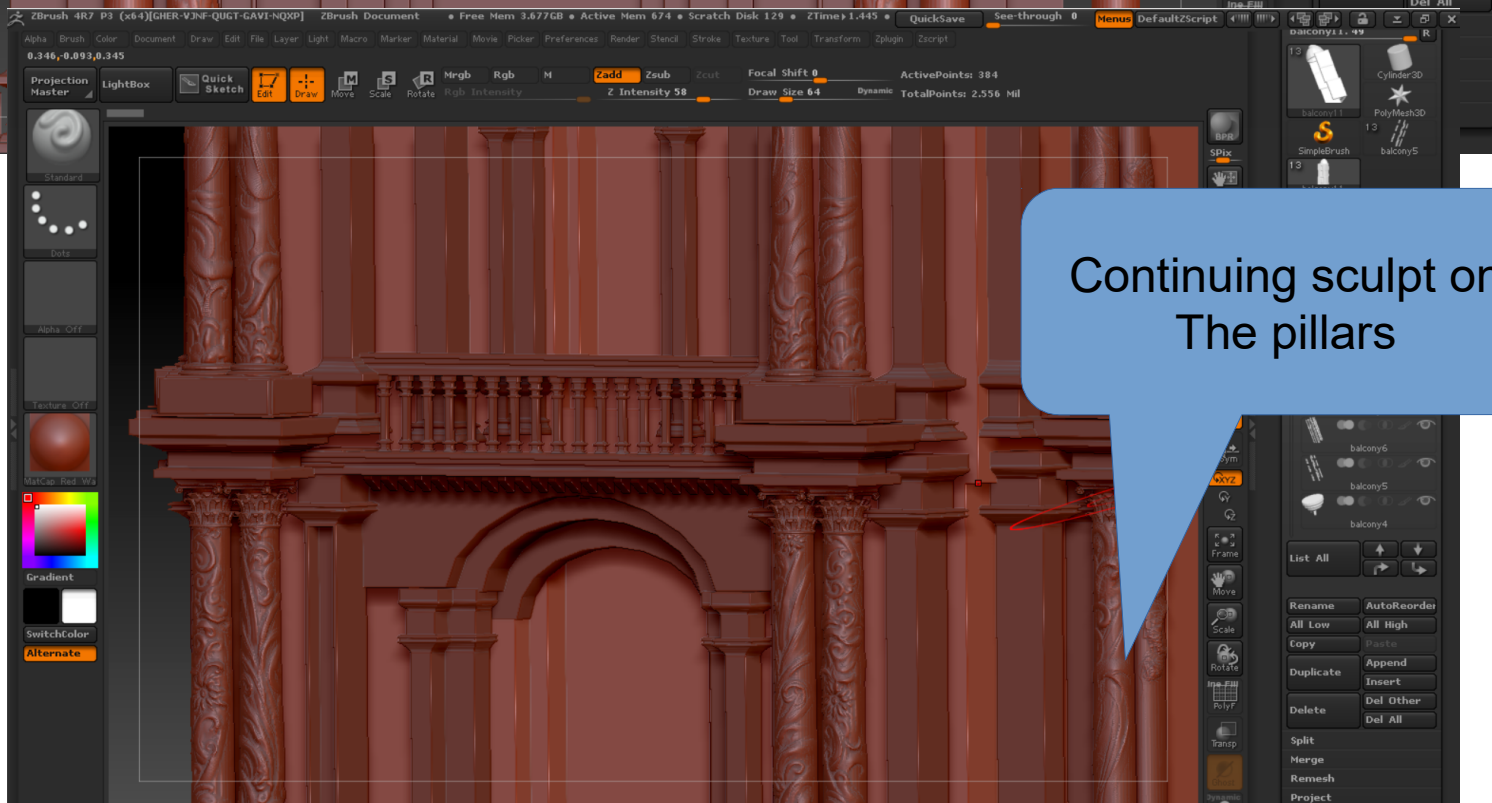
- Building came out with satisfying my results
- Didn't stick to references fully after i had a good base thing done
- Really enjoyed sculpting things on the building but the scene itself looks empty and blank
- Sculpt ended up being a mix of several styles of decorations but the combined idea looks good enough

Using reference

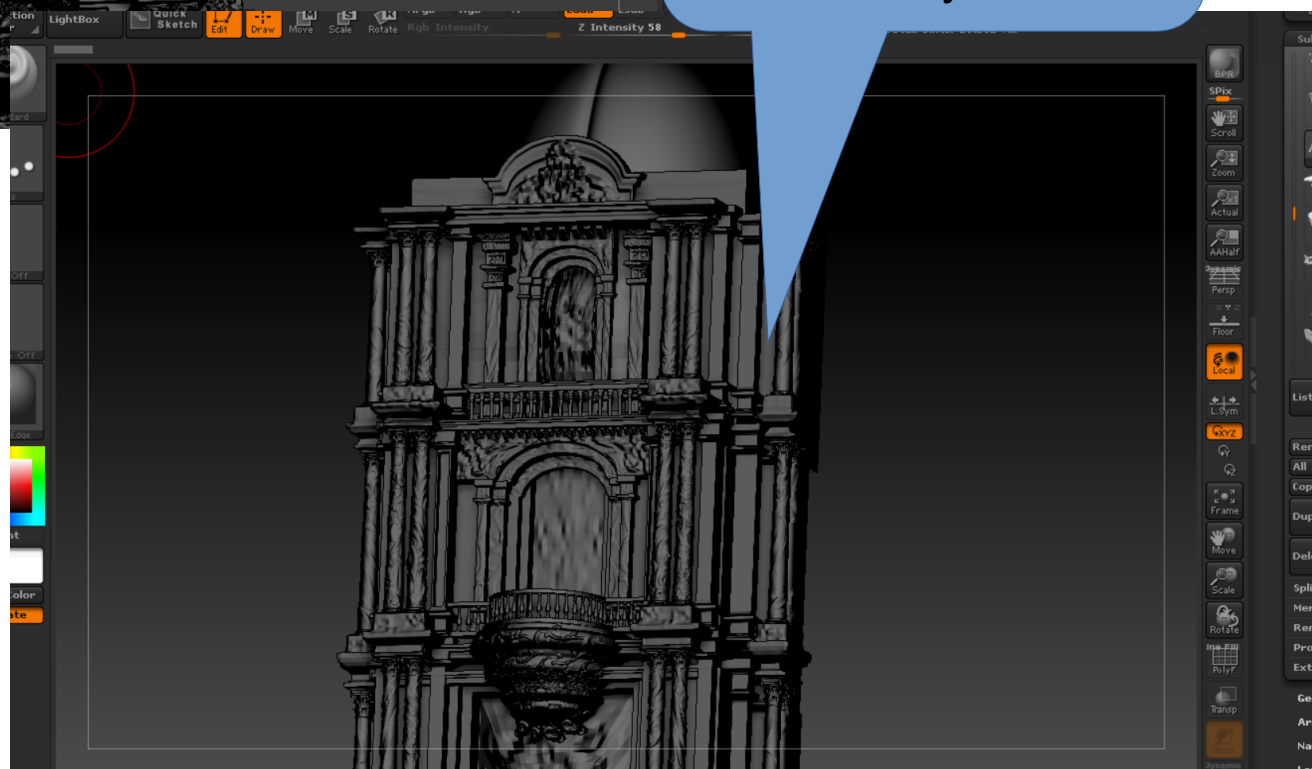
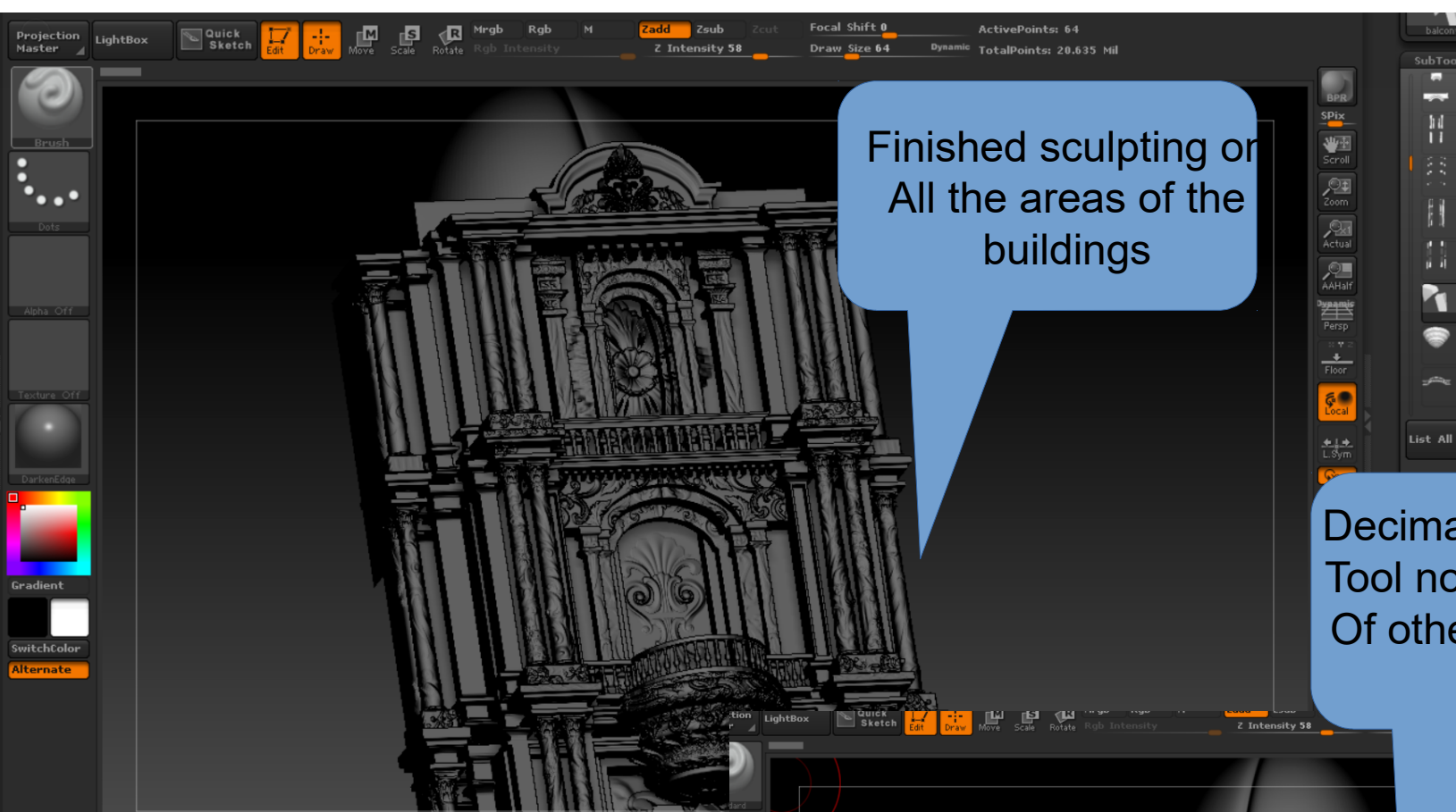
- Had to rely on the references heavily to get the shape and design of the building itself and things like railings etc.
- Used the reference images to get a good idea about what kind of sculpting details i should go for
- Different areas of the building took inspiration from different images
- But after the base was sculpted i moved away from the references and let the sculpted ideas develop themselves
- This seemed to be a good workflow for the decorations

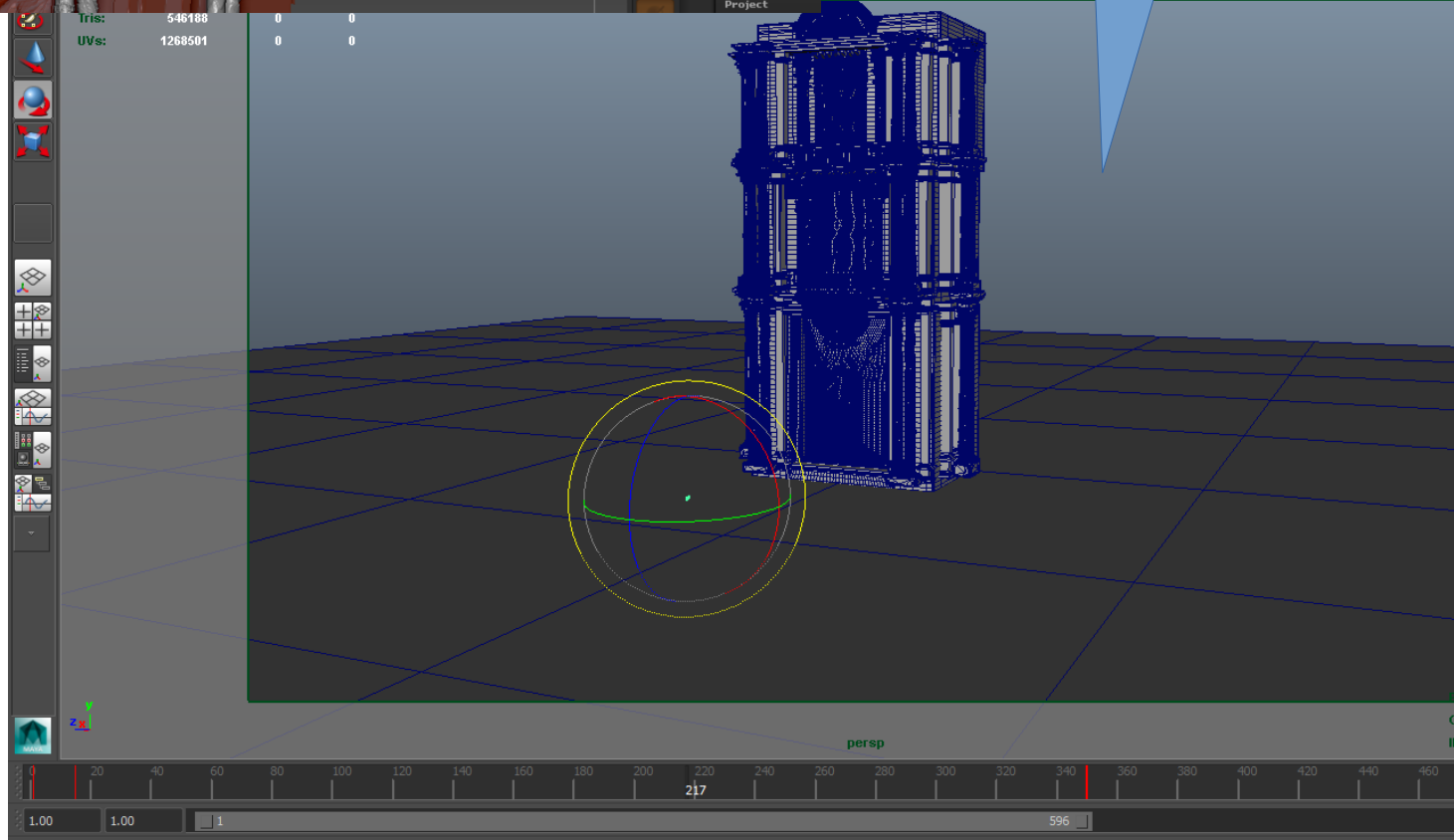
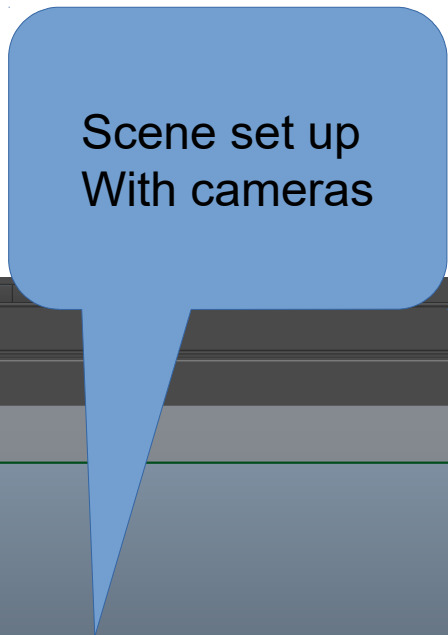
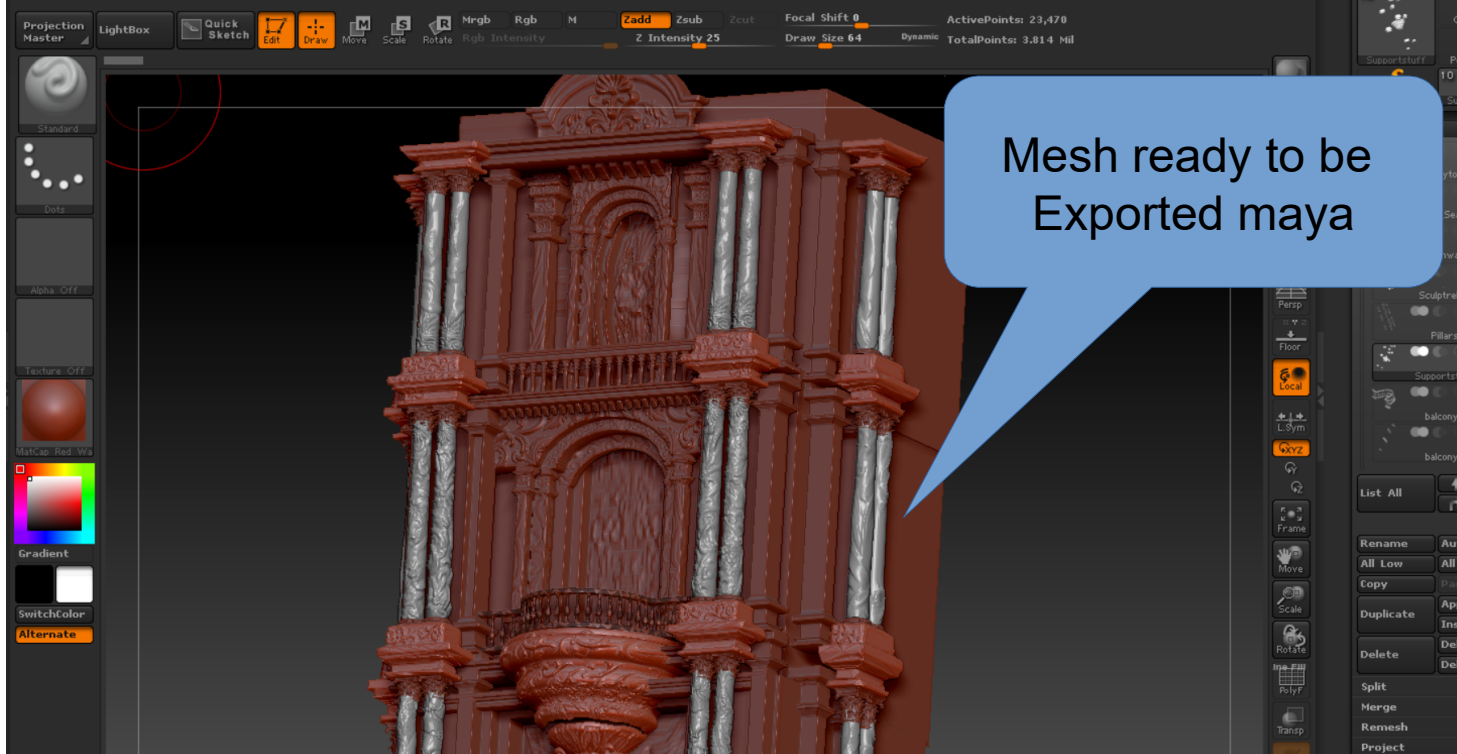


Starting the sculpt on the
Pillars
Using dynames to get
The resolution on sculpt



Continuing sculpt on
The pillars





Concept, existing inspiration additional reference

- Need a nice cinematic that can be come back to
- Need a very detailed and engaging building with lots of opportunities for visual details
-

Modeling

- Started by modeling a base in maya according to few references
- I knew i was going to sculpt it in zbrush so made only the necessary detail that would be difficult to do in zbrush
- I wanted a symmetrical structure so modeled only half the piece
- In zbrush started using dynamesh to create sculpture details
- This took a long while and lots of trial and error so saved many iterations
- Added some detail using custom alphas as well
- When it was ready decimated took some map outputs and brought it back into maya

Unwrap

- The building had large objects which seemed difficult to unwrap manually
- So i used zbrush to unwrap everything
- This gave okay results but it wasnt perfect
- The objects for which i wasnt taking a normal map output, were uv corrected in maya itself to make them more usable

Texturing

- Simple marble look was used for most elements
- Some dirt and dust was added in some areas to get a good look
- Other than that the objects themselves were bringing the richness with the damages and sculpted elements of them

Camera angles

- I used simple cameras for this scene with some transitions so that i could connect it to other scenes
- The camera was kept simple enough so that it didnt distract for the theme of the objects themselves
- Some noise and movement was added to make it look more interesting

Setting up materials

- Simple mia materials were good enough to use to get a good look and feel for the building itself
- The appropriate maps had to be imported so that the specular reflection, normals etc could be achieved to get a good result

A depth pass along with occlusion was taken to get a good render output for the scene

Major problems faced

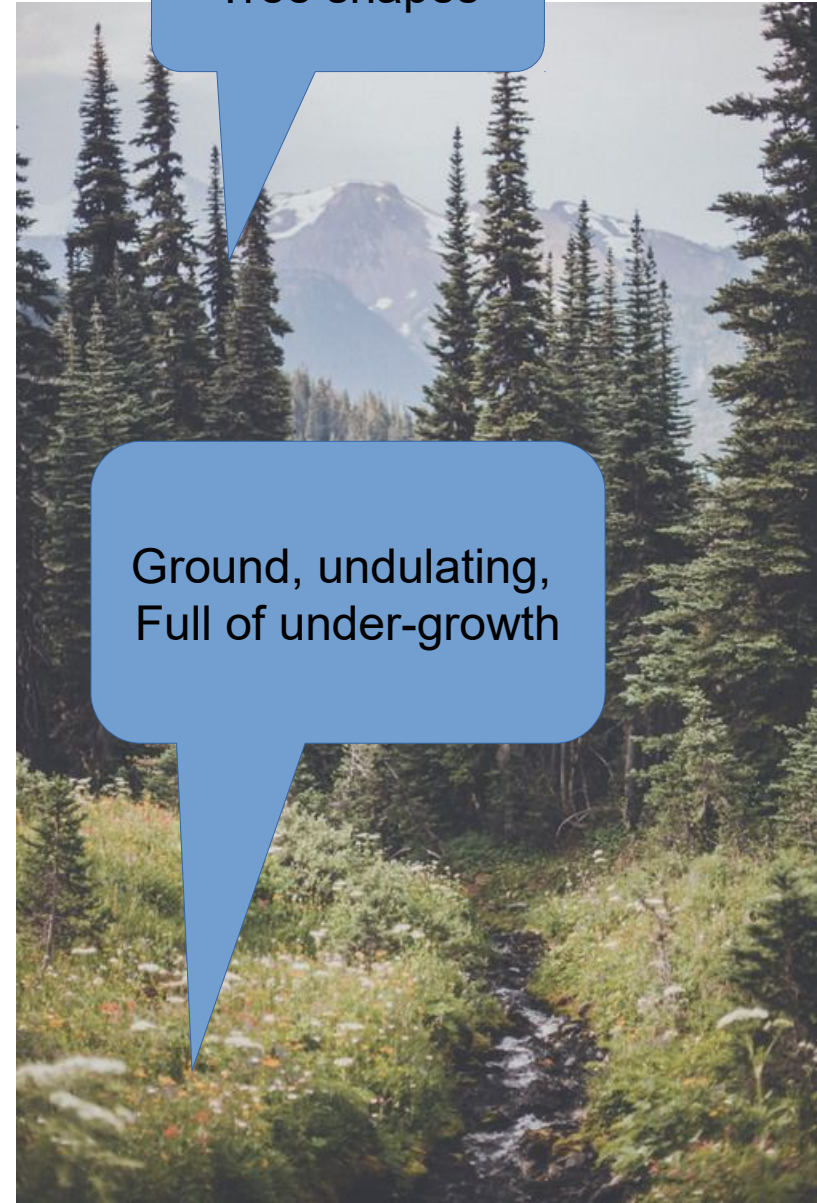
- The only big problem in this scene was decimation
- Some areas were to be decimated whereas other areas could not be
- So i had to mix decimation with normal maps which made the model a little complicated
- Other than that the inherent emptiness of the scene was a difficult to overcome
- For this i set up camera angles so that the building itself could feel the frame

Forest



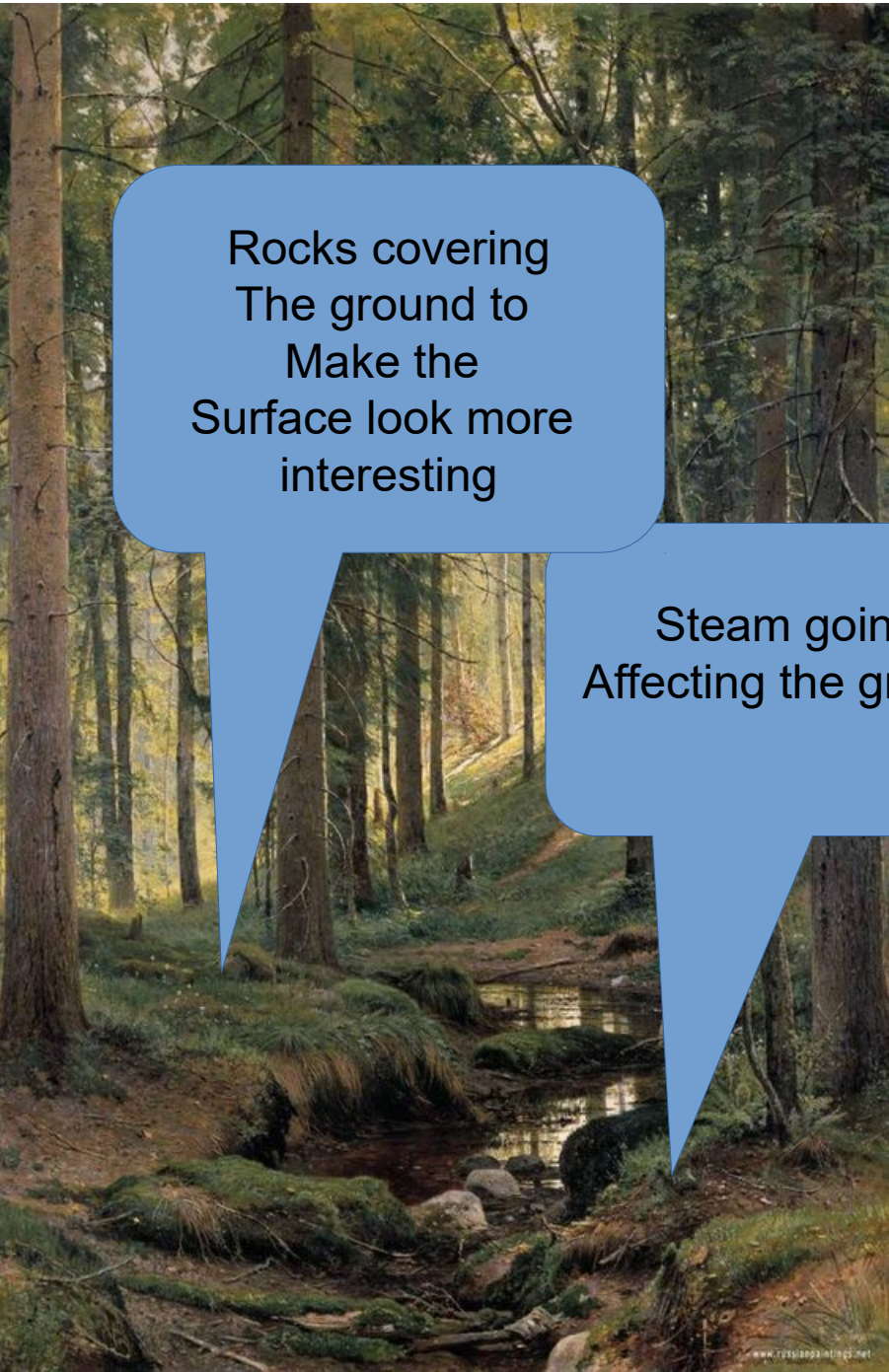
Reference for forest scene

Bark texture

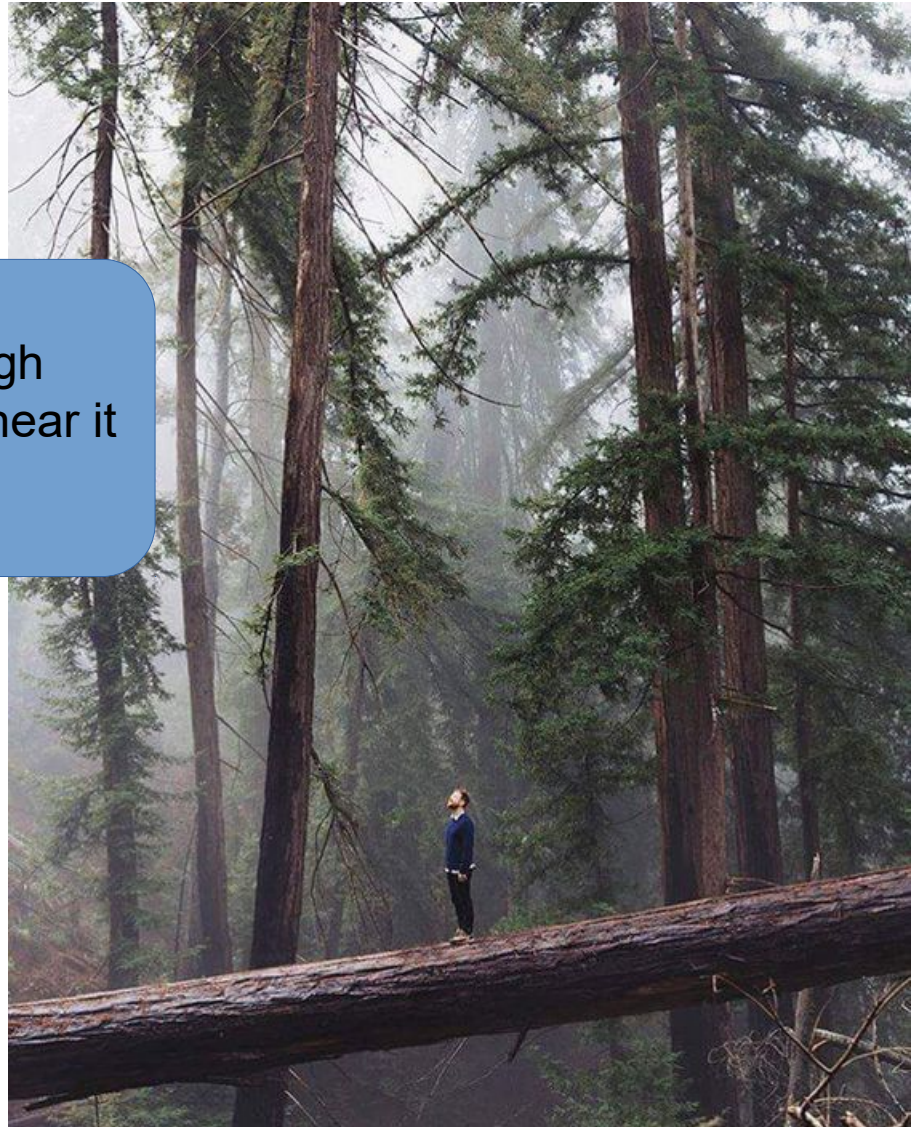


Tree shapes

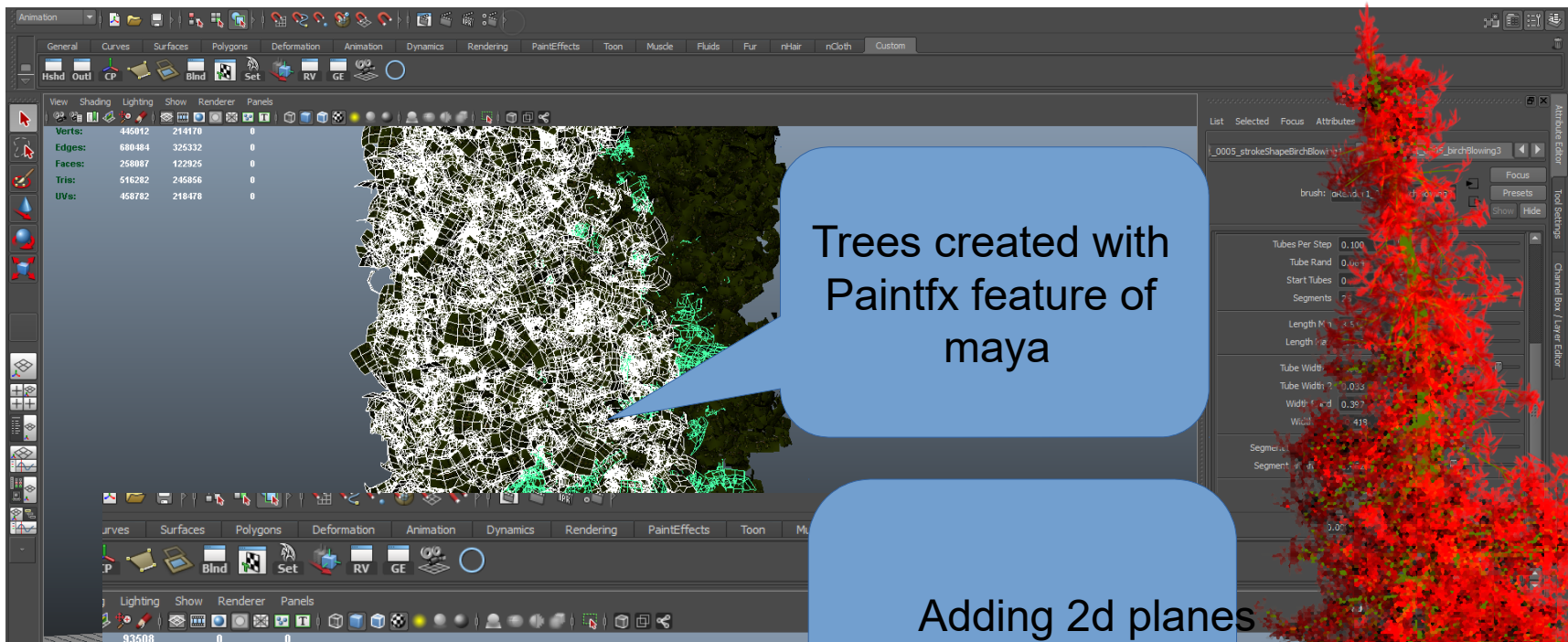
Ground, undulating,
Full of under-growth



Rocks covering
The ground to
Make the
Surface look more
interesting



Steam going though
Affecting the ground near it



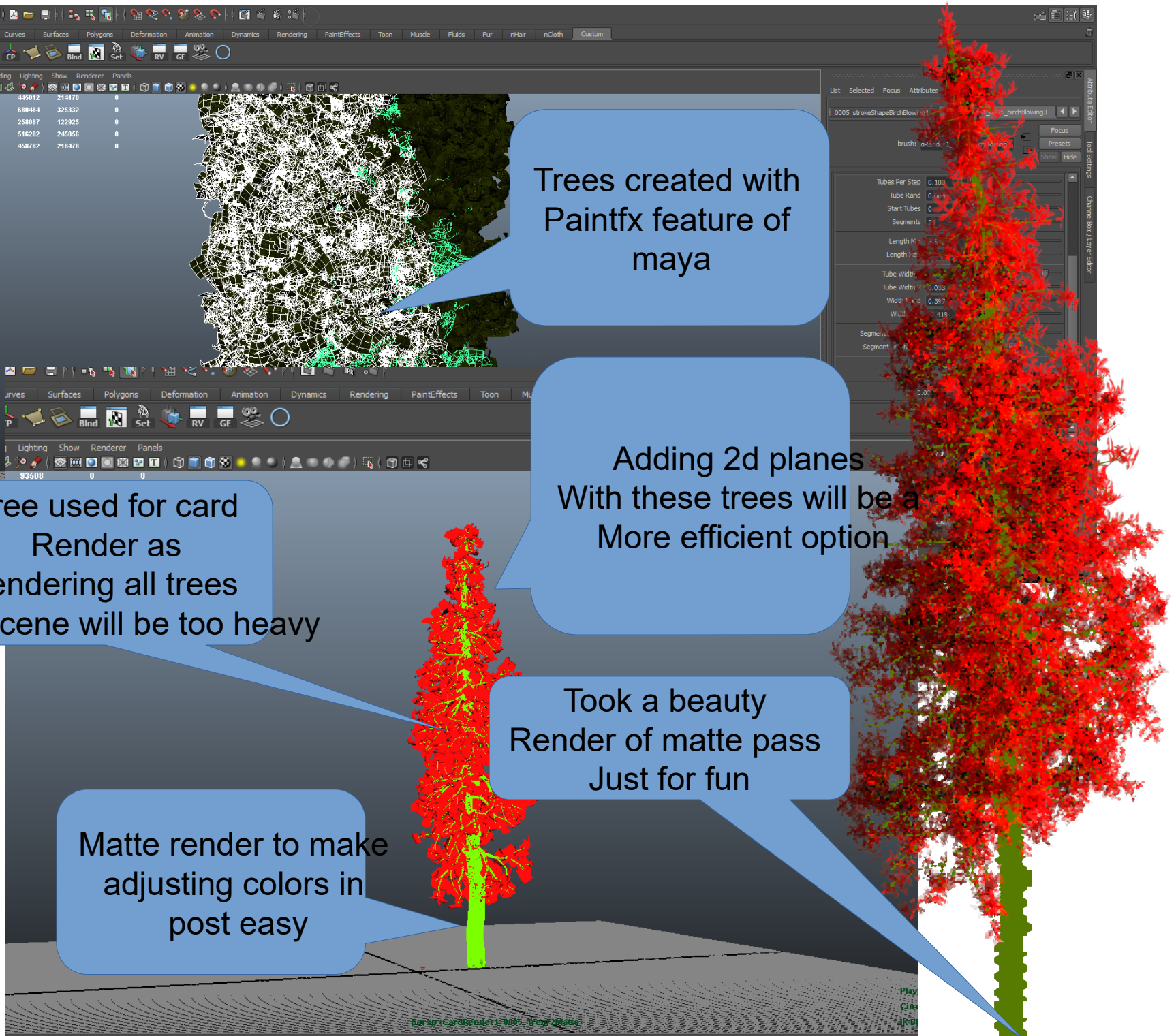
Trees created with
Paintfx feature of
maya

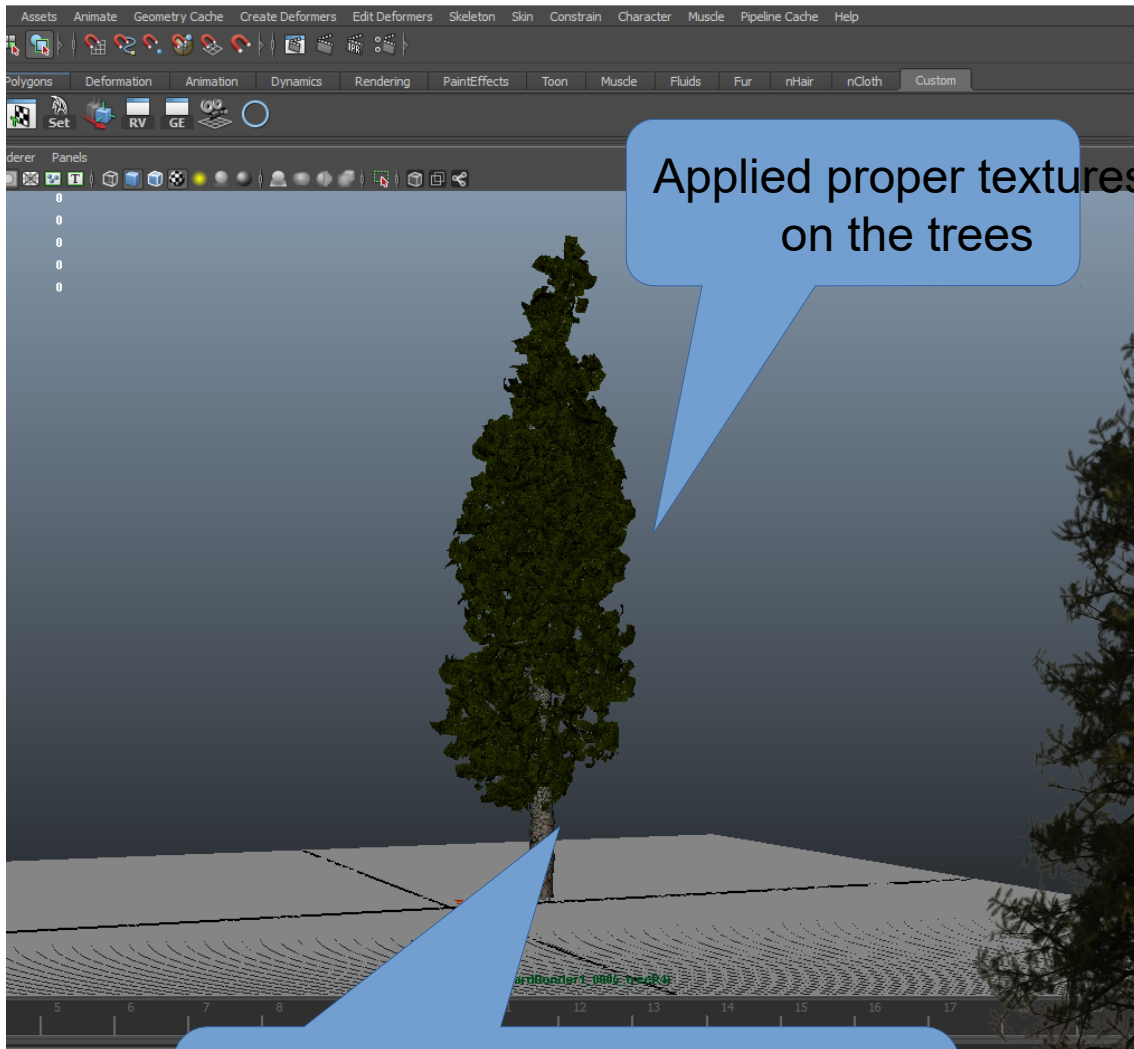
Adding 2d planes
With these trees will be a
More efficient option

Tree used for card
Render as
Rendering all trees
In the scene will be too heavy

Took a beauty
Render of matte pass
Just for fun

Matte render to make
adjusting colors in
post easy

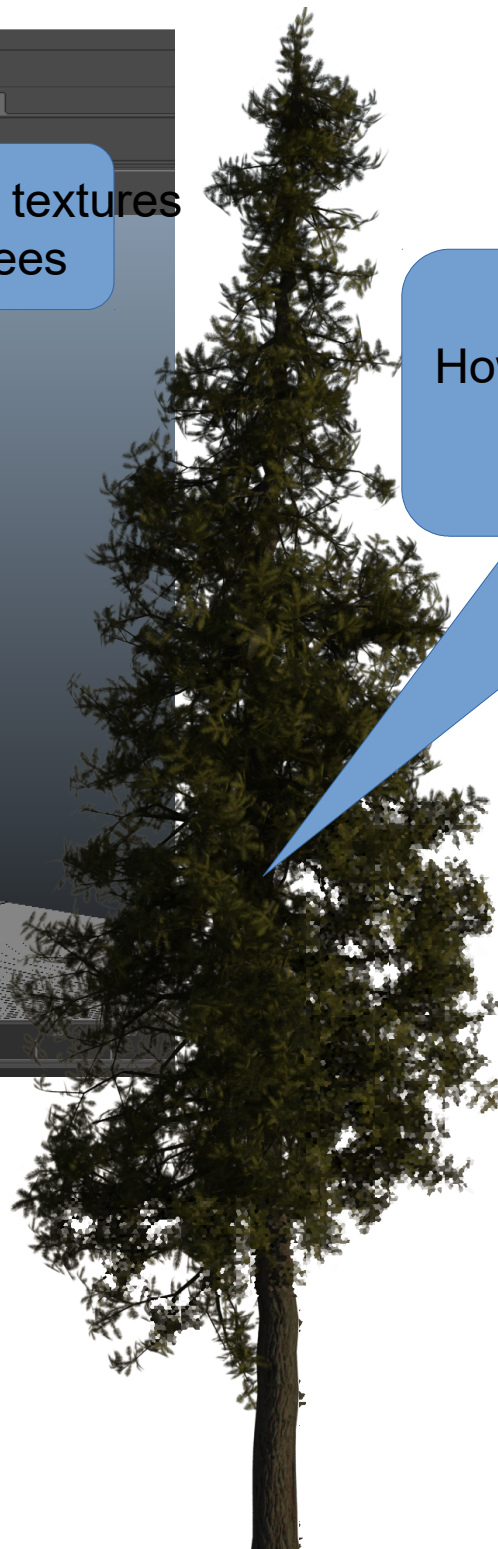


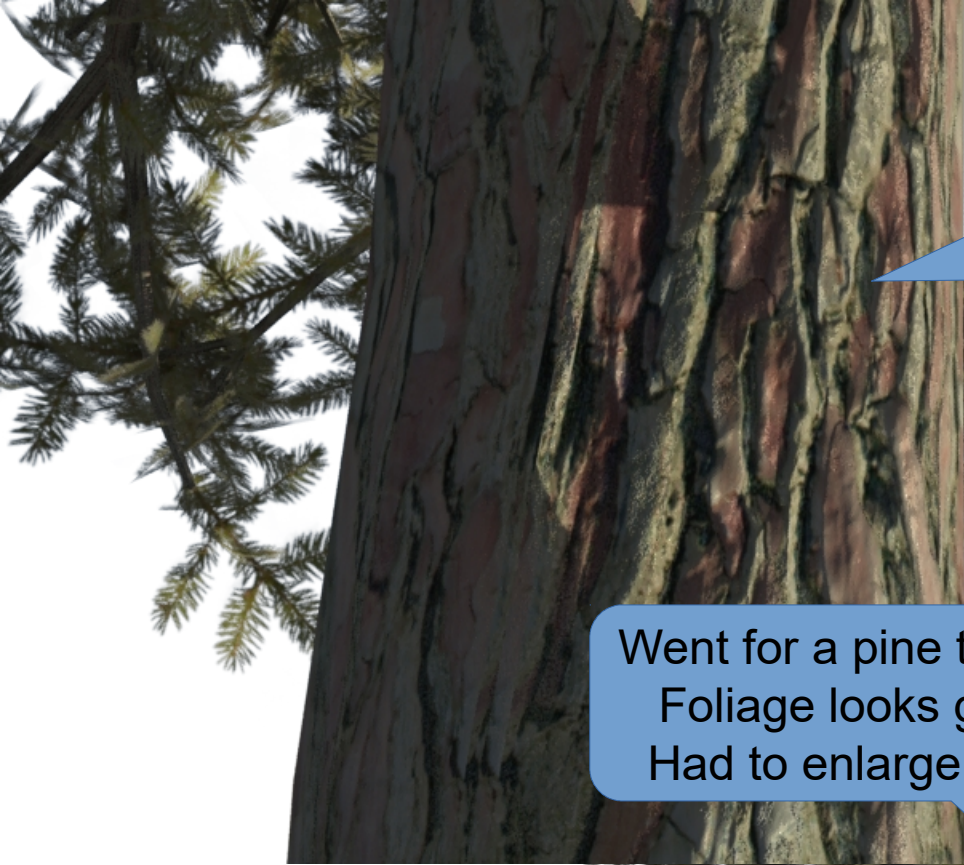


Applied proper textures
on the trees

Trees have wind animation built in
This will save a lot of time and
effort

How the tree will look like when
rendered





Close up of tree trunk
Trying to get the right textures
Chose to go for something close
to the references and some colour for
interest

Went for a pine tree leaf texture
Foliage looks good enough
Had to enlarge the leaf size



Notes on progress

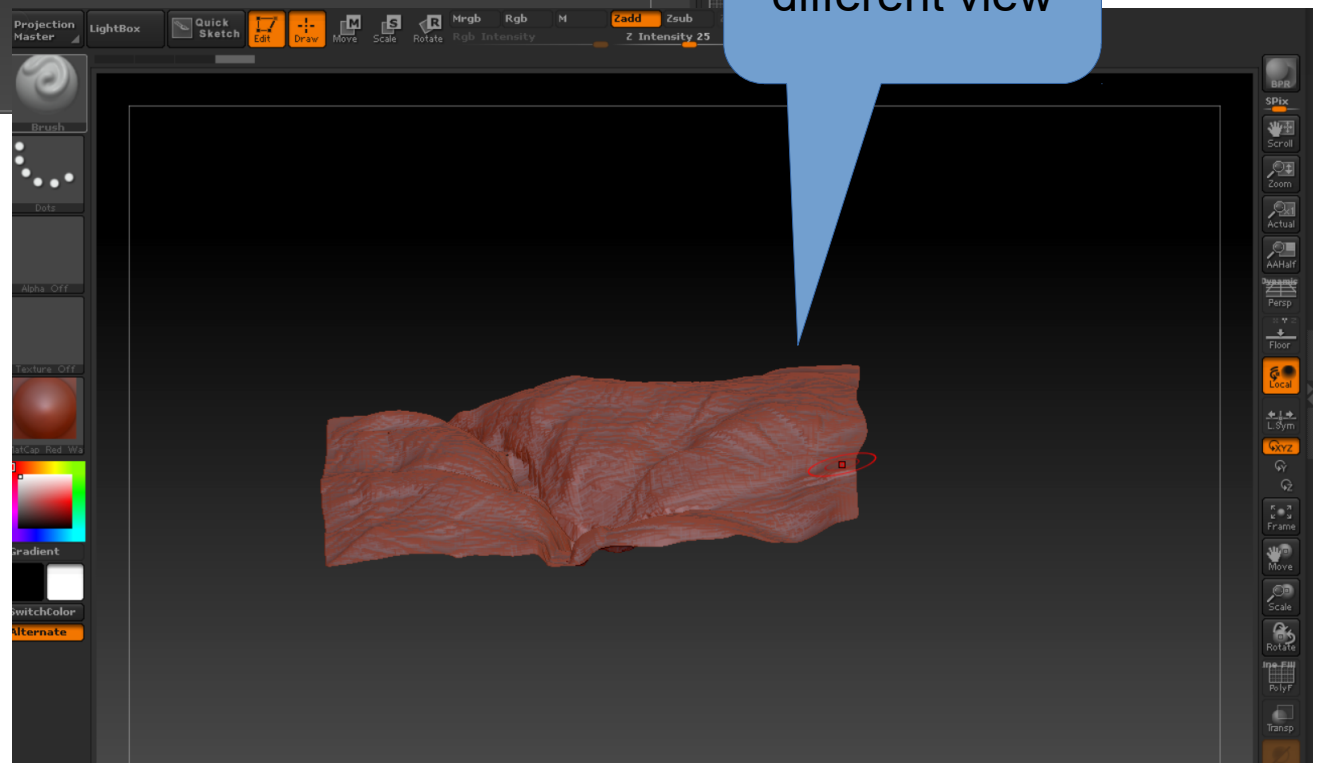
- To get the trees to look right was a tough job
- Getting the right textures in
- The lighting was set to complement the trees as much as possible
- Trying to get a good amount of foliage to get as much interest as possible but cant risk the trees looking weird

Using reference

- Needed to constantly refer to the images of pine trees to make sure the shapes of trees are good and in line
- Also needed to find the correct textures for the leaves as well as the bark
- Used the textures to match the undulating terrain of the forest floor
- As the ideas were mostly organic i had a lot of creative freedom with the tools and especially terrain sculpt

Starting terrain sculpt
Based on the reference
Chose to add a stream going
Through to add more interest

Terrain from a
different view



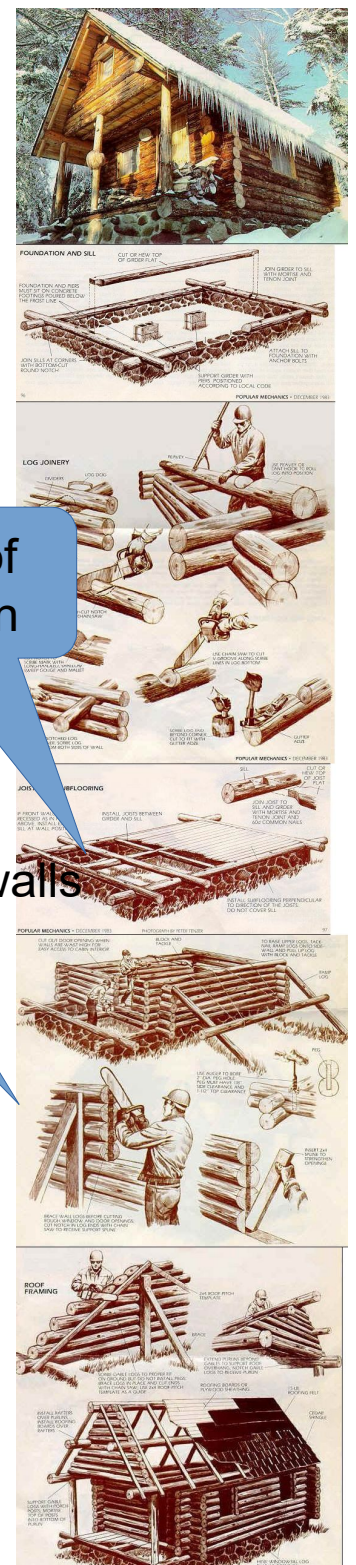
Reference for wood cabbinn

Material, wood
Bright light

Structure of
The cabbinn

Designs on walls

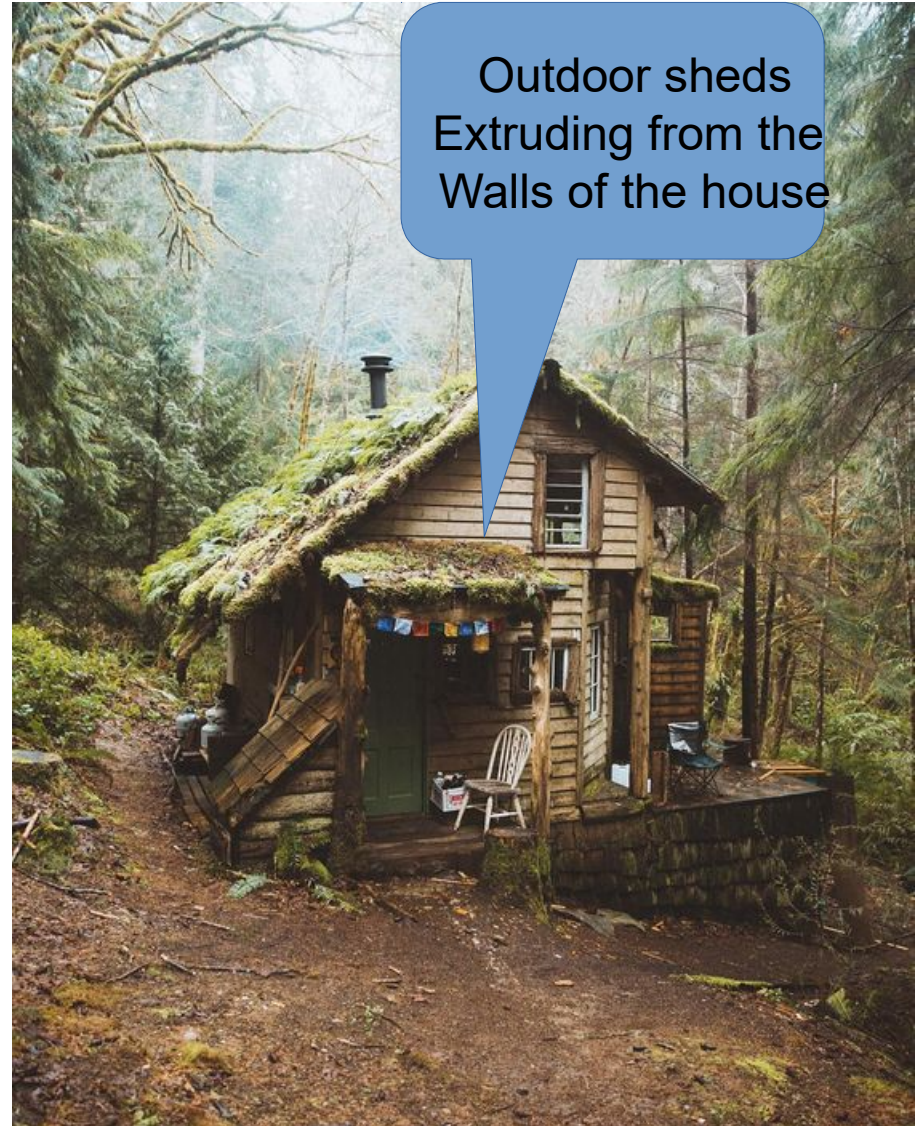
shape



Structure of the roof
Chimney with smoke



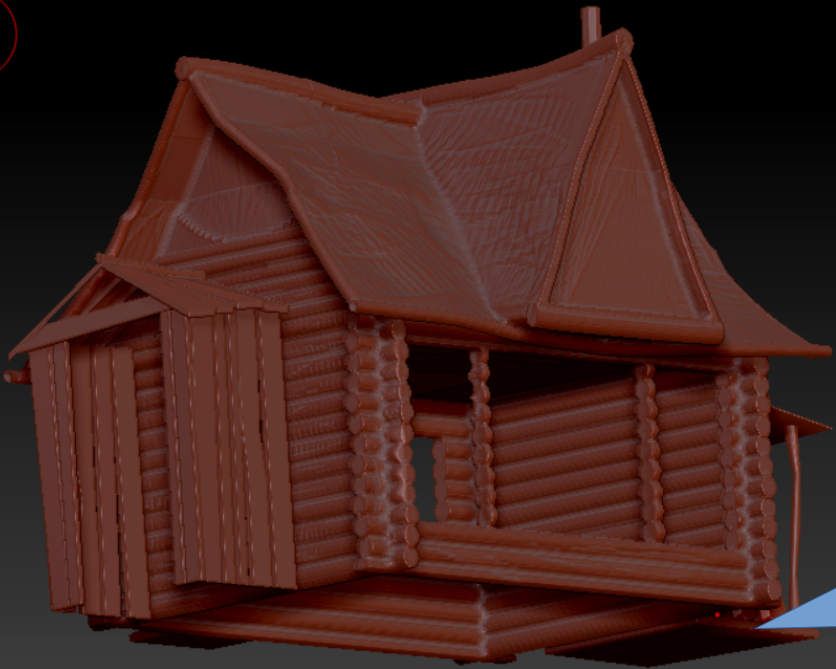
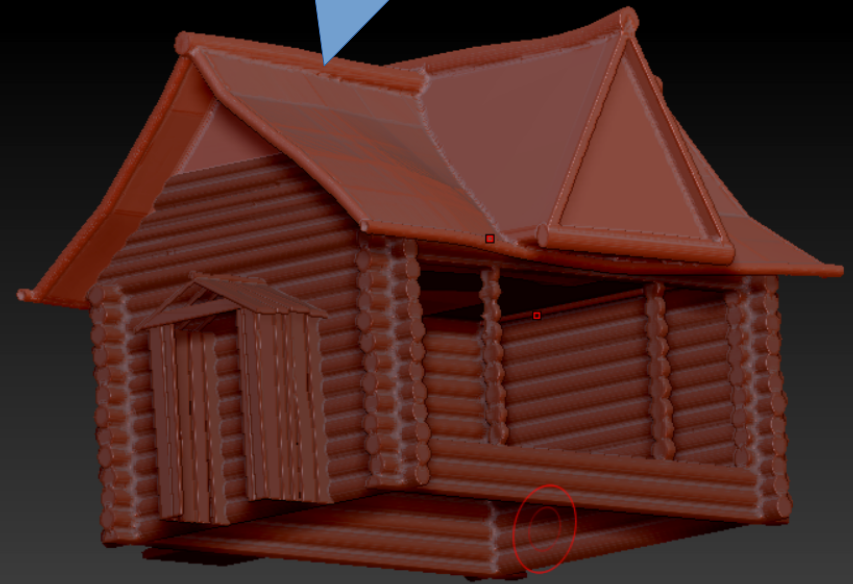
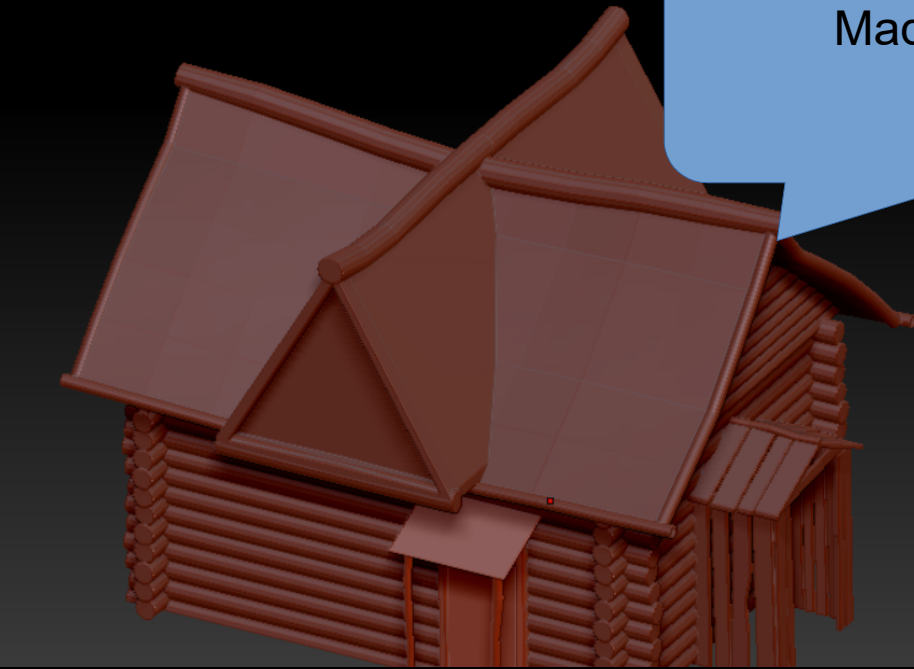
Outdoor sheds
Extruding from the
Walls of the house

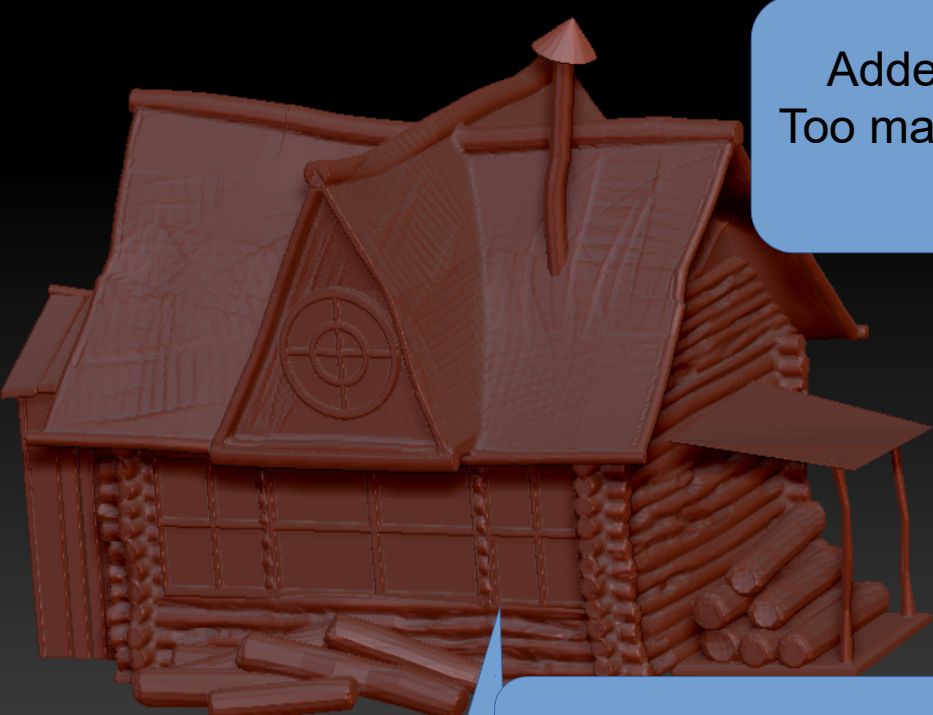


Base model from maya
Made with planes
Cylinders
Cubes etc

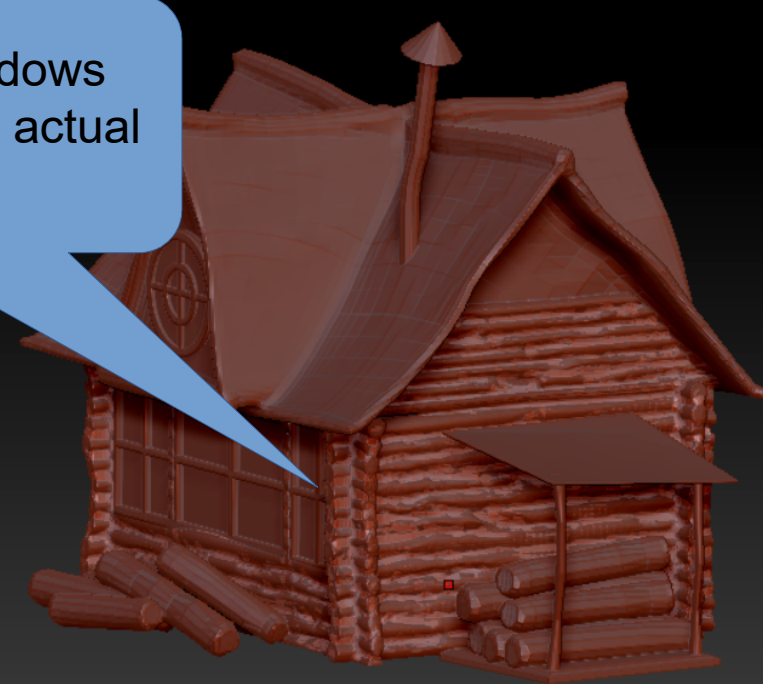
Following structure and form based
On the references

Sculpting more details
On walls added a chimney
Sculpted more organic forms
Based on references

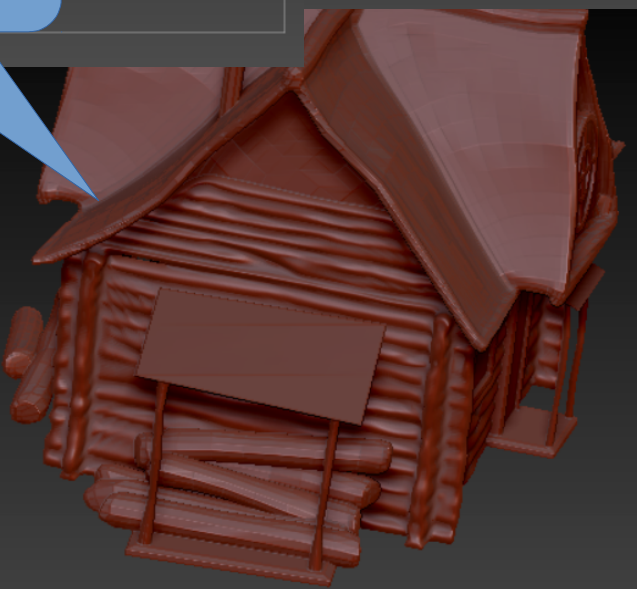




Added logs and windows
Too make it look like a actual
Wood cabin



Damaging the walls
Deforming the roof



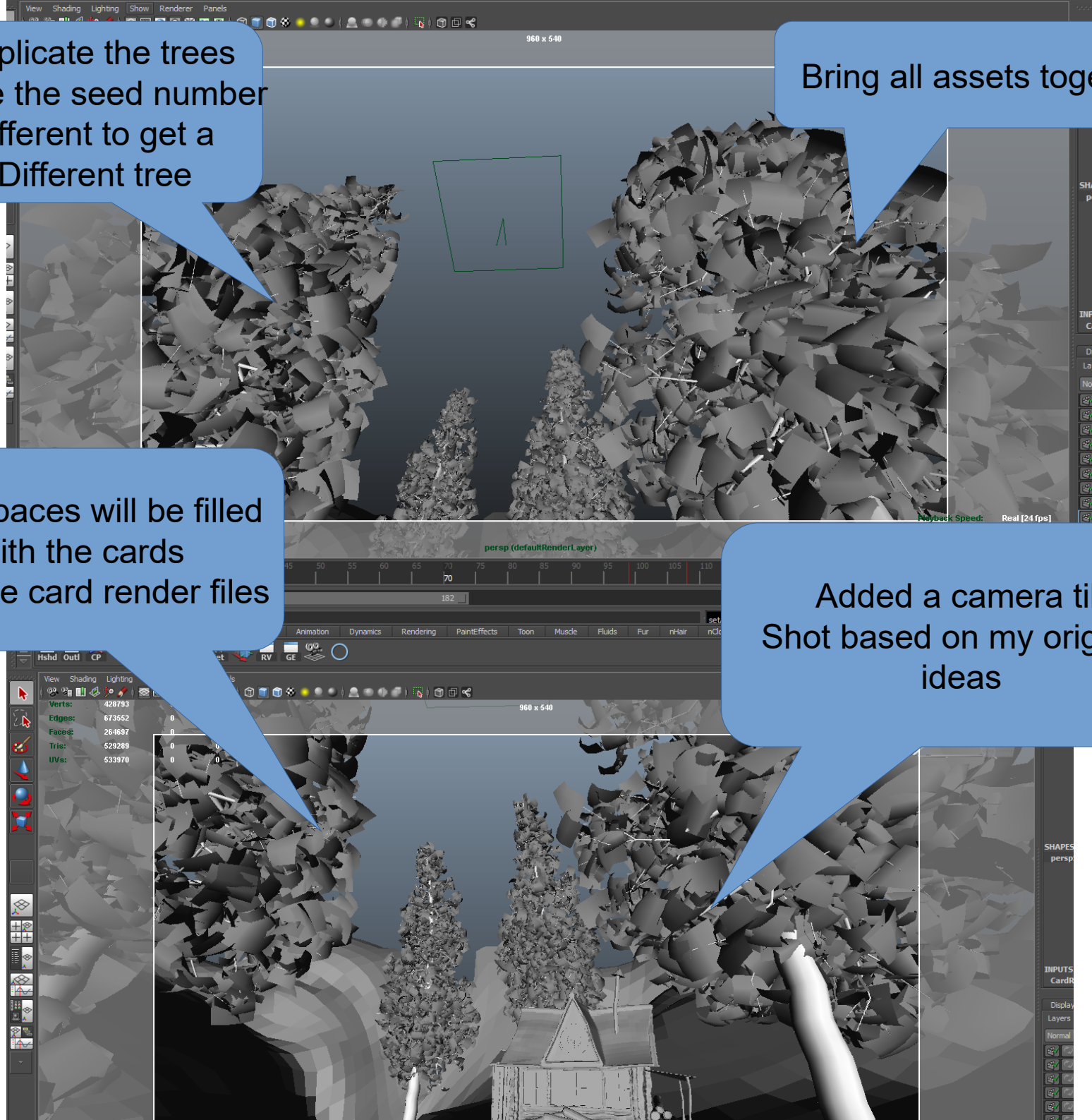
Added more details
Some damages
Deformations
Bent the chimney slightly

Duplicate the trees
Make the seed number
Different to get a
Different tree

Bring all assets together

Blank spaces will be filled
With the cards
From the card render files

Added a camera tilt
Shot based on my original
ideas



Concept, existing inspiration additional reference

- The forest will go through time
- The lighting will change
- Its needs to be a suspenseful scene
- With the cabin seen at the very end
- But i should also cut in and away a few times
- The trees will be very important the jungle should look dense enough

Modeling

- The trees i made with paintfx feature in maya as it had built in animation and produces good trees
- I had to learn this workflow which took a bit of time
- Then i had the trees
- I had to make some separate trees to get card renders that could be used to fill up the scene

- For the ground i used zbrush to sculpt out the terrain this was easy enough
- In the distance i set up the hilly relief so that the horizon would be hidden
- Other than that i created a flat-ish area to put the cabin in and a ditch for a river or a stream
-

- For the cabin i used the standard workflow that included zbrush
- After the base was done in maya i brought it into zbrush to sculpt decimate and do uvs for some of the items
- I included many wooden blocks logs to make it look like a wood cutters cabin
- Added windows chimneys etc

Unwrap

- The cabin was unwrapped in zbrush because of the decimation
- Other than that the ground was a simple sculpted plain so the unwrap was simple enough
- And painfx output was already unwrapped by default

Texturing

- The ground was textured by mixing many textures
- The cabin was simple a wooden structure with gamages moss etc
- And trees had just a bark texture and leaves
- This was enough to texture the entire scene

Camera angles

- Based on my concept work i set up cameras
- Most of them very stable with not too much movement so that the essence of the scene could be captured without distractions
- The camera started with looking at the canopy then suddenly lands on the cabin
- Other shots were held at the cabin with with simple movements

Setting up materials

- Mia materials were used to shade the scene with appropriate maps to get the accurate look

Several card renders of the trees were taken to fill up the forest with matte and beauty passes

For the main scene itself an occlusion pass depth pass and beauty pass was taken

Major problems faced

- Getting a good tree out of paintfx needed a lot of manipulation of settings,
- This took a very long time but with trial and error it became easier
- Then i had to figure out how to convert that to mesh and set up textures and materials
- I also had to take card renders which was a completely new thing for me
- The cabin was sculpted easily but doing the clean up on it was a big headache and took a lot of trial and error
- The correct faces needed to be deleted, this was difficult in zbrush so i brought it into maya and did it

Blocking out camera angles

- At the end of this process i had many good shots per scene
- I wanted to use this time to block out the perfect combination of these shots to construct my film
- I made many sketches and came up with different iterations to shape this up
- I used my pre viz shot flow as a guide also but many things needed to be changed up too

Creating the proper sequences and flow from scene to scene

- It was important for things to flow properly
- Proper shots needed to cut in some of the shots needed to transition using camera movements
- Other needed different treatment
- All the sketches helped me to set this up for render

Play blasts

- Compiled a collection of play blasts of all the shots to give form to the entire video shot by shot
- After all the main shots were decided and drawn out chain of continuity was established based on which these playblasts were arranged

Editing unwanted shots

- Many unwanted shots that felt out of place needed to be edited
- The play blasts helped at this point to tell which shots were working and which were not working at all

Test renders

- Several test renders were taken as still frames to test what would the final output look like and to test the materials and textures,
- This let me to finalize the files and ready them up to be sent for rendering

Tweaks

- Many tweaks had to be made to the camera movements
- Lighting , textures etc had to be fine tuned to get the proper look and feel

Big decisions on time and render

- Due to the time constrain all the shots could not be rendered so play blasts were taking using viewport2.0 for most of the shots
- The same shots were rendered multiple times to get matte passes that allowed some flexibility with post production
- Really unfortunate that i cant finish the project as i had imagined it but it is a necessary compromise
- Hoping the new direction will open up some special oppertunities

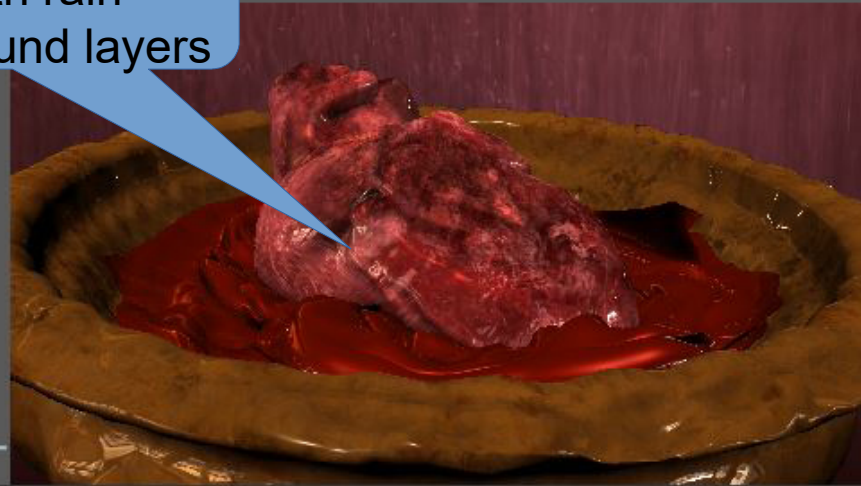
Post production in after effects

- For the rendered shots all the passes were brought into after-effects
- The mood and colours were tweaked to increase the interest
- Some masking will be involved to get the matte right for post background insertion

Stock images and footage for bg

- In many of the shots i used stock images and footage to add interest to the background
- For example in the heart shot i used a rain layer to fill in the background and support the 'narrative' of the shot, as the heart starts beating the rain starts falling
- In other places i used the bg of a city as an opportunity to add symbolic meaning, time modernity etc

Final comp of heart
Layer with rain
And background layers

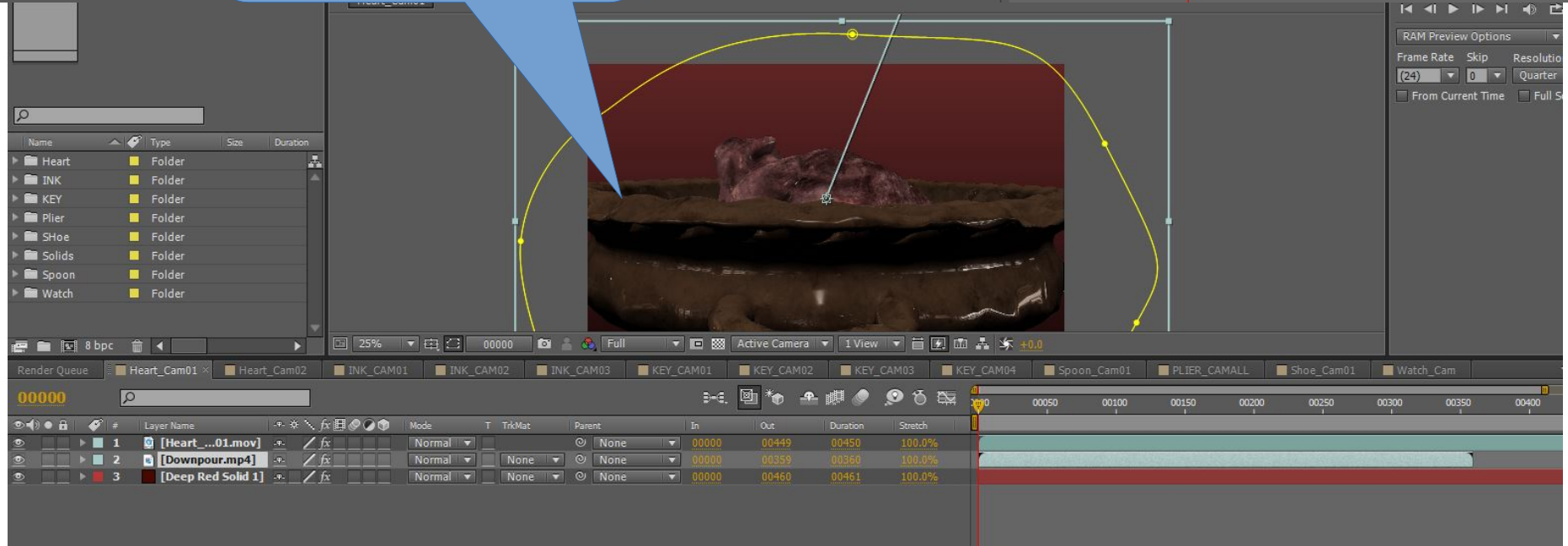
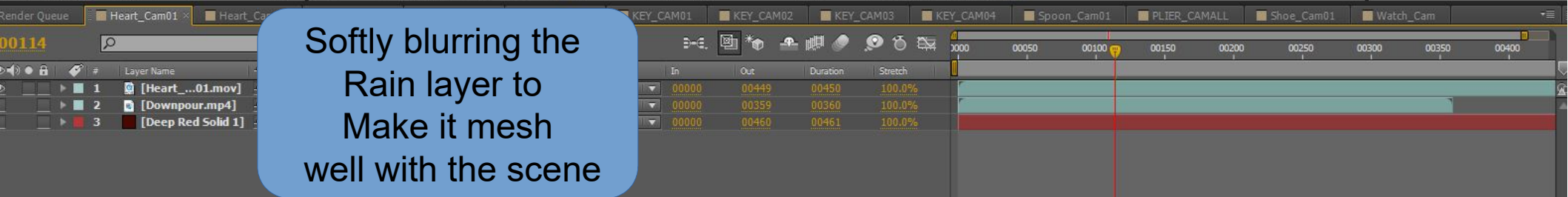
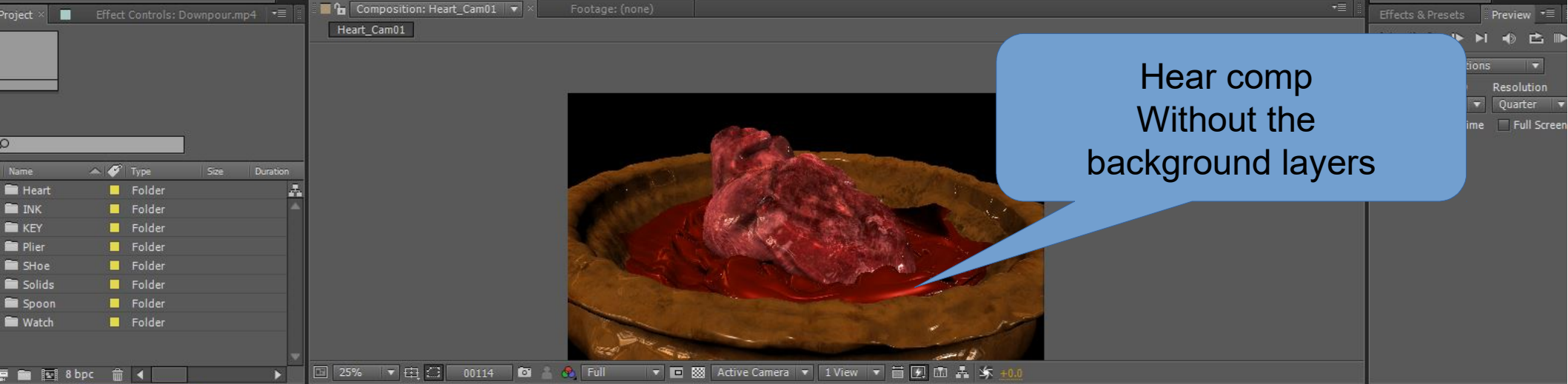


Main layer
Rain
Background

Type	Size	Duration
Folder		
Folder		
Folder		
Folder		
Folder		
Folder		
Folder		
Folder		

8 bpc
Heart_Cam01 x Heart_Cam02 INK_CAM01 INK_CAM02 INK_CAM03 KEY_CAM01 KEY_CAM02 KEY_CAM03 KEY_CAM04 Spoon_Cam01 PLIER_CAMALL

#	Layer Name	Mode	T	TrkMat	Parent	In	Out	Duration	Stretch
1	[Heart_...01.mov]	Normal			None	00000	00449	00450	100.0%
2	[Downpour.mp4]	Normal		None	None	00000	00359	00360	100.0%
3	[Deep Red Solid 1]	Normal		None	None	00000	00460	00461	100.0%



Added some stock
Footage to make the bg
look interesting

Comp variations



Close
up

bg

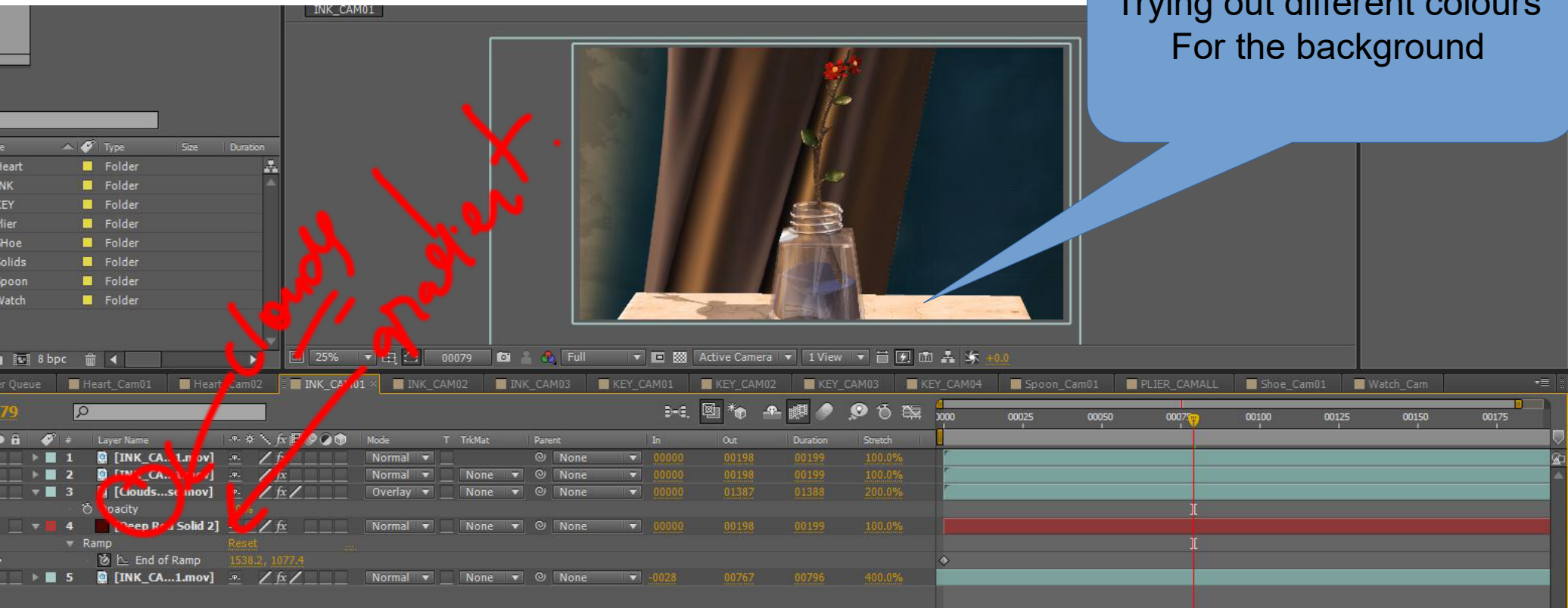
Main
Layer

8 bpc 5% 00079 Full Active Camera 1 View +0.0

Heart_Cam01 Heart_Cam02 INK_CAM01 INK_CAM02 INK_CAM03 KEY_CAM01 KEY_CAM02 KEY_CAM03 KEY_CAM04 Spoon_Cam01 PLIER_CAMALL Shoe_Cam01 Watch_Cam

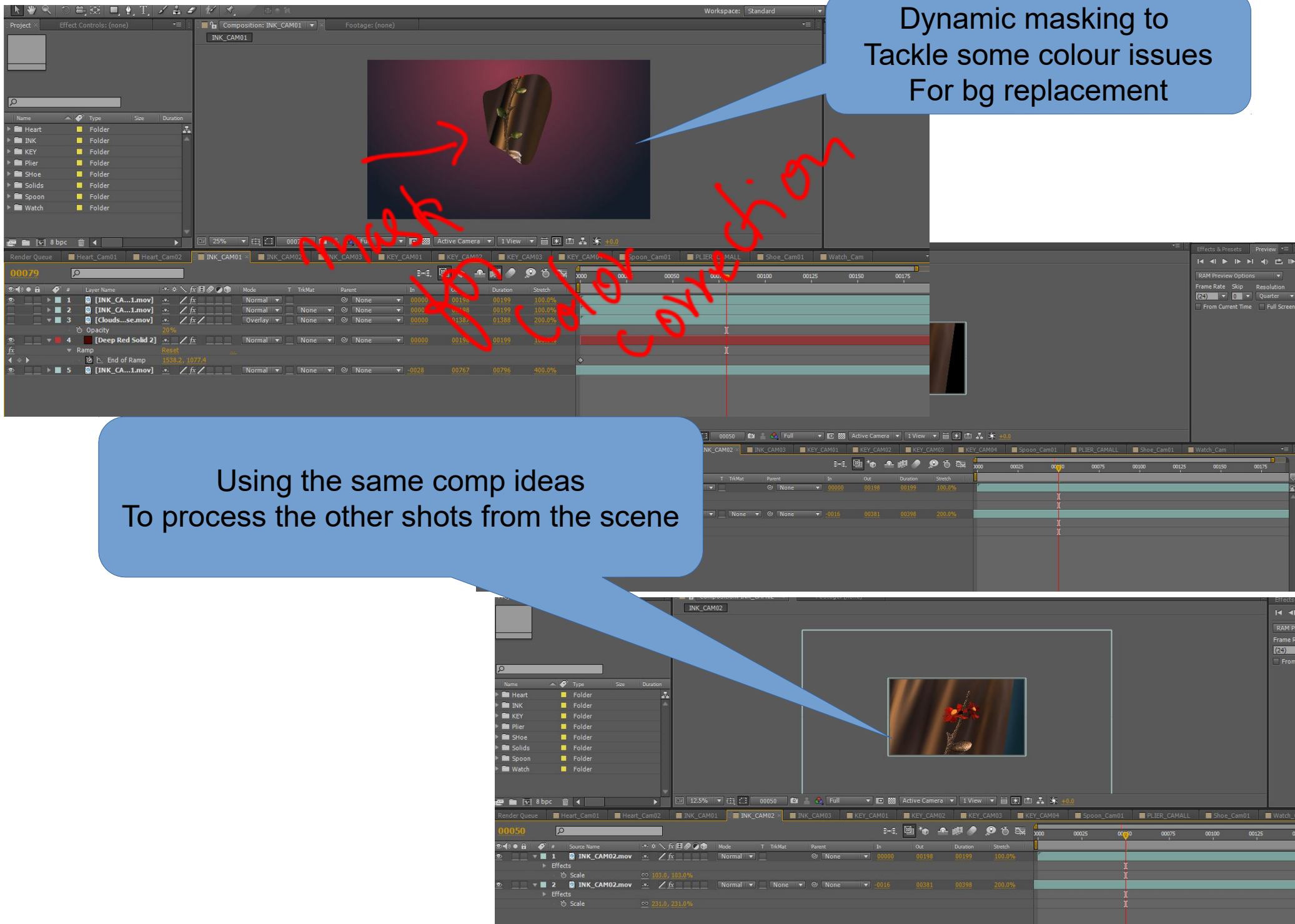
#	Layer Name	Mode	Mat	Parent	In	Out	Duration	Stretch
1	[INK_CA...1.mov]	Normal		None	00000	00199	00199	100.0%
2	[INK_CA...1.m...]	Normal		None	00000	00199	00199	100.0%
3	[Clouds...se.mov]	Overlay		None	00000	01387	01388	200.0%
4	[Deep Red Solid 2]	Normal		None	00000	00198	00199	100.0%
5	[INK_CA...1.mov]	Normal		None	-0028	00767	00796	400.0%

Opacity 100% Ramp End of Ramp 1538.2, 1077.4



Dynamic masking to
Tackle some colour issues
For bg replacement

Using the same comp ideas
To process the other shots from the scene



Transparent material
Of the glass container
Disturbed the bg replacement
Masking to tackle that



Source Name

Name	Type	Size	Duration
Heart	Folder		
INK	Folder		
KEY	Folder		
Plier	Folder		
Shoe	Folder		
Solids	Folder		
Spoon	Folder		
Watch	Folder		

Render Queue

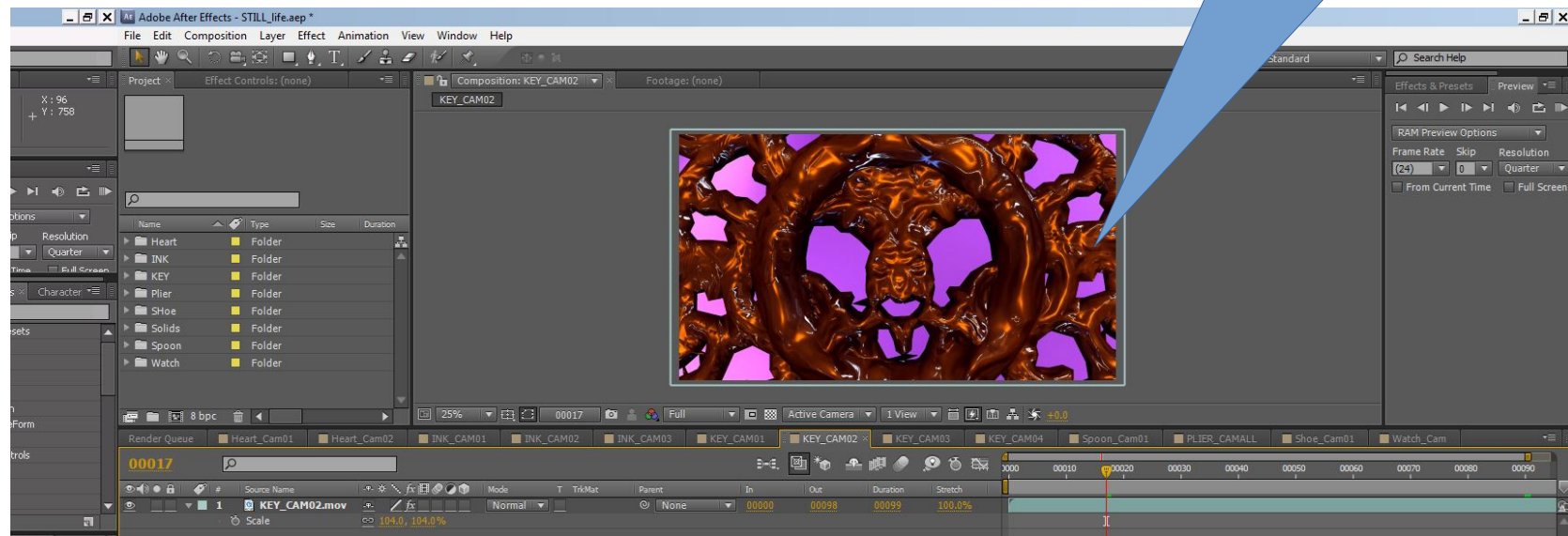
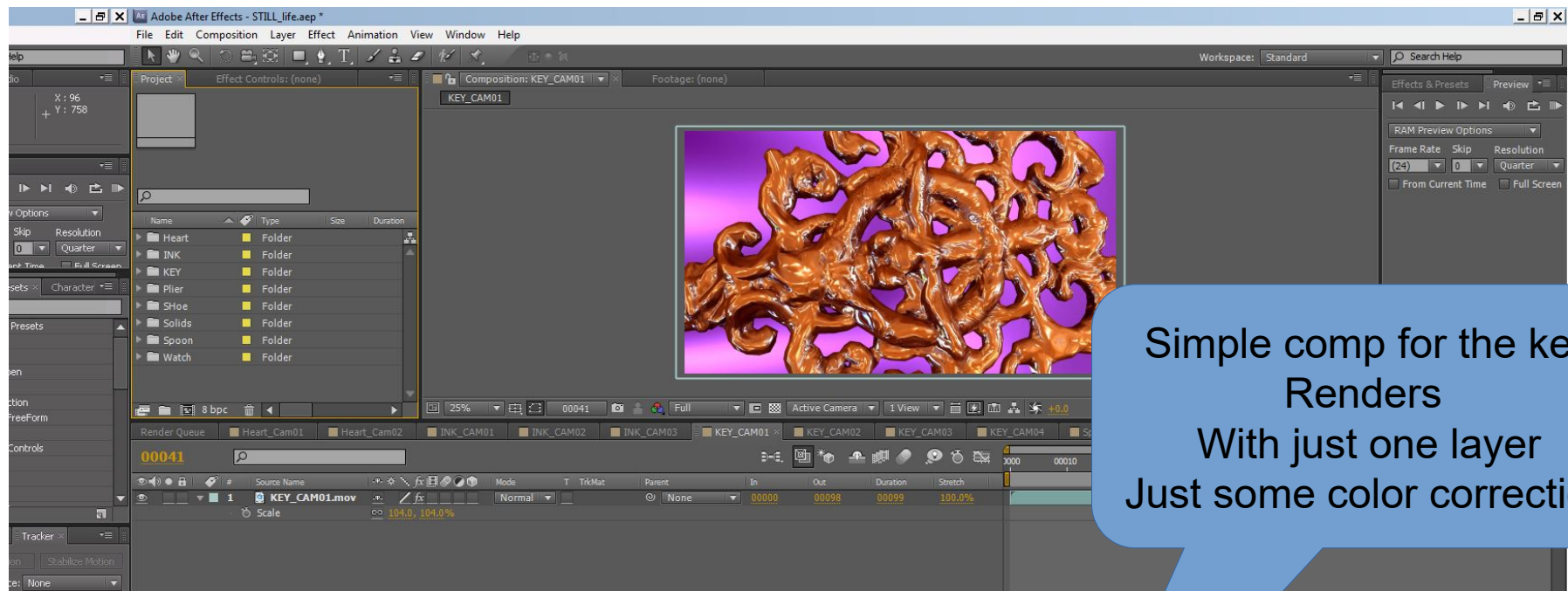
Source Name	Mode	TrkMat	Parent	In	Out	Duration	Stretch
1 INK_CAM03.mov	Normal	None	None	00000	00198	00199	100.0%
2 INK_CAM03.mov	Normal	None	None	00000	00198	00199	100.0%
Mask 1	Inverted						
Mask Feather	33.0, 33.0 pixels						
3 INK_CAM03.mov	Normal	None	None	00000	00198	00199	100.0%
4 Clouds....pse.mov	Overlay	None	None	00000	01387	01388	200.0%
5 Deep Red Solid 2	Normal	None	None	00000	00198	00199	100.0%
6 INK_CAM03.mov	Normal	None	None	00000	00795	00796	400.0%

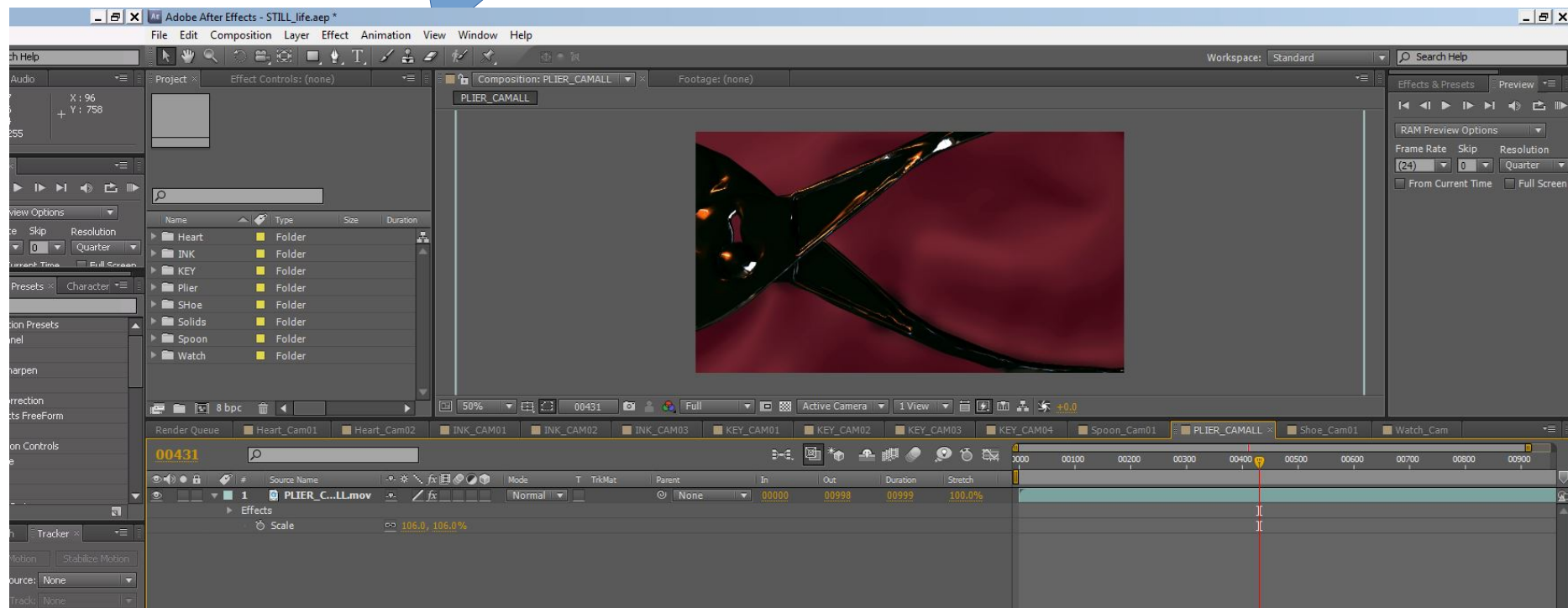
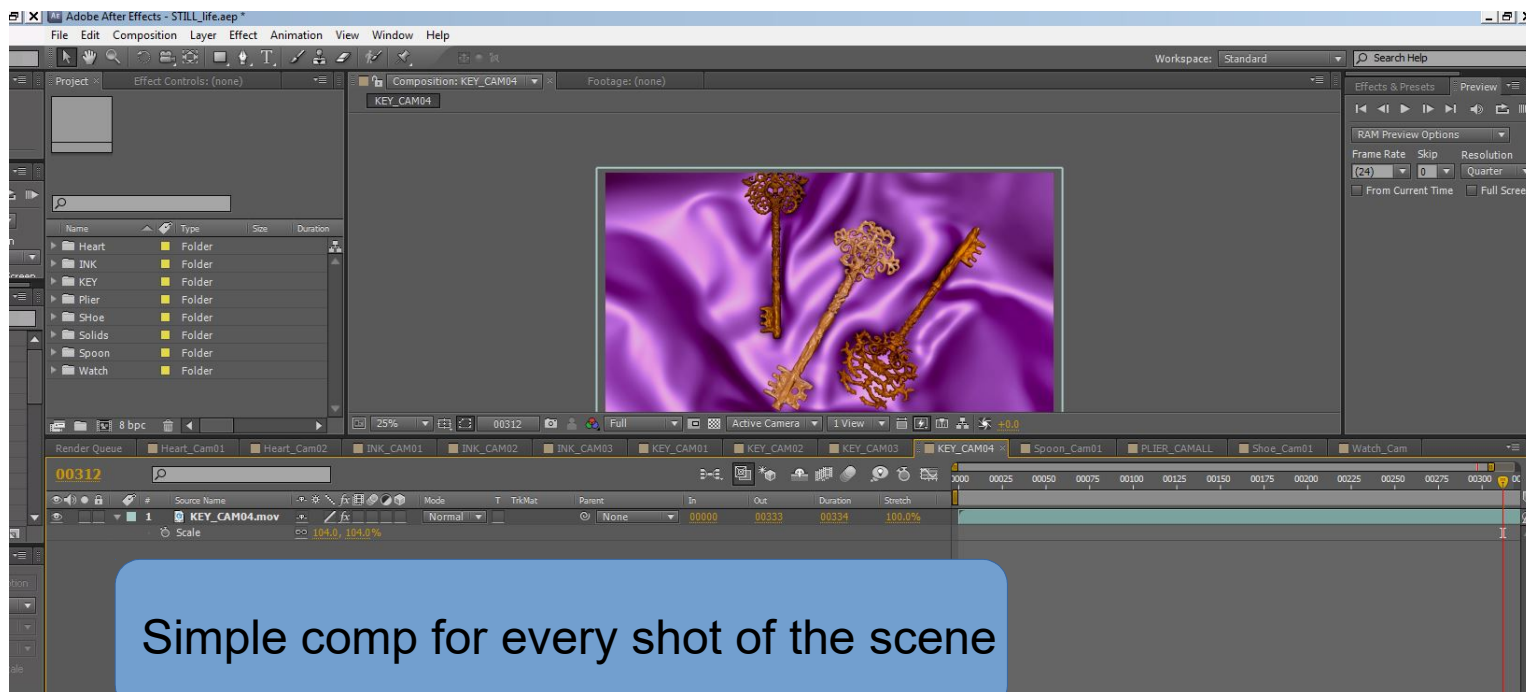
Effects & Presets

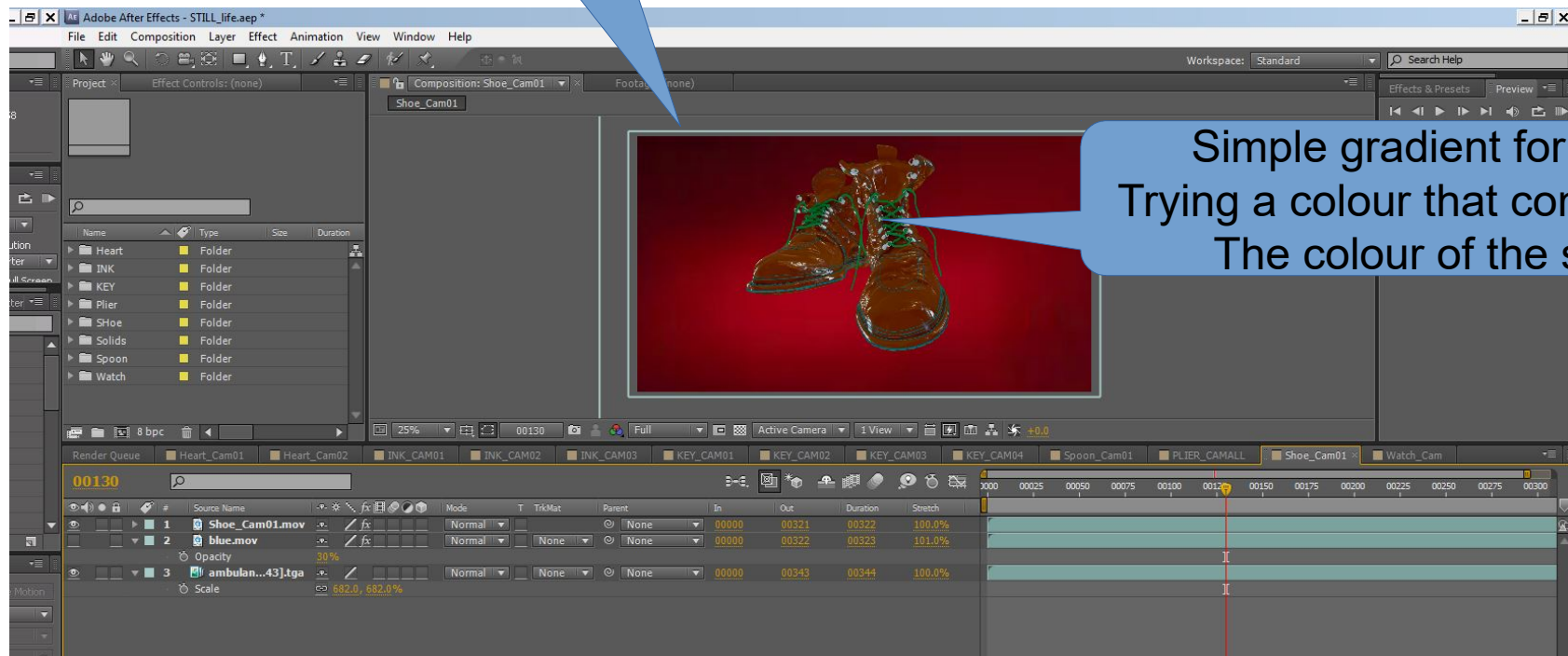
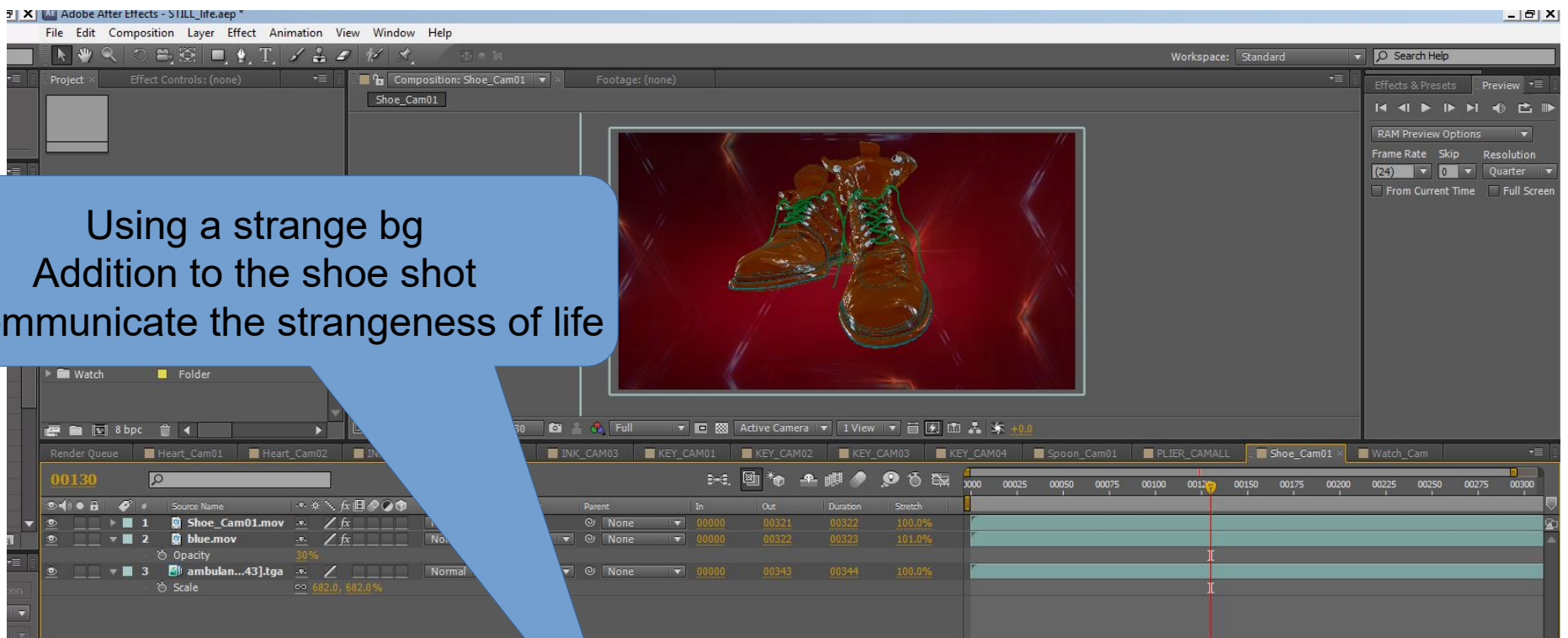
RAM Preview Options

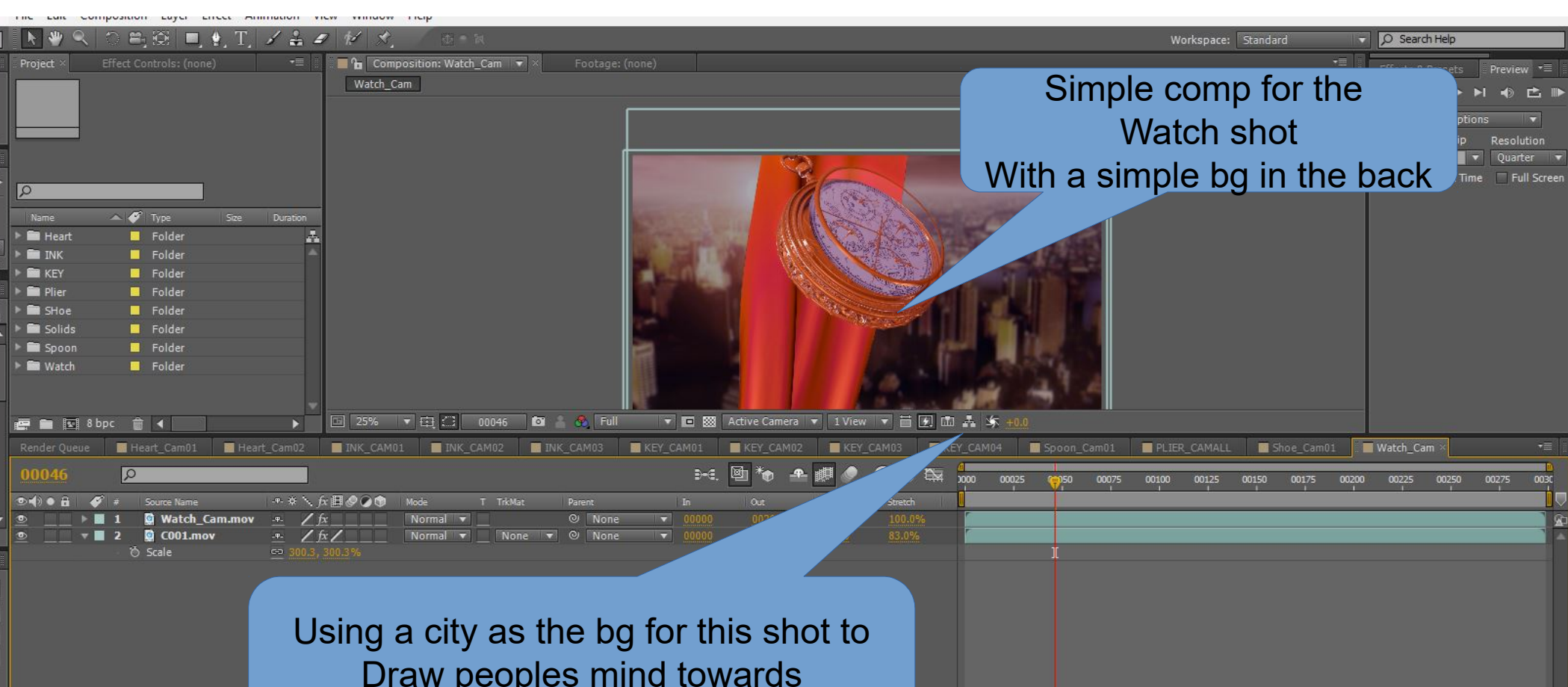
Frame Rate: (24) Skip Resolution: Quarter

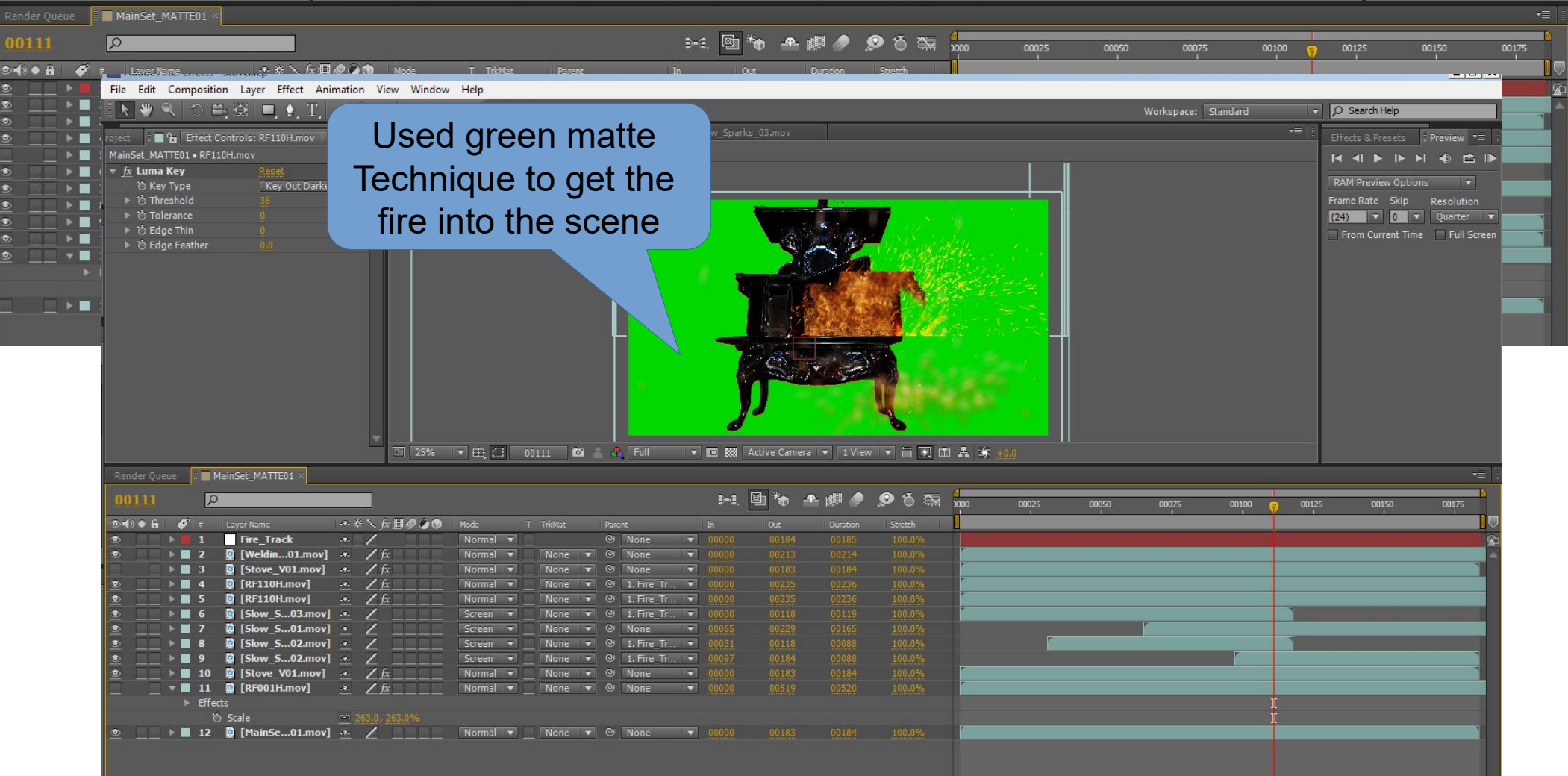
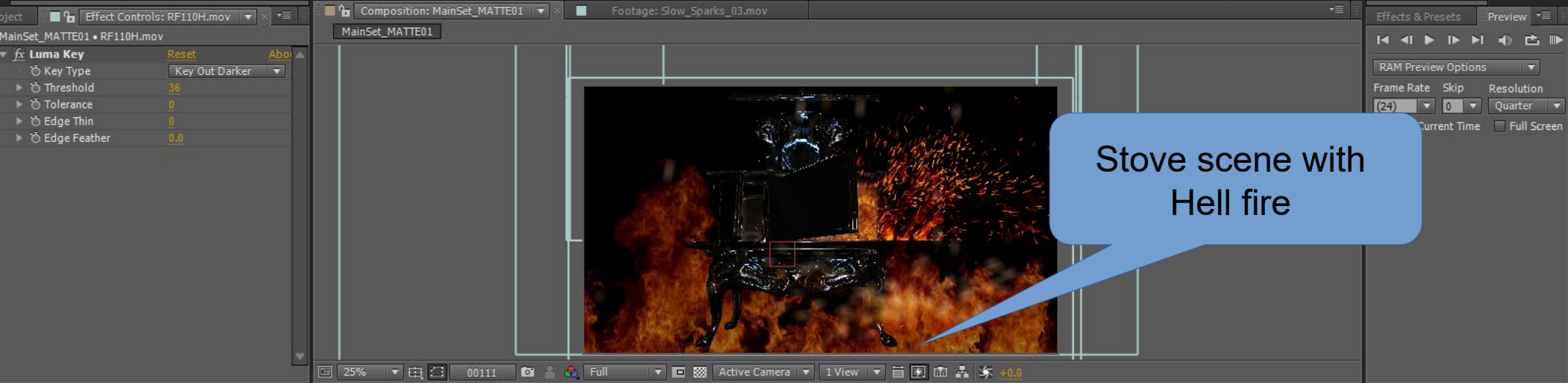
From Current Time Full Screen

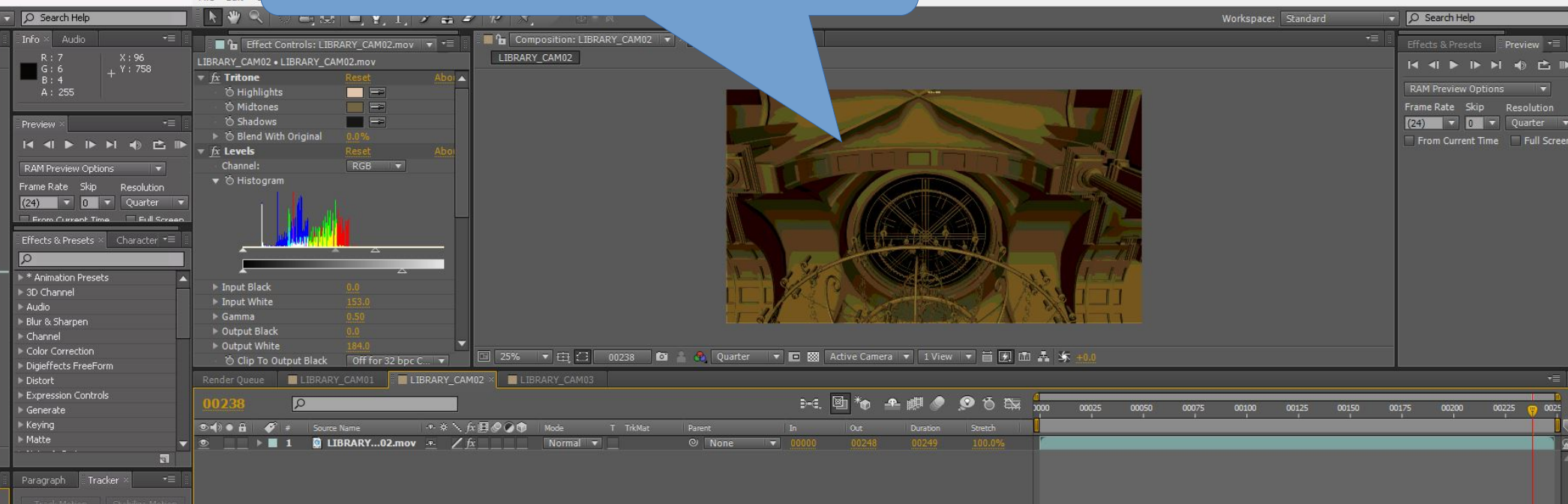
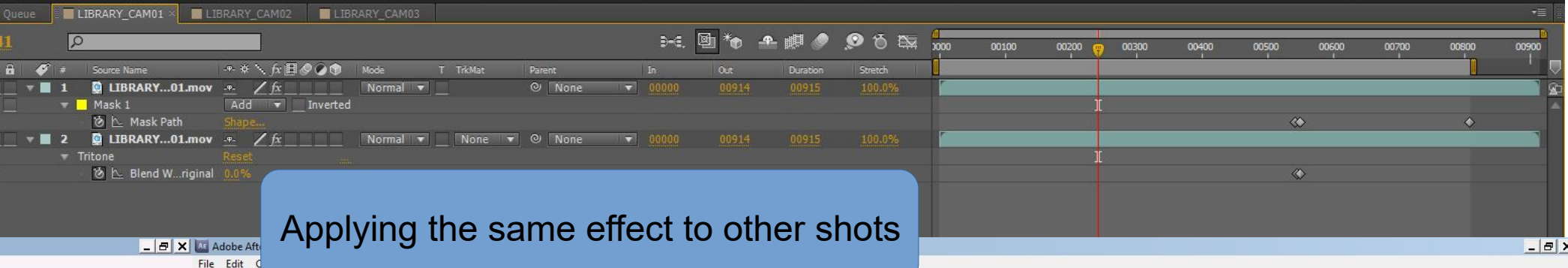
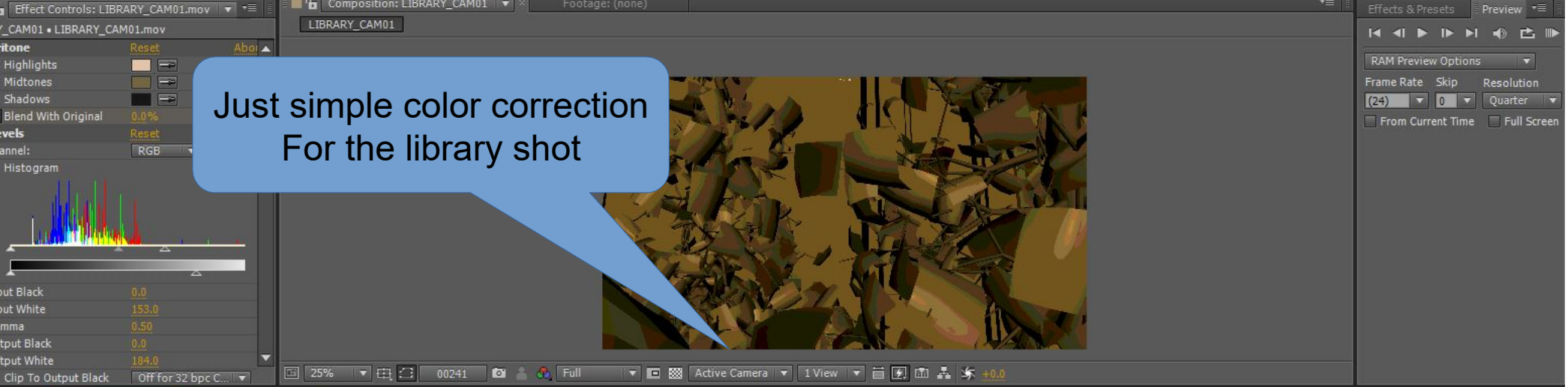


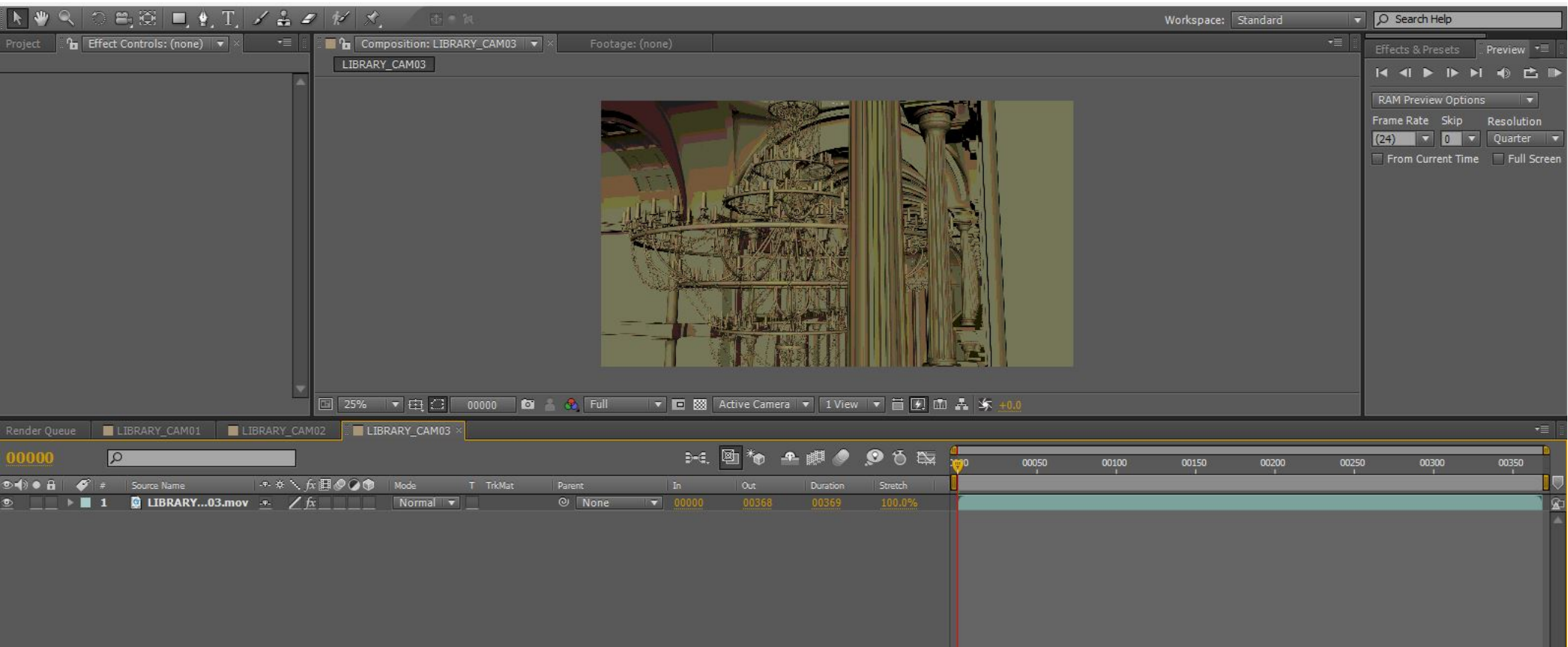




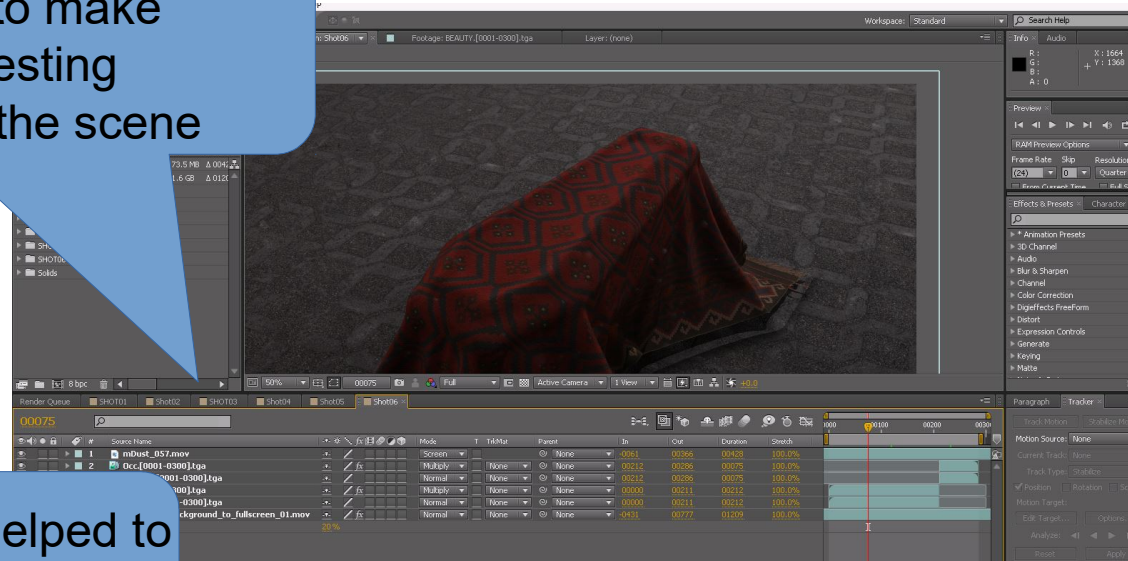




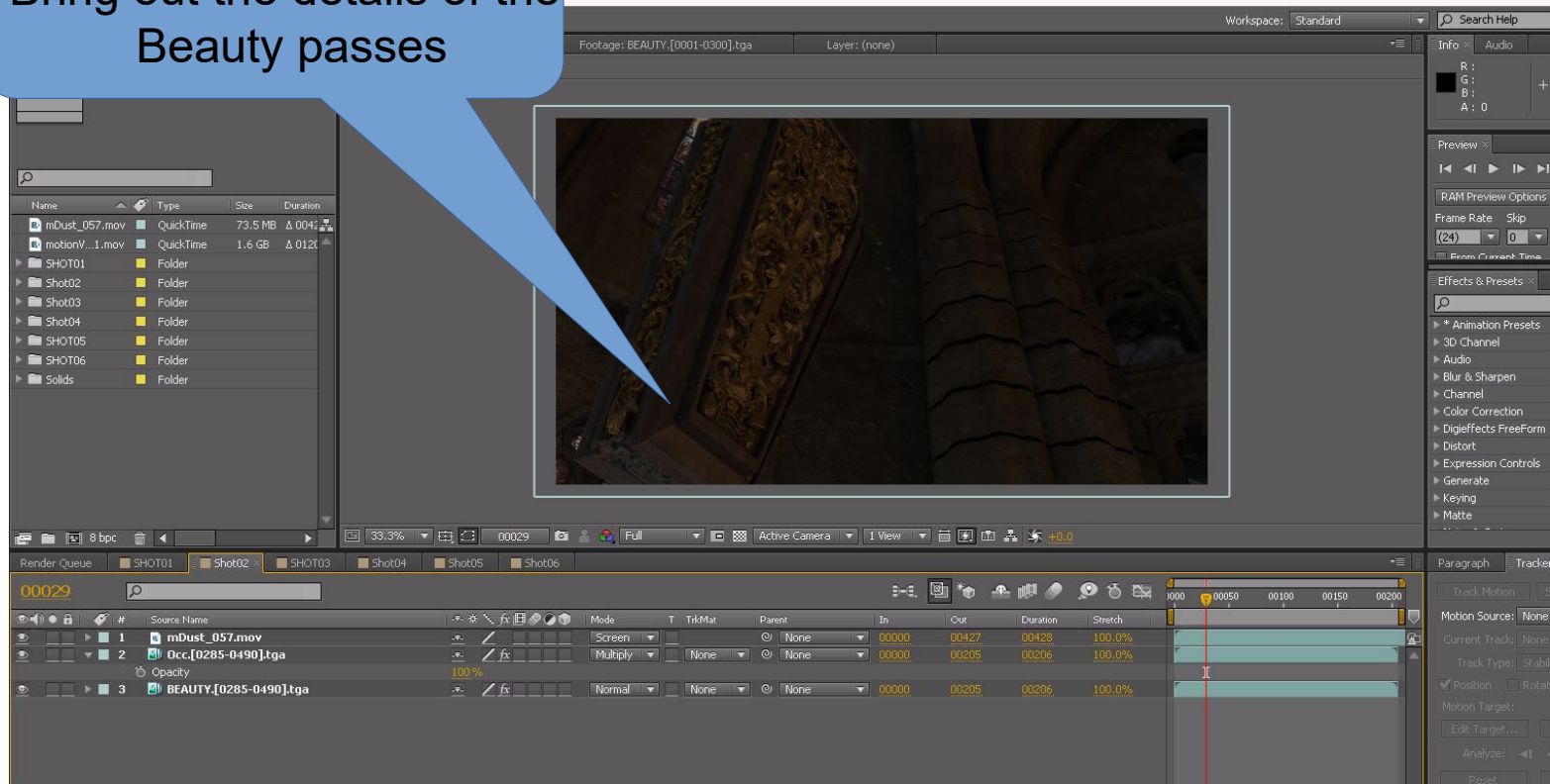


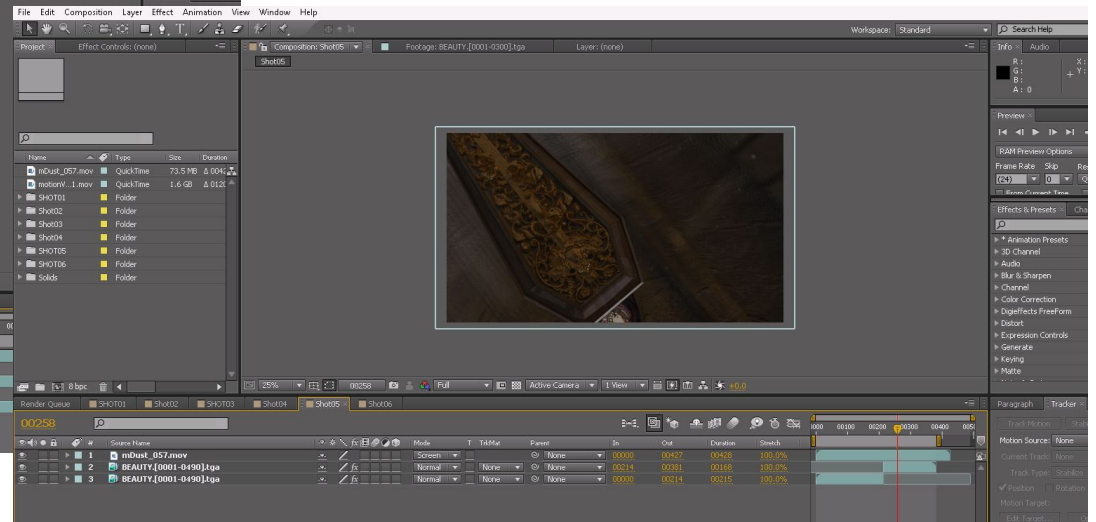
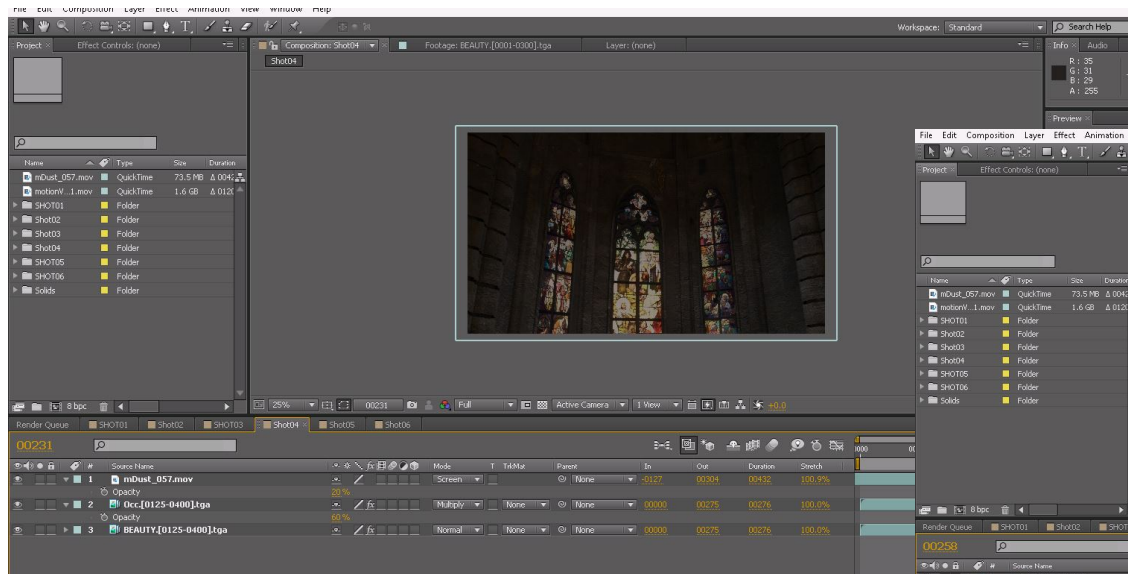
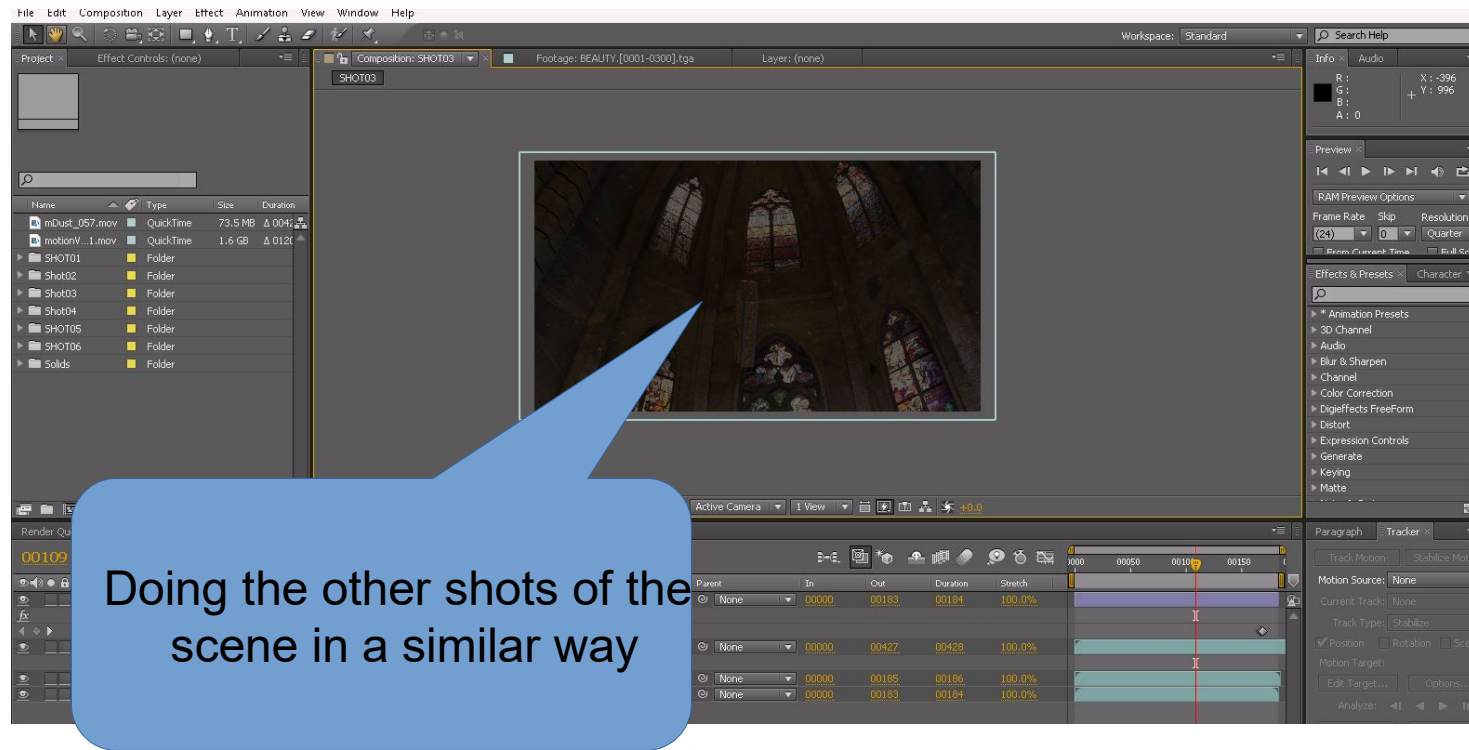


Comped this shot with occlusion passes
Added a dust layer to make
it look more interesting
And set the mood of the scene

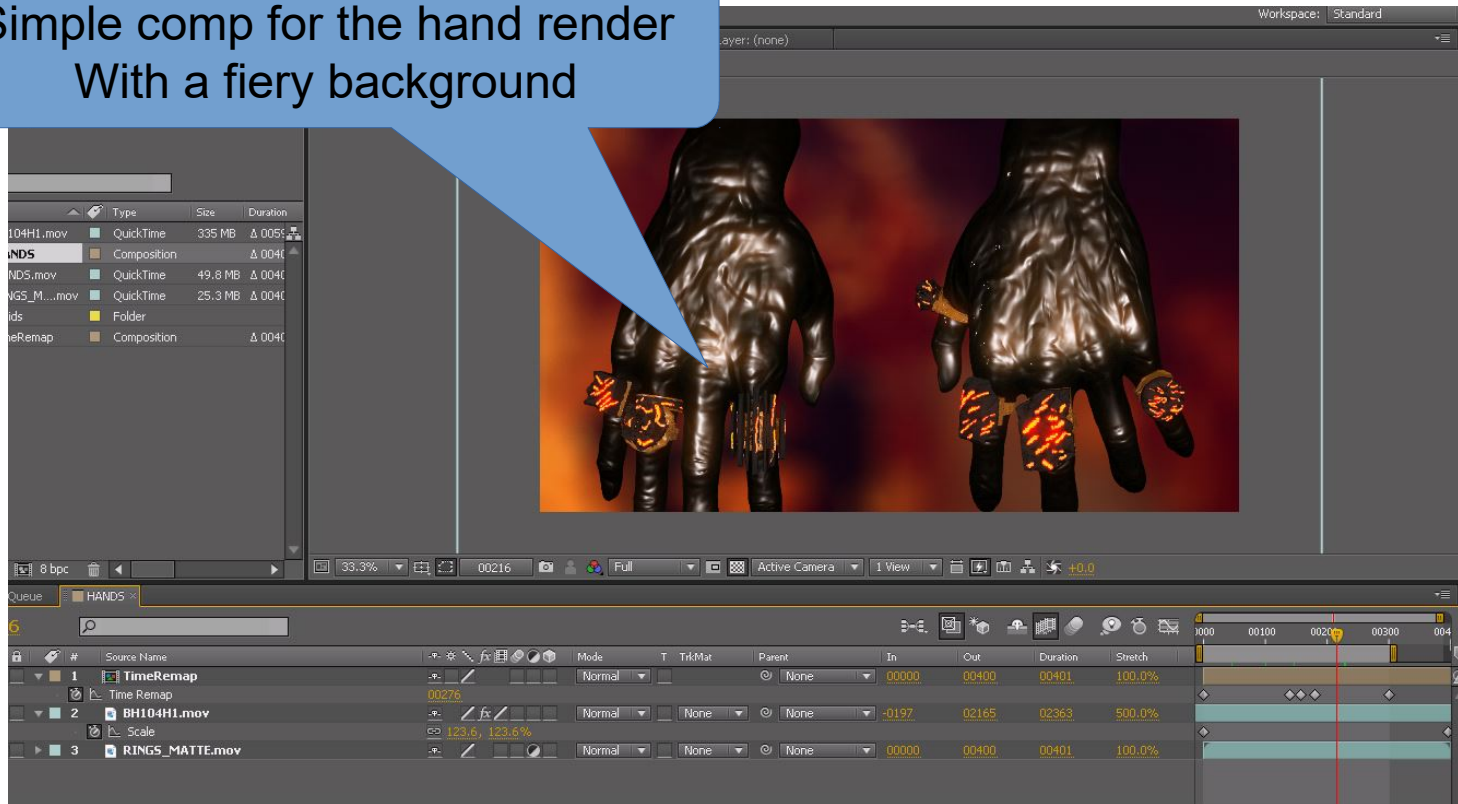


Occlusion pass helped to
Bring out the details of the
Beauty passes

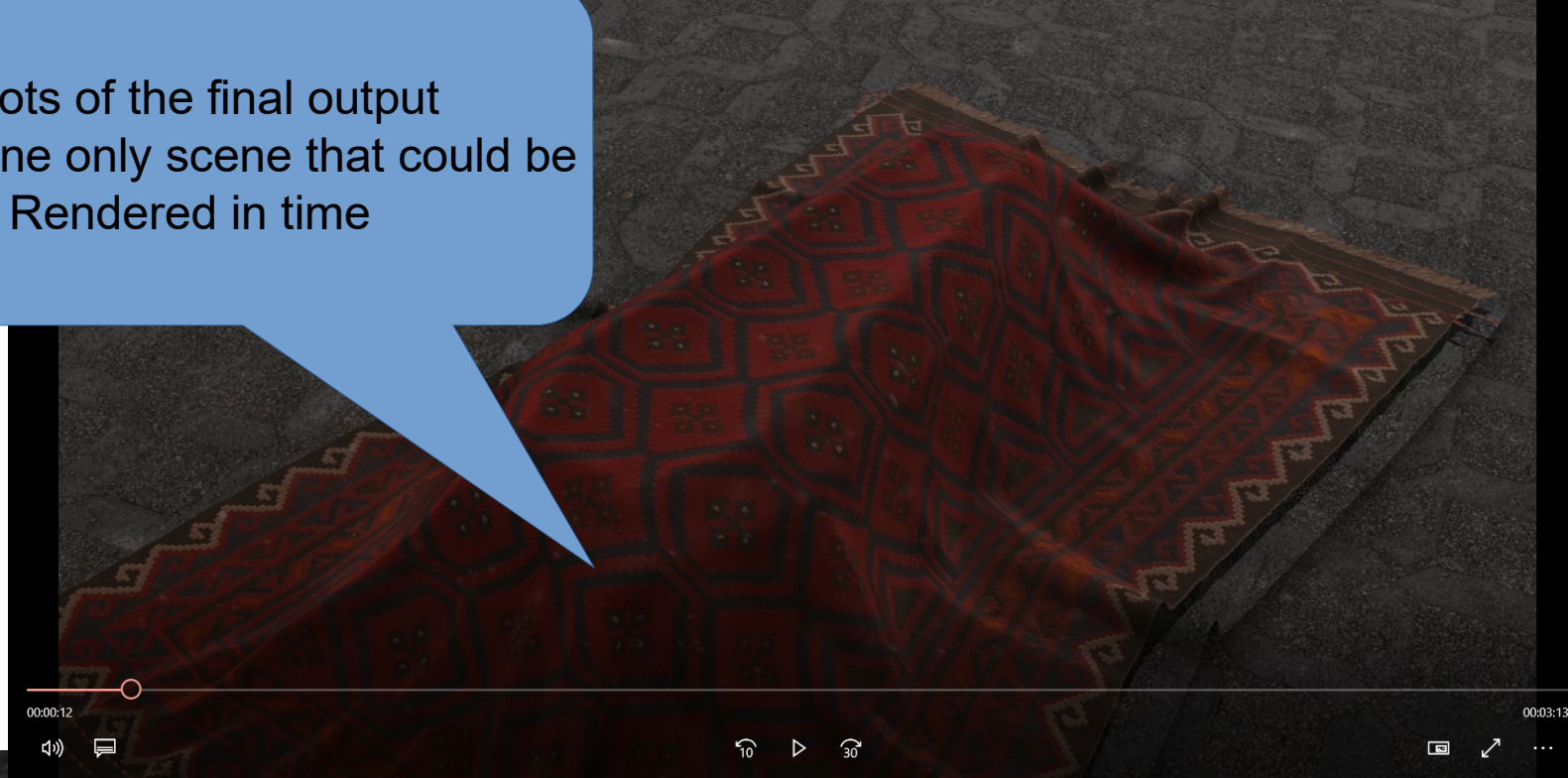


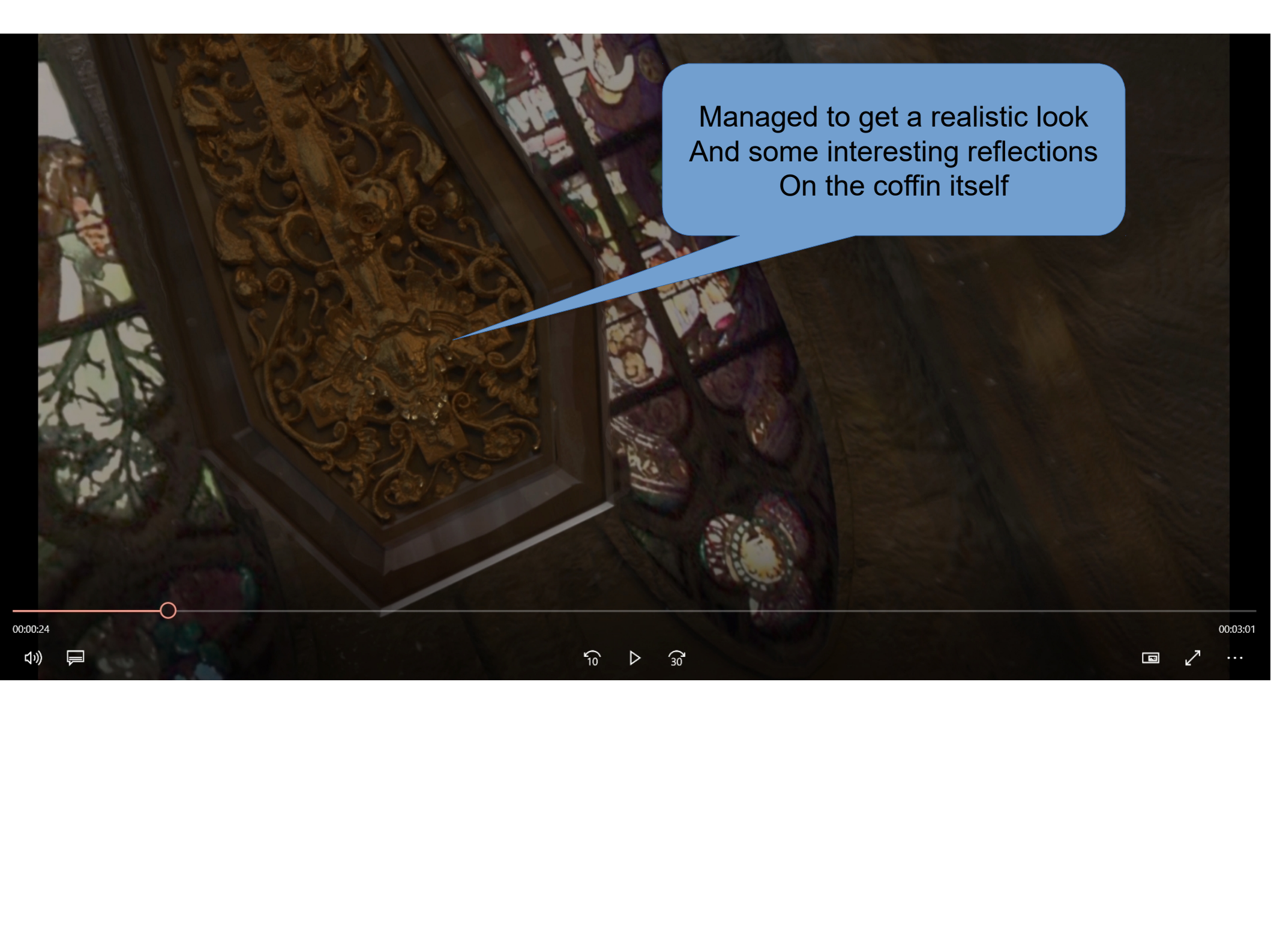


Simple comp for the hand render
With a fiery background



Shots of the final output
Coffin scene only scene that could be
Rendered in time



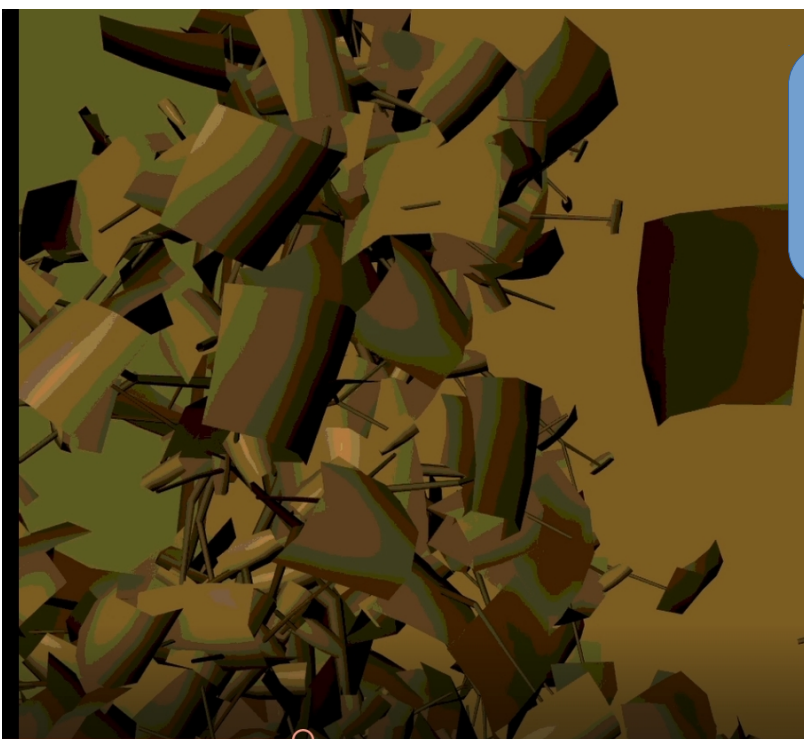


Managed to get a realistic look
And some interesting reflections
On the coffin itself

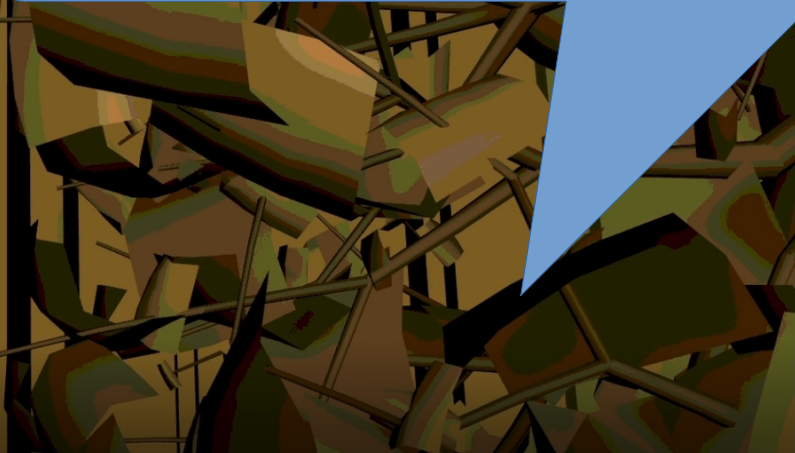
00:00:24



00:03:01



Tried incorporating different
Tonal qualities on the big scenes
As shading them was not possible in the time



Notes on progress

- Checking each sequence
- Matching contrast mood lighting color to what my idea was
- Trying to make everything gel together as much as possible
- Trying to create the most engaging experience with what content i have using

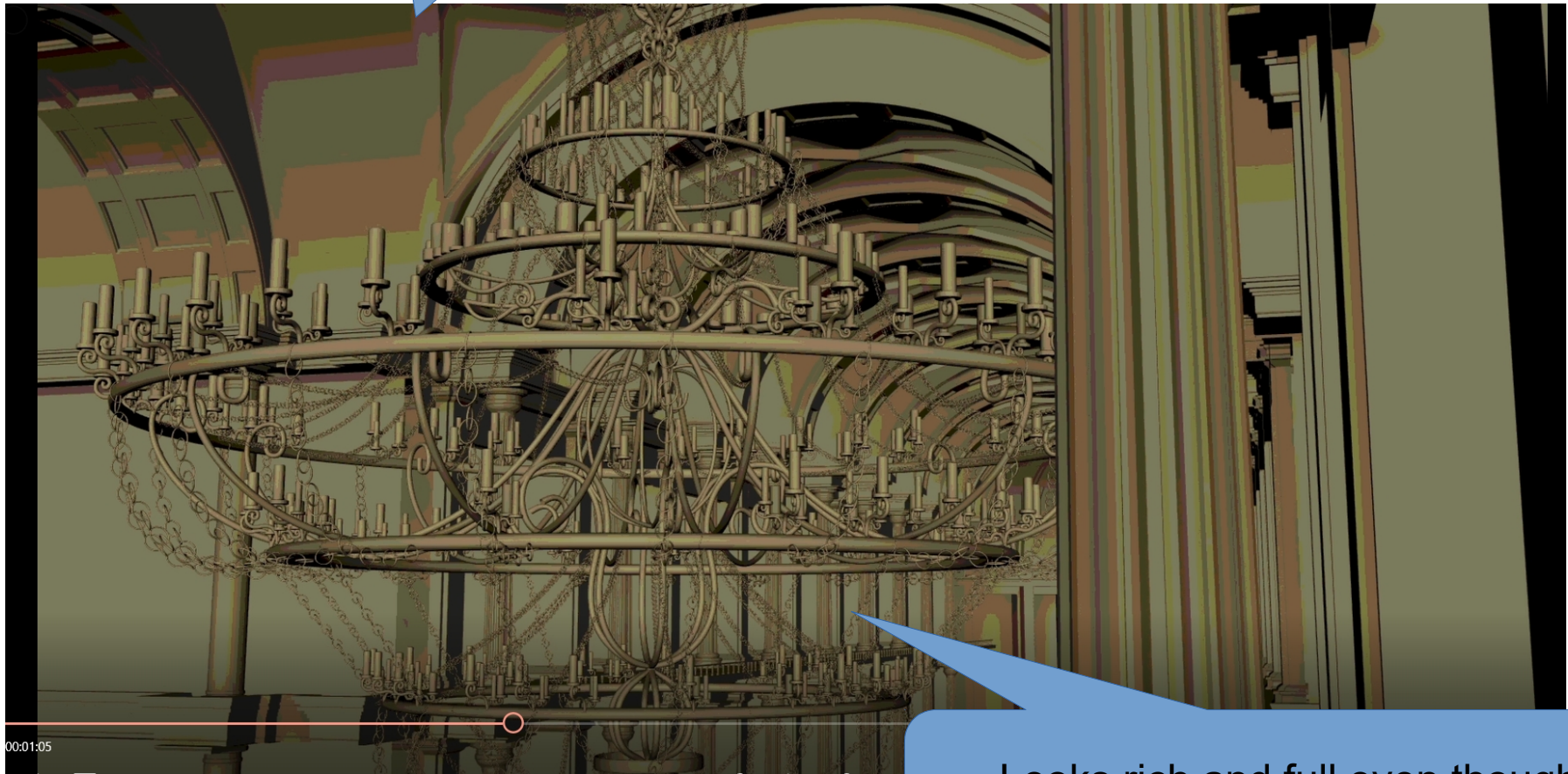
Using reference

- The original references had a lot of inspirations for color and mood
- Trying to get the colors to balance in directions similar to those to get a good mood going with the sequences
- But at the same time the scenes themselves seem to demand a certain treatment so trying to marry that with my ideas

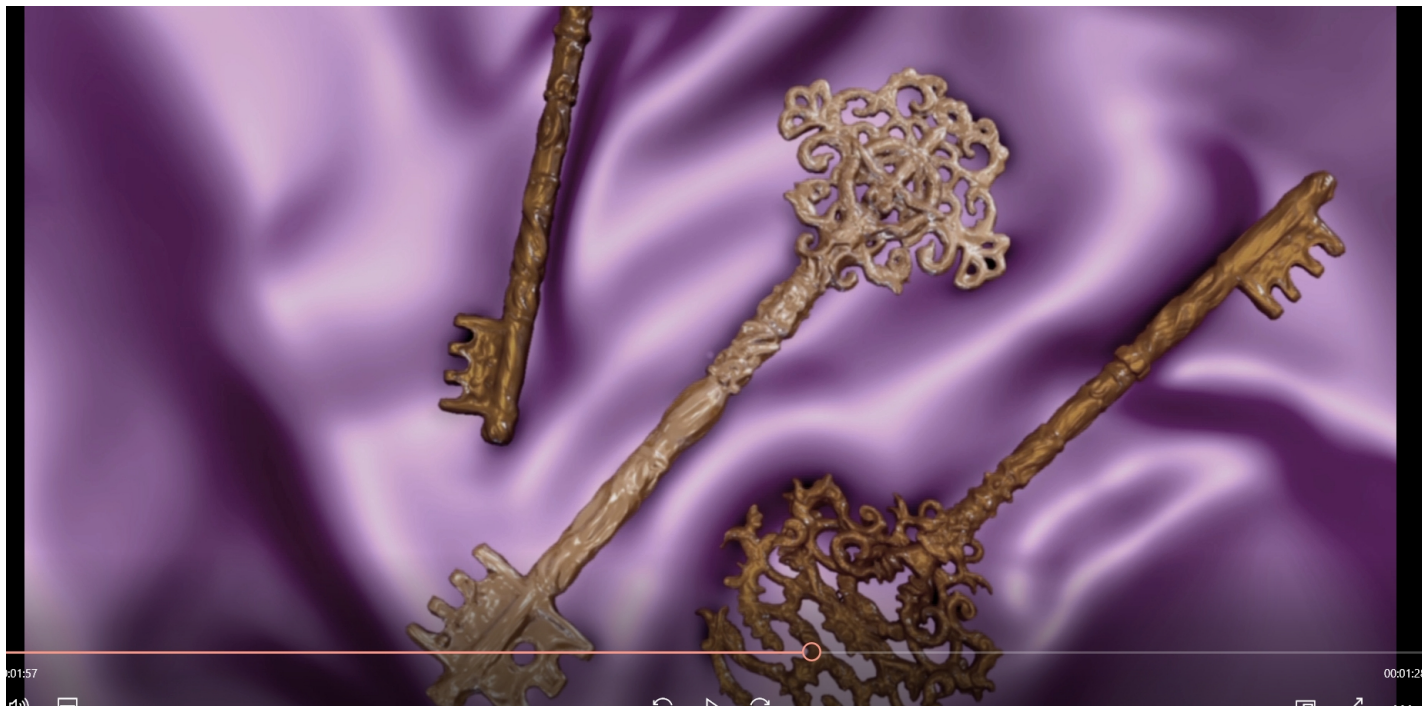
Shots from the final output

- These are some of the shots from the final output with comments on what could be better and what worked out

Weak in rendering obviously



Looks rich and full even though
The furnishings couldn't be introduced



Too much texture
Detail in twig
Lighting looks more
Like a spotlight



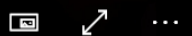
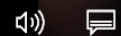
Watch looks
Very good
A little more texturing work maybe

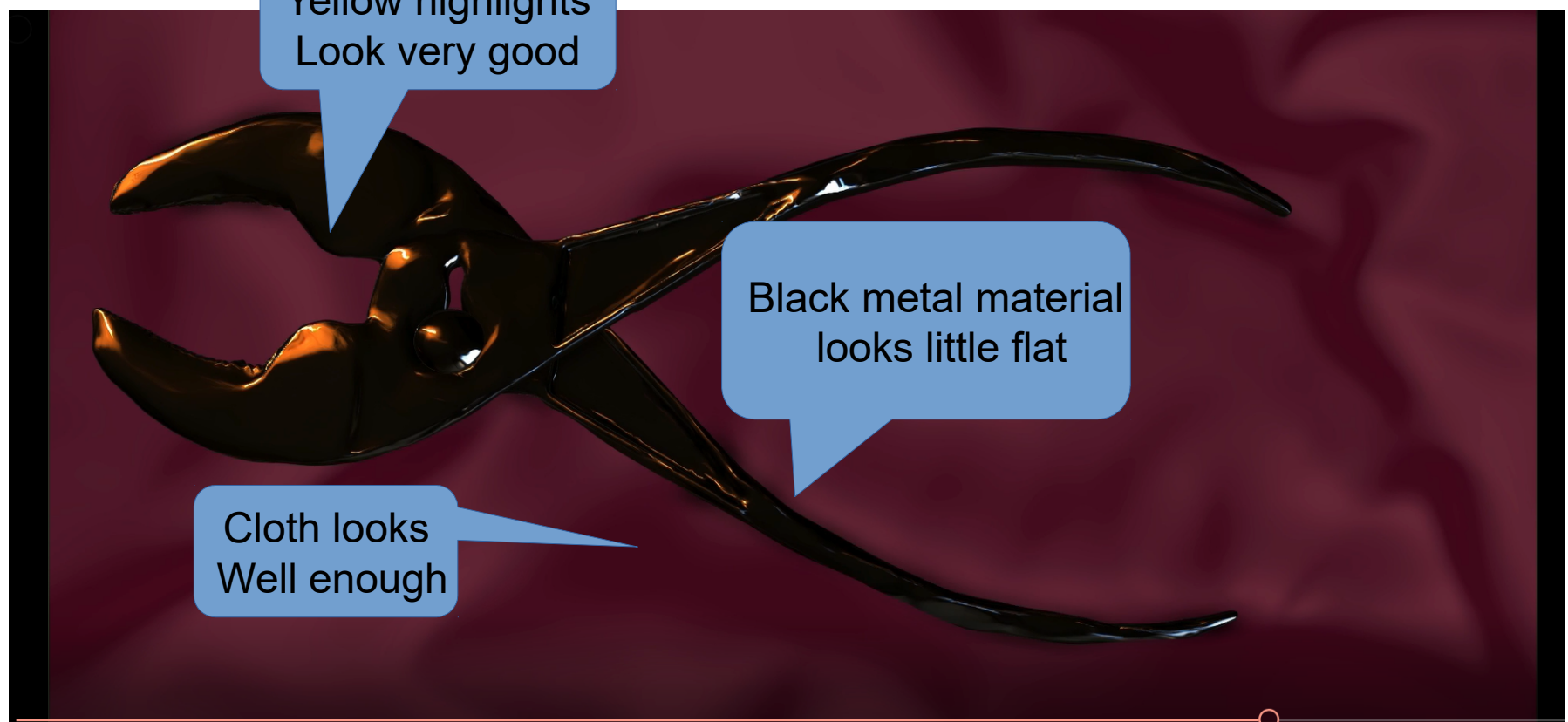
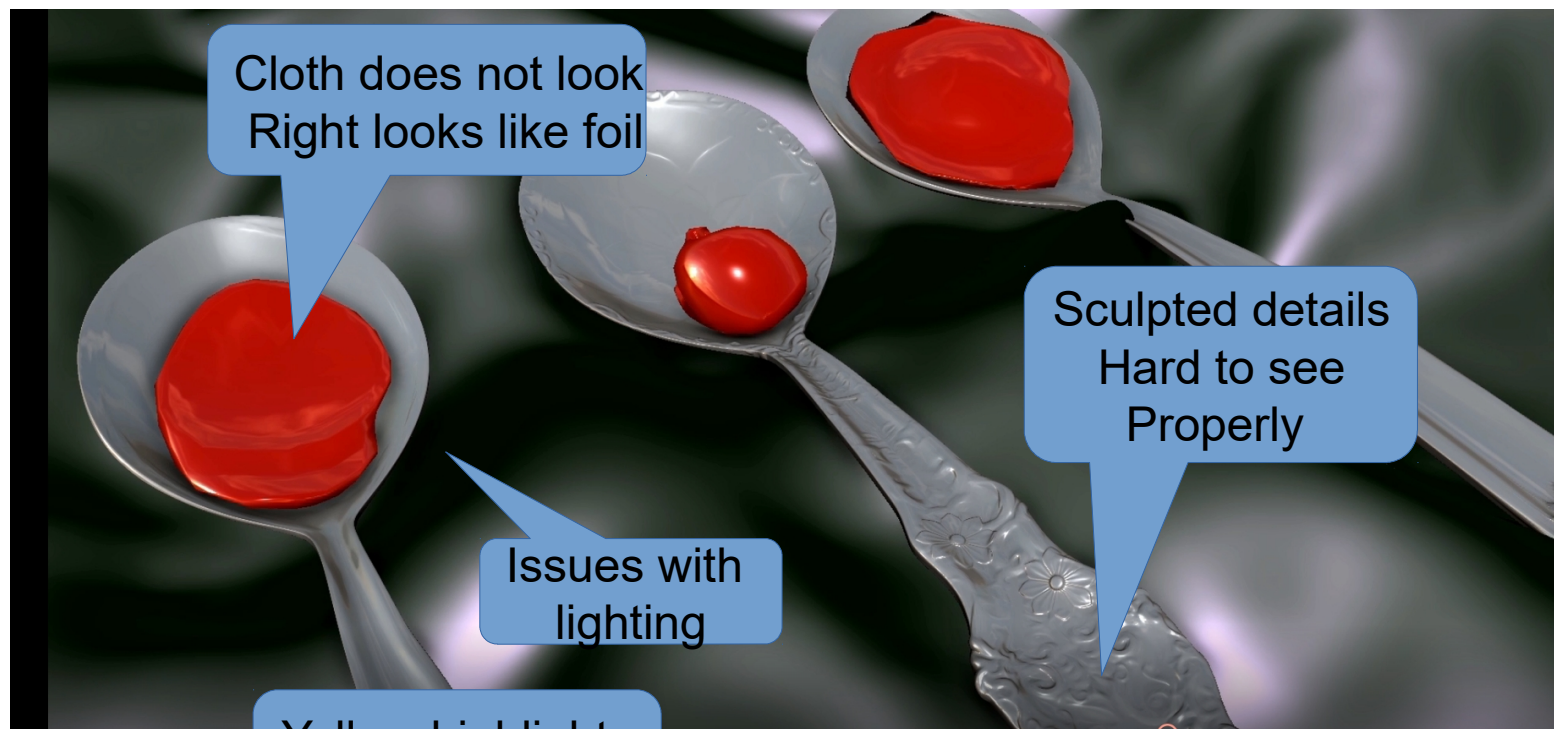
Some translucency for the
Cloth?


Glass too clear
Watch looks brand new

00:02:18

00:01:07








Blood done with
Cloth has a interesting
look

Plate material
Needs more work
It looks more like
Clay than metal



Hell fire looks
Well violent

Background
Looks
Interesting

Hands
And keys didnt
Come out well

Desperately
Needs

Abstract back
Adds much
interest



Got a good looking render
For the shoes with great
Viewport 2.0 reflections

00:03:19

00:00:06



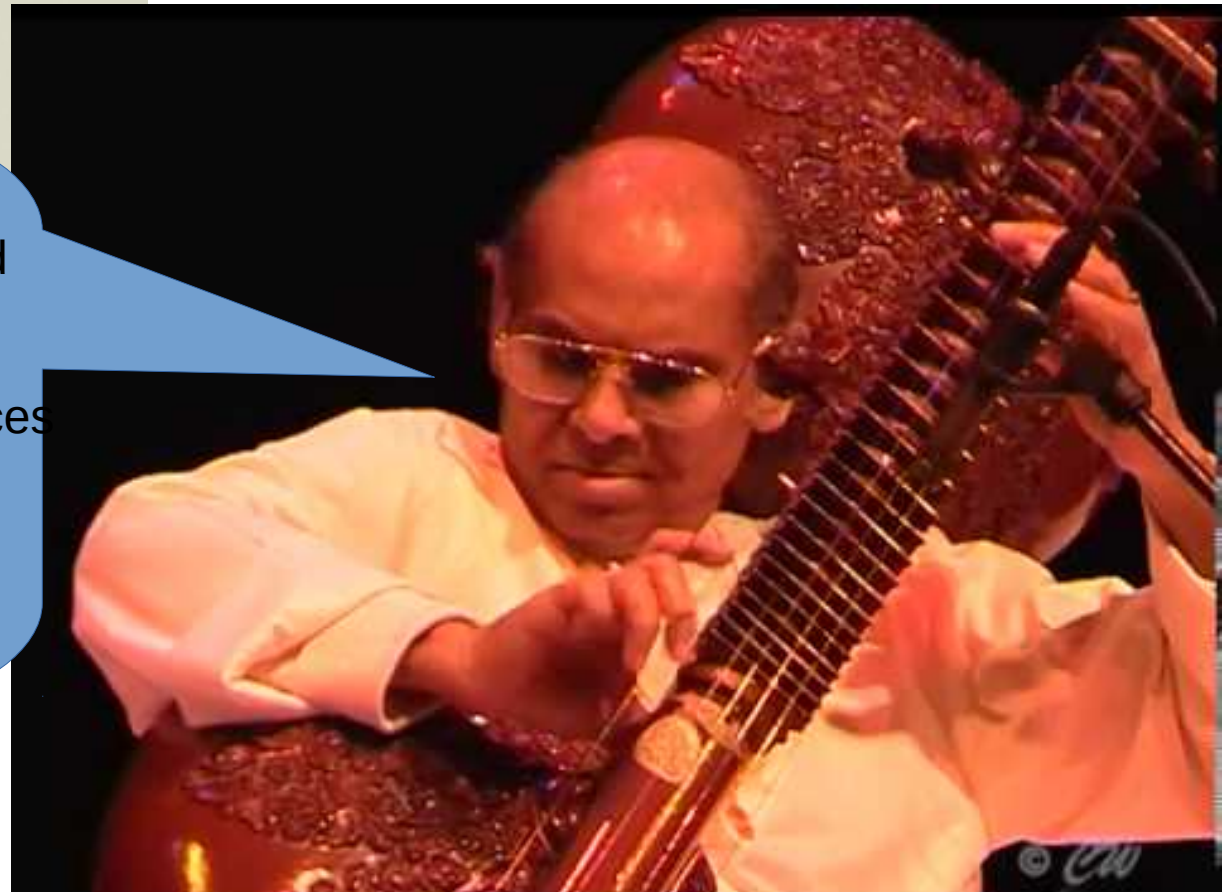
Setting title

- After giving it some thought i decided to keep the name of the project as “to ashes, and ashes to”
- It is a line from the collection of poems by T.S Elliot called
- Which deals with many of the themes that I wanted to explore in my project such as death, beginnings, fire, destruction decay etc.
- It was a major inspiration behind the project so i wanted to use the title as a means of paying homage to it



Artist tycho, makes
Deep house style
Ambient dance music
Some of his songs have a lot
Of dark and gloomy vibes

Ustad asad ali khan rendering
Raga shree, generally considered
A dark and spooky raga,
With a very fiery aesthetic
The development of the performances
Pace could be matched with
The pacing of my work



Choice of music

- I tried several things for music for the project
- I could either use the soundtrack that i had developed in my vmp module
- I thought of using sounds from the artist tychos songs
- Or a classical music piece by asad ali khan
- By the end of the project i realised that it would take too much time to develop another soundtrack tailor made for the visuals
- So instead i compromised and went for the vmp soundtrack with some alterations.

What worked what didnt

- At the end of this project i think it would be good idea to evaluate what worked and what didnt.
- I think the creation of the content itself was a good part of the project a major chunk that did work
- What didn't look quite as good as i would like is the form of presentation.
- The work that i am trying to do i think doesnt look quite right in the context of a single visual experience as in a whole film.
- The ideas might have worked better as a collection

- To a certain extent it is a collection but presenting it as a fully connected film doesn't seem to be right for what it wanted to express
- But there are several ways of approaching this problem i think.
- The other issue was the amount of effort i put in
- I think I should have put in way more hours than i did, i obviously couldn't finish it fully even though the render time was way more that what i thought it would be
- Apart from this i think the content i have created as ample opportunity to be worked into

Title Cards and suggestion plates

- Decided to use some suggestion plates to guide the viewers mind in a certain way
- This will add structure to the apparent chaos of my project
- I chose the words contemplation
- And for some fun pyromania and added their definitions in the plates
- I thought the idea would guide the mind of the viewer but not constrict it as room for interpretation would remain open
- I made several variation to get the look and fell proper
- After i had the look down for the main title i used the same technique to do the others

Final title design
Kept the text simple
Added a smoky, ashy
Background

TO ASHES, AND ASHES TO

Tried different
Variations
A more stylised
Look for the type
Was distracting and
weaker

TO ASHES, AND ASHES TO

Some more
Experimentation
With type

TO ASHES, AND ASHES TO

Tried a manually done look as
Well but again this seemed
Weaker and the title for a
Horror film or something like that
I wanted a more impactful look

TO ASHES,

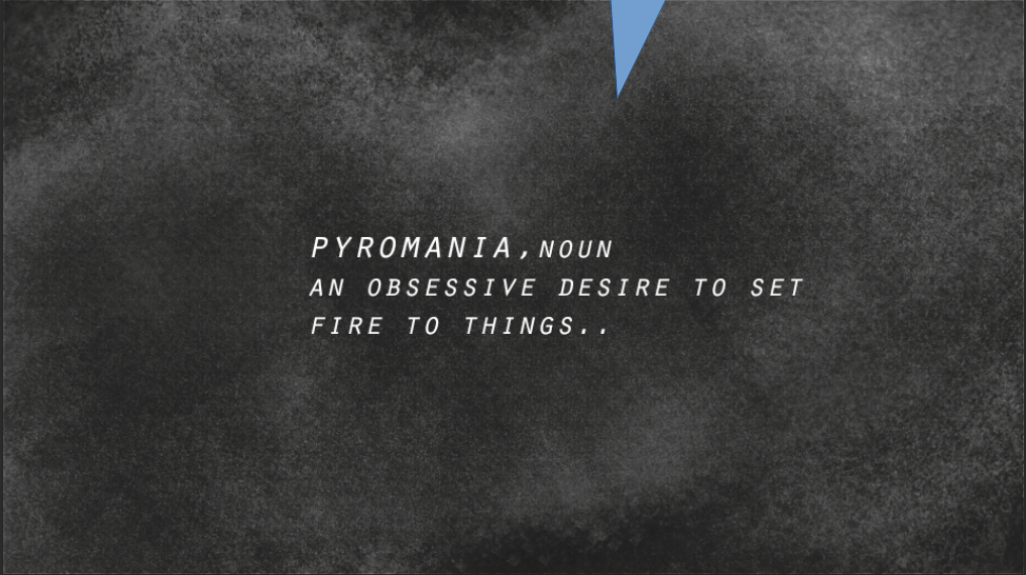
Tried fading the
Text this was looking
Promising but I liked
The clean look more

TO ASHES, AND ASHES TO

Another variation
Tried different
typefaces

TO ASHES, AND ASHES TO

Used the same technique to
Create cards to prompt the
The viewers mind



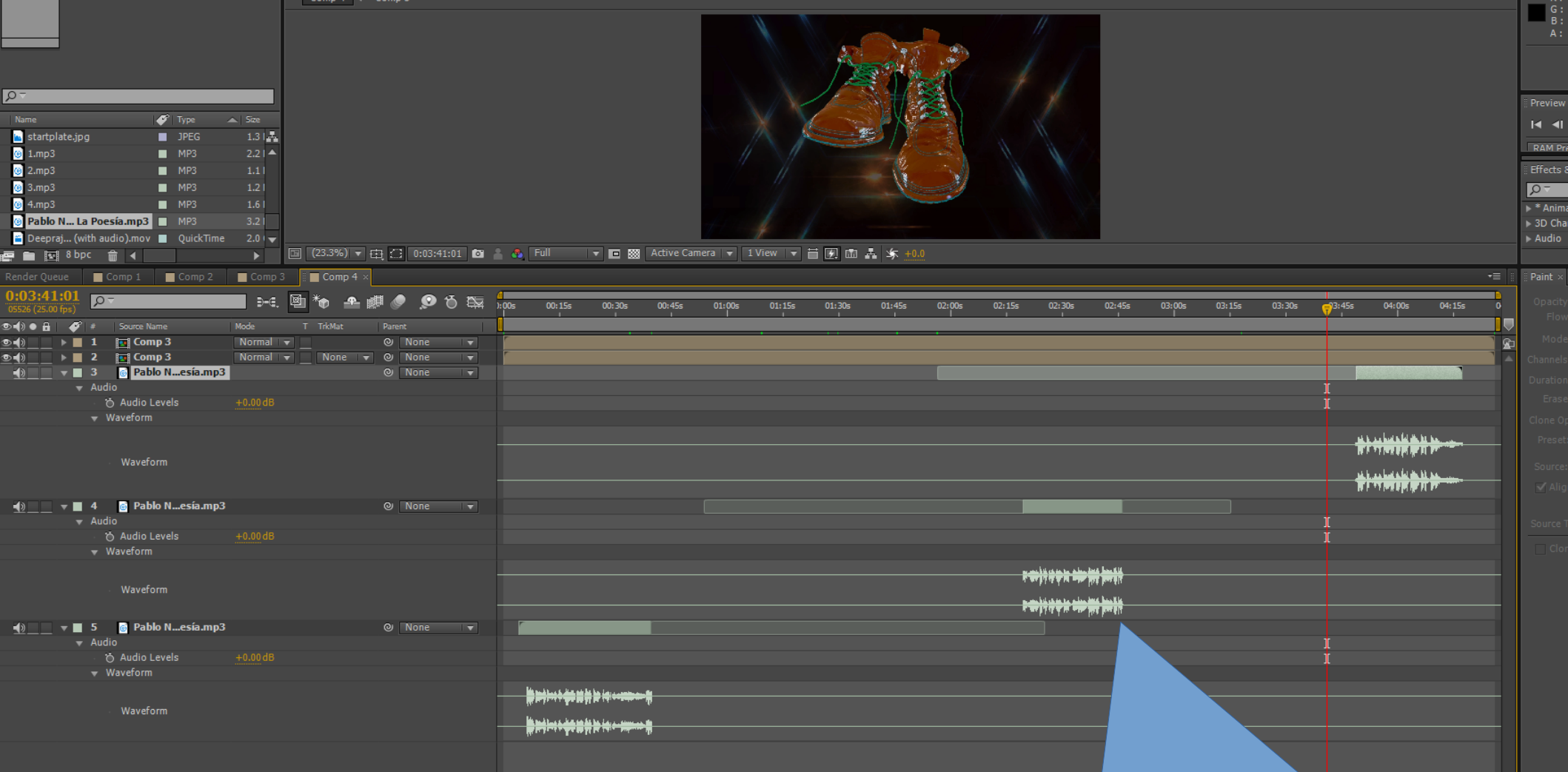
*PYROMANIA, NOUN
AN OBSESSIVE DESIRE TO SET
FIRE TO THINGS..*

Final experimentation with music

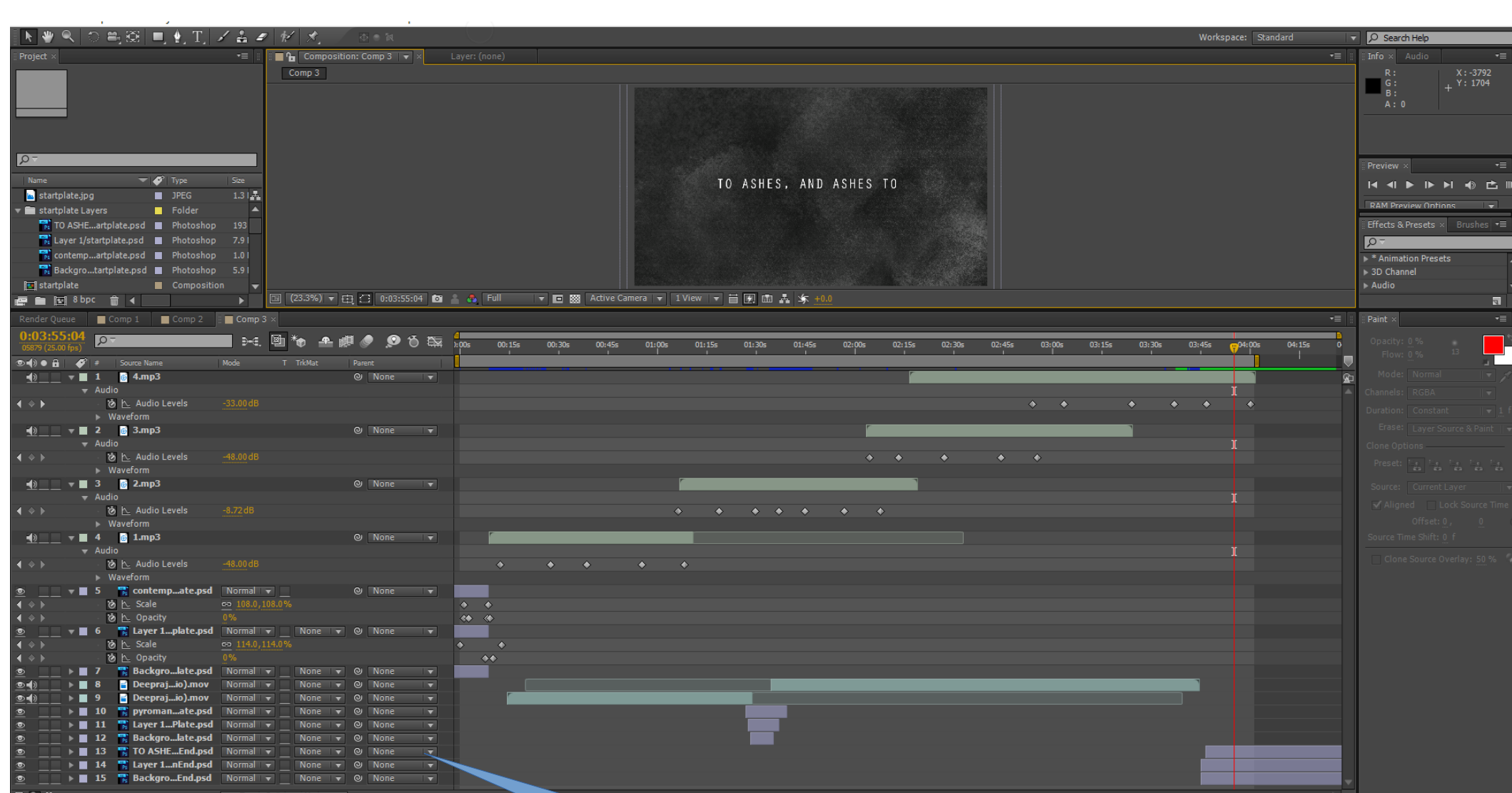
- As a final experimentation with music
- I mixed the raga shree parts with the chosen music
- I knew which parts of the entire piece were at what pace so i put the slower parts in the beginning and the more fast and intense parts towards the end
- The dissonance caused by the layering of the two tracks was interesting but i had to decrease the volume of the former track
- The end result was subtle and cool
- I animated the volume control to add more variation
- By the end i was happy with the result

Last experiment with music

- I tried adding pablo neruda reading some of his poetry, to the final render of the film,
- I found that it was distracting from the rudra veena performance and not adding anything substantial to the experience
- So i decide not to complicate the soundtrack too much and chose not to add any voice to it unlike my first vmp output.



Trying an experiment by adding some poetry
Tried going for something non English so that
The focus is on the sound of the human voice
I chose Pablo nerudas la poesia as i had read a
Translation and really liked it
But in the end it seemed to distract and not add
Anything to the experience so i chose not to use
This audio.



Line up with plates
Took some time to
Get the timing perfect
For this had to render
Several times

Experimentations with lineup

- After the line up with the plates was arranged
- I had to make several attempts at getting the timing right for the plates
- The first plate was staying for too little time in the beginning
- In the second render i noticed that the last plate was staying on for too long
- Even mixing the music took many renders
- I wanted the veena music to be the focus and the former track to be a background support
- To get the mixing right took me a few tries.
- After five renders i arrived at something i was

What could have I done differently

- Put in more effort
- Tried treating the content a little differently so that it flowed into a connected film context smoothly
- Oriented the output not as a single film but a collection of separate pieces like a book of poems
- Condensed the content further.
- Group more of the shots together especially the ones with single things into a bigger scene.

Future of this project

- Im sure that i want to use the content of the project improve it to create something new
- I think as a collection of separate ideas it will work better
- That way i dont have to worry about create a meshed up idea and i can focus on the fullness of the scenes themselves
-

What i learnt from the project

- This project allowed me to learn several things
- The sheer volume of work involved taught me a lot of things like how to manage time, not get distracted, plan out tasks efficiently etc.
- Many technical things became easy to me as i did them so many times throughout the project
- like sculpting things in zbrush.
- It taught me how to deal with less resources and try to make the best of whats available
- It taught me how to evaluate my decisions and quickly judge what is working and what isnt.
-

- It helped me develop my focus a lot and stick to doing what's important
- I understood the proper flow of the standard 3d pipeline and that cleared up a lot of confusion for me
- I learnt new software like substance painter
- Substance designer bitmap to material etc
- Overall i think it helped me develop a new way of looking at art and story and even poetry and how to involve computer graphics in that environment

thanks