Pixilation magic

Pixilation is a stop motion animation technique in which a person is used as a character in an animation. The technique allows you to depict people floating in the air, move objects using the power of thought, or move a friend into the world of pixelated games.

The way the technique works is that a person stands/sits/lies down in one spot, and you take a photo of them. After this, the person moves a little bit, and a new picture is taken. The change between the pictures should be small, so that the movement looks smooth. You should watch a few of the videos in the background information section before you start filming your own pixilation animation.

The task for this week's distance learning art is to depict a magic trick using pixilation technique. The magic trick can involve a person floating in mid-air, disappearing from view, turning into a stuffed toy or even flying on a broom. Try to come up with as simple an idea as possible, as making an animation is slow and can easily take up a lot of time.

Technical tips:
Hold your camera against something while you take your picture (you can support it against table, a wall, a fence, etc.)
Be prepared to take several pictures of certain moments, because it is likely that a jump or a movement won't work out the way you want it to.

What you need

a camera phone, iPad or camera.
a tripod (or some other support)
a stop motion animation pro-gramme (for instance StopMo-tionStudio or iStopMotion; on a computer TimeLapseAssembler works well, for instance.)
a friend or a family member to help with the photography

Goal

The goal of this activity is to ob-serve people and motion with the help of animation. In addition to that, we are trying out silly things with animation and the depiction of unreal things using stop-motion technique.

Background

Oren Lavie: Her Morning Elegance -music video, in which pixillation is used.
Oisin Raynolds: Pixilation Daydreams
Gabriel Bach, Sereina Kessler, Katarina Stefanovic and Eva Wolf: Pixela-tion Short Film

Pictures: Neo Narjus