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Rising 4th Year Arts Award
Miller Arts Scholar (Studio Art)
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dear love,...

Original Proposal: ***The People of 276: Persevering Through Generations***

Before the late 1900s, Martinsville was a very well-known city because of the many factories that operated there. It wasn't until the United States government made a deal with China, Southeast Asia, and Mexico, to move the factories there because it made them more money. The impact that this had on Martinsville is greater than imagined. Even so, when I would ask my parents what their dream job as a child was, they would tell me that everyone, during that time, relied on the factories for jobs as they were growing up. **For my proposed project, I plan to create an experimental video art project/ docu-series that focuses on the sense of community within my poverty-stricken, small, southern hometown of Martinsville, Virginia. My hometown is the type of community where families settle there and never move away; therefore, Martinsville is their home through generations.**

Project Overview:

Initially, I had planned to create an experimental video/ docu-series that focused on the sense of community within my poverty-stricken, small, southern hometown of Martinsville, Virginia. However, in the process of researching, I found that I wasn't necessarily passionate about that topic, even though I loved my hometown dearly. Instead, I felt that I was experiencing something that needed to be shared. That said, after reflecting, I decided to make a video based on my experience with love, or lack thereof. This is a topic that I feel very deeply about. Being a 21-year-old, in this society, that has not experienced love, all while being in love with the concept of love.

Today, it is very common within movies, music, books, TV shows, and other forms of media to focus on the exhilarating feeling of falling in love and/or being in love. Whether it's watching my favorite characters finally get together, listening to lyrics exclaiming that one feels they need their partner to breathe, or reading one of my many favorite romance book tropes. Somehow, it happens to be my favorite genre. On the other hand, it isn't very common to come across forms of media or entertainment that are about the absence of love, specifically the effects it could have on a person.

However, similar to the nearly suffocating presence of love, the absence of it is significantly more. Being surrounded by people who are always in relationships and constantly

being met with the question “Why are you single?”. As if it’s abnormal. Eventually, this leads to unnecessary insecurities surrounding one's self, ranging from appearance to personality traits.

I felt this needed to be shared because, although it may feel like it, I know I’m not alone in this experience and I know that many other people are going through the same thing who, too, might need a reminder that they are not alone.

Outcome:

This project features a series of clips that show love being expressed in some way, shape, or form, while a letter that I wrote to love is spoken over it. While the clips evoke a feeling of warmth and happiness. The words that are spoken over provide a contradiction. When completing this project, I was faced with a lot of challenges. Some of which were my fault, others were out of my control.

This project, also, endured a lot of changes, in addition to the initial topic change. This is because following the first change, I only knew I wanted to focus on love. That said, one of the obstacles I faced, was that I wasn't sure what direction I wanted to take this in, filmwise. I juggled between maintaining the documentary aspect of interviewing people from a variety of different backgrounds landing me on *POV: Love Through the Lens of Others*. Which stuck, for a while, until I realized that love, in this sense, is very personal, and I wanted to keep it that way. Resulting in me personifying love, and writing a letter.

Following that, another obstacle that I faced was imposter syndrome. Although this isn't physical, it is a very real and personal thing that occurs within all artists, especially young adults, who haven't yet made it into an industry. This resulted in me wanting/ needing everything to be “perfect” before I started. Things like the letter, the shot list, and how I wanted the final to look. However, I realized that if I kept waiting for perfection, then I'd be waiting forever. As unfortunate as it is, having the moment of realization helped me become a better artist.

Moreover, while completing this project, I have learned a lot about myself personally and as an artist. Most importantly, I hope when people, who share my experience, watch my project and hear my letter, they know that they aren't alone.

Budget:

Expense	Price
Panasonic Lumix G100 Mirrorless Camera and Accessory kit	\$801.79
2 Extra Batteries and wind muff for microphones	\$31.97
128 GB SD card	\$129.99
LED light panel	\$101.99
Godox wireless Omni Lavalier microphone system	\$249.99
Yearly Adobe student adobe subscription	\$240.00
Panasonic Lumix 14mm Lens	\$197.99
Panasonic Lumix 25mm lens	\$147.99
Panasonic Lecia G 20mm lens	\$497.99
Panasonic Lumix 20mm lens	\$267.99
Brevite Camera backpack	\$189.99
Micro-HDMI to HDMI cable	\$19.99
Battery and adapter kit	\$69.99
Lens cleaning and care kit	\$24.99
Tripod	30.00