

Evie Galvan  
3rd Year Project Outcome

### **Holding Dance in my Hand**

Within my years as a Dance Minor at UVA and being someone who is drawn to create movement, the corporal body has always been a focus of expression for me. However, last spring I felt a desire to expand my art form to a new medium. I proposed to gain a small action camera and through this explore the connection between movement and film, allowing me to gain a different perspective on my studied art form and the ability to discover a brand new one.

Upon receiving the camera my exploration journey immediately began. I first found myself setting up the camera on a tripod and recording my own movement in different backgrounds. This gave me a better understanding of how my own movement looked on film, an important piece of knowledge which I took with me throughout the rest of my journey. I then explored attaching the camera to my own body while moving, a technique which created a vast amount of whimsical and disorienting footage, full of life.



I then found myself drawn to exploring movement more broadly with the camera. I became less restricted in only capturing the movement of the human body, instead finding “dance” in moving water, wind in the trees, walkways of pedestrians, and even in sound. In this regard I gained the most important lesson from this project, a brand new perspective on the art

form I have dedicated myself to for over a decade. Broadening my definition of what “dance” is has inspired me as an artist and led me to brand new explorations within my choreography, improvisation, and knowledge.

This lesson also greatly aided me as I moved on to editing and piecing together films from the footage I had gathered with the camera. This part of the project was definitely a challenge for me and demanded a lot, though was by far the most rewarding part of my experience. I really enjoyed experimenting with very different footage in one single film and also the task of finding sound to accompany the footage. So far, I have created 7 very short and experimental films with my footage and one longer, more professional film. I have titled the longer piece “balance” as it is my exploration of finding a balance between my previous definitions of dance and my newfound views on movement.



Looking back on this experience, I feel so privileged and grateful. I want to thank the J. Sanford Miller family for this amazing opportunity and the many lessons I will be taking with me as an artist from this project. I also want to thank my mentor Kim Brooks Mata and the entire UVA arts community for their support towards young artists within the university.