

Hyebin Lee

Rising Fourth-Year Award

Faculty Advisor: Prof. Mona Kasra

## Project Outcome Report

### **Project Proposal Overview:**

Diaspora has always been a part of human history. Coming from an immigrant family, I had to navigate through different cultures. I am ethnically Korean and am fluent in Korean, but I have spent the majority of my life outside of Korea. So, why do I still feel such a strong connection to Korea?

To explore this question, I propose to make a short film and a series of portraits. The short film will feature interactions between the three generations: my grandmother, my mother, and I. This will include but not be limited to interviews, dialogues, and b-rolls. The narrative structure of the short film is very flexible because I do not want to manipulate the interactions between the subjects. To preserve authenticity, the narrative structure will be decided in post-production. In addition, the series of portraits will focus on revisiting the memories through recreating (or reshaping) old photographs.

### **Outcome Overview:**

The production of the project incorporated multiple parts—conducting interviews, reading through family archives, visiting Korea, and finding pictures and VHS tapes of my family. The project outcome features a projection and a short narrative film.

*Grandma's Treasure* is a projection detailing the voyage of reconnecting with my ancestral heritage. It encompasses various endeavors: listening, observing, tactile exploration, and emulating movement. The essence of this piece lies in interviews with my grandmother and family relics such as my late grandfather's notebook and photographs.

*Homeward* (working title) is a brief narrative film inspired by my family's principles, particularly the essence of love, especially maternal affection. Centered on the relationship between a mother and her daughter, who returns home after a decade-long absence, the story, though fictional, delves into the theme of love, rooted in my family's ethos. Currently undergoing post-production, it aims to convey heartfelt narratives.

Originally conceived to showcase interactions among three generations of women in my family alongside an exhibition of portraits, the envisioned outcome evolved after consultations with Professor Kasra. I decided to change the presentation to narrate my personal journey in a manner that invites others to embark on their quest to connect with their ancestors. I intended to craft something intimate yet universally resonant, steering clear of the trappings of a mere home movie. As a filmmaker, my focus often lies in delving into the intricacies of the mother-daughter relationship, a theme that has prominently featured in my recent cinematic endeavors. Drawing from the research conducted in this

project, I was driven to create a short narrative film that derives inspiration from my family's core values and the profound concept of love. Through this cinematic exploration, I aimed to weave a narrative tapestry that reflects the essence of familial bonds, particularly the intricate dynamics between mothers and daughters. Through this cinematic journey, I seek to celebrate the enduring bond between mothers and daughters while inviting viewers to contemplate the significance of love and familial connections in their own lives.

This project has been a transformative journey for me, offering profound insights into my family's history and the foundational principles that have shaped our values, deeply rooted in biblical teachings. Alongside this invaluable exploration of familial heritage, I've acquired a myriad of technical skills, including proficiency in QLab and projection mapping, which have expanded my artistic toolkit.

Moreover, this endeavor has been instrumental in honing my craft as a storyteller and filmmaker. Through the process of screenwriting, I've delved into the intricacies of narrative construction, refining my ability to craft compelling stories that resonate with audiences on a profound level. Additionally, this project has provided a unique opportunity for me to deepen my understanding of directing, particularly in guiding and eliciting authentic performances from actors.

As I reflect on the multifaceted learnings gleaned from this experience, I am filled with a profound sense of gratitude for the opportunity to not only uncover the layers of my family's history but also to cultivate and refine my skills as a filmmaker. This project has truly been a journey of self-discovery and growth, empowering me to channel these newfound insights and technical abilities into my future creative endeavors

Links to the project:

<https://virginia.box.com/s/vo7b54xwqz759ylja9w8vahffcm5cfot>

Budget:

Expenditure	Cost
<a href="#">Sony FE 24-70mm f/2.8 GM II Lens (Sony E)</a>	\$2665.99 (includes tax and warranty)
Adobe Creative Cloud All Apps (\$29.99 per month)	\$359.88 (1 year)
Exhibition Cost (costs associated with installation, printing, press, and misc)	\$500 (expected)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3525.87*</b>

\*Any amount over \$3000 was paid out of pocket.