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Spring 2024 Mini Grant Proposal

Eclosion - Advanced Project in New Media

This semester, I am completing an independent study in New Media with Professor Cuatlacuatl. The purpose of this independent research project is to explore new forms in New Media through technology, installation, and complete audience immersion. The culmination of this independent study will be an installation exhibition in Ruffin Hall either in mid April or early May.

The installation will be a recreation of my first crime: I killed a silkworm. When I was around eight, my family raised silkworms as pets. The worms were cute and velvety. I loved playing with them by holding them in my hand or putting them in various settings around my house. One day, I was playing with my favorite worm by rolling it around in a miniature Polly Pocket car. When I finished playing, I set the little car with the silkworm down on the kitchen counter, and the car tragically rolled off the counter, crashing to the ground with the silkworm trapped inside of it. I looked down, and I saw the poor worm writhing in its neon green blood. A part of me was disgusted and I was scared to touch the creature. But mostly, I felt a tremendous amount of guilt and sadness, probably for the first time in my life.

Some themes I hope to explore and uncover in this installation include guilt, nostalgia, childhood innocence, violence and death, memory, and a relationship with nature. I have created a reference library that I will keep updating throughout the semester. This piece will be installed in the three-wall projection room at the bottom floor of Ruffin Hall. The projection will emulate a blue sky with pixelated clouds and silkworm moths flying. This will be created using Adobe Photoshop and Premiere. I have experience in my previous New Media classes using these softwares, and I have also projected a project in that specific room in my Intro to New Media I class. The floor will be covered in green fabric to imitate grass and black and yellow fabric to imitate a road. A mini toy car for kids will be painted and set on its side in the middle of the room, along with the body of a dead silkworm, with green fluid exiting from it. This scene is supposed to resemble a car accident. I hope to push this playful aesthetic of my project by utilizing bright colors and purchasing soft textured fabrics.

With the funding provided from this grant, I will be able to fully execute my concept into fruition without worrying about the expenses accrued during the creation process. In addition, I will be exploring and learning a new art making process, one that is sculptural and installation heavy. In my past New Media classes, I have not yet had the opportunity to explore installation, as I have created all digital 2-dimensional pieces. After taking Installation and Performance Art last year, I realized that installation and performance is something I am interested in, along with New Media. This project will be a great piece to add to my portfolio because it showcases a multitude of skills to graduate art programs. In general, this project will help me grow as an artist and open up more opportunities for me in the future.

Timeline

Jan. 21st - March 1st: Develop concept, begin working on the projection, create a list of supplies needed to complete the project.

March 1st - March 9th: Gather materials

March 9th - Apr. 14th: Build the silkworm, paint the car, assemble the floor. Complete final touches, and prepare for the final installation.

Budget

Component	Material	Indv. Cost	Amount needed	Cost
Silk Worm	Cloth	$6.29	2	$12.58
	Wire	$12.99	1	$12.99
	Foam	$15.99	10	$159.90
	Cotton	$9.99	1	$9.99
Floor	Green Cloth	$5.35	25	$133.75
Road	Black Cloth	$6.29	2	$12.58
	Yellow Cloth	$6.29	2	$12.58
Mini Car	Mini Car	$30.00	1	$30.00
	Spray Paint	$8.93	1	$8.93
	Light bulbs	$8.54	1	$8.54
Silk Worm Blood	Green Cellophane	$8.39	1	$8.39
	Green Jello	$1.78	2	$3.56
Extra Costs	Photographer	$100.00	1	$100.00
			Total	$513.79

* The additional $13.79 and tax expenses accrued will be covered out of pocket by me.

Fog machine...

Eclosion ✓1

3 wall projection:
- moving pixelated clouds
- ~~butterflies~~ silk worm moths...
- can make this w/ processing?

floor:
- fake grass
- road - painted on Something...? Maybe wood or foam

car:
- made out of foam & cardboard
- it has lights
- wood

silkworm:
- cloth, foam
- blood - some shiny green plastic material or real goop.
- wires