

Hyebin Lee

Rising Fourth-Year Award

Faculty Advisor: Prof. Mona Kasra

Present in the Past

Proposal:

I propose to make an autoethnographic short film and a portrait series exploring my identity as an immigrant Korean American by creatively examining the interactions of three generations: my grandmother, mother, and I. The short film will be distributed through Youtube, and the portrait series will be exhibited at a physical location. This funding will allow me to pursue my passion for visual storytelling, new media art, video art, and film making. The award money will be used for filming equipment and post production expenses.

Introduction:

I have always been interested in hearing the stories of people and learning who they are. While hearing the stories of people, I realized that I have yet to explore why my descent is important to me. With the news of my grandmother visiting the U.S. this year, I wanted to study the culture of my descent and why it is important to me.

Project 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?

In order 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 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. In

order to preserve authenticity, the narrative structure will be decided in post production. In addition, the series of portraits will focus on revisiting the past memories through recreating (or reshaping) old photographs. This may entail simple recreation of old photographs or photoshopping the subject into the old photograph. The short film will be distributed online and the series of portraits will be exhibited at a physical location. Visible Record Studio is a potential space for exhibition. I am still debating whether to project clips of short films onto objects. This will be further discussed with my mentor in post production.

Process:

This project will require skills such as filming, video editing, sound designing, photoshop, color correction and color grading. Through past experiences with directing, filming, editing, and color grading, I feel confident to produce this project. However, I plan to further my skills by taking online courses through Youtube and LinkedIn Learning. I also have people (professors and classmates) who can help me with these skills.

Timeline:

This is the tentative timeline for this project spanning from May 2023 to April 2024.

Time	Goal
May - June 2023	Preproduction: Concept/idea development, finding old photographs, location search for exhibition
June - September 2023	Production
September 2023 - January 2023	Post production: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Editing films including sound design - Adding subtitles - Editing and printing portraits
February 2024	Project Release (Youtube) and exhibition
March - april 2023	Follow up, Project outcome report

Budget:

Expenditure	Cost
Sigma 24-70mm f/2.8 DG DN Art Lens for Sony E	\$1099.00
Sony FE 50mm f/1.4 GM Lens (Sony E)	\$1298.00
Adobe Creative Cloud All Apps (\$29.99 per month)	\$359.88 (1 year)
Exhibition Cost (costs associated with installation, printing, press, and misc)	\$500
Total	\$3256.88*

I want to upgrade my **lenses** to achieve better visual aesthetics. These lenses also have outstanding autofocus, which my current lenses do not have. I will be primarily using **Adobe Premiere Pro, After Effect, Audition, Photoshop, and Lightroom** for this project. These software require subscriptions on a monthly basis. I will allocate \$500 towards exhibition expenses (installation, printing, press and etc). The prints will be large prints, and some will be printed on a canvas.

*The remaining amount of \$256.88 will be paid with personal funds.

Mentor:

I am very excited to have the opportunity to work with Prof. Mona Kasra. I took two classes, a production lab, and independent study with her. She has taught me so much about video designing, storytelling and other artistic and creative aspects. She is an experienced digital multimedia artist and has worked with numerous time-based media projects. She has given valuable advice on this project already, and I'm thrilled to officially work with her on this project.

Participation in the Arts:

I'm currently working towards double majoring in Studio Arts (cinematography) and Media studies (film). I am currently enrolled in Intro to Cinematography II and Intro to New Media II. I enormously enjoy taking all these classes and improving my artistic skills. I competed in a filmmaking competition, Adrenaline 2022, with my classmates. I am currently producing a short film with John Barnes, who is the director. This film is under the guidance of Overcrank class in the drama department. I'm an active member of Grace Christian Fellowship at UVA. I participate as a keyboardist, a photographer, a videographer, and a small group leader. Outside of UVA, I have been serving as a keyboardist and live streamer for Portico Church. I also have a Youtube Channel where I share about my college life.

Conclusion:

Through this project, I aim to grow as a filmmaker. Moreover, this project is important to me because I will be exploring my cultural identity and values. It is important to establish values and beliefs as a filmmaker, and this project will serve as an opportunity for me to do so. Furthermore, it is an invitation to others to explore their identity.