

Corrinne James

Thanks to the funding from the Miller Art Scholars Minigrant, I was able to purchase supplies that allowed me to complete a short animation called *The Manner of Things*.

Originally, I had proposed an idea for the animation that involved finding oneself through connections with the self, life, and the spirit. I was convinced that by the end of the summer, and that by the end of my six-week journey to France, I would have found the key to a momentary happiness. While creating this animation, I was unable to find the answer that I was looking for, but able to adjust my question and position. There is no secret to always being content with the world around you, but there is always an ability to appreciate the beauty in the world, as it also is forever changing.

The animation, *The Manner of Things* is a minute and 50 second long interpretation of a description of an observation of life moving with the sensation that comes from just simply observing. The immediate beauty is contrasted with the distance between to the two people on the phone. The phone call is between two young adults who have recently moved on from each other, yet still can relate to the satisfying pleasures of life. The phone call was candid and unscripted, and the footage of the two young people was taken before the call. The animation colorfully translates the description of pleasure on the phone, yet also reflects a youthful desire to care for a lover with a dark need to protect oneself first.

I received the phone call from an ex while we were trying to avoid contact. Still we were constantly wondering what the other was up to and their safety. It's hard not to feel jealous when someone is describing how beautiful life can really be when you aren't a

part of that life anymore. It's confusing to understand if you're "supposed" to feel happy or hurt. I think what hurts the most is the jealousy that comes from another person being able to enjoy such minimal pleasures in life simultaneously as you are unable to, as if you are blind to a world full of vibrant and euphoric colors. The person that you used to love so much begins to exist as two beings, one within your head that is with you all of the time and one that is actually living and existing without you. I tried to capture both of those individuals and myself within this film, while also capturing the description on the phone call about the pure beauty found within life and observation.

I learned a lot about myself and about my anxiety while creating this animation. I have learned that when expectations begin to push you into a dark mental place, it is important to value the beauty of life that is present before you. The animation is a contrast of immediate beauty mixed with a soft jealousy that one may be blind to an obvious surrounded vibrancy. After making this animation and the soundtrack, I have realized that the dual combination of audio and visual expression is the art form that I find the most intriguing and the one that I feel most comfortable working within.

Link: <https://vimeo.com/180350444>