

Project Name: ***The Interpretation of Dream***

## **OVERVIEW**

I've never thought about the meaning of dreams until I started writing morning journals about my dreams last semester. Reluctant to write such a journal required by my sculpture Professor Bill Bennett at first, I later realized that this habit of recording the dreams has changed my life.

I've suffered a lot from dreams and nightmares. I often wake up from a nightmare, screaming, crying, or feeling a monstrous void inside me. I hardly remember them, horrifying or beautiful. Yet writing the morning journals has made me appreciate them and embrace them as my view of the world, my wild imagination, and more importantly, part of me as an artist and an emotional being.

Apart from my sufferance from exhausting dreams and nightmares, my inspiration for this project comes from my interest in psychology, a discipline I wanted to study as my major but given up in the end, and more importantly, from my first-time experience with dreamscape video design in Professor Mona Kasra's Video Design I class this semester. After learning about surrealist video making and actually having made my first dreamscape video, I realize that this type of storytelling express my emotions and thoughts very effectively. Therefore, I've decided to pick up my interest in psychology, especially dream analysis, and combine it with my newly discovered passion in designing a dreamscape video project.

## **CONTENT & OBJECTIVE**

My objective for this project is to combine my personal experience, my interest in psychology, my passion for art and my love for video and film techniques to create a dreamscape film about how reality is interpreted in my dreams, how dreams constructs a unique world meanwhile revealing my identity, and what I learn from them. The film would be a response to my personal experience and my own consciousness. It will also aim at challenging the way reality is

presented in front of a camera. I also see this project as an opportunity for me to try “bolder” styles of art, since most of my art so far has been more reserved. I see this opportunity to portray the “unreal” or “surreal” as my chance to open up my mind and help me overcome the aesthetic constraints I’ve put on my art and myself. I’m ready to really experiment with my fullest imagination and creative thoughts, to be truly fearless of what my art would look like. I want my audience to be inspired after watching my film. I want to open up new possibilities of interpreting reality. I also want viewers to think about identity just as I do through my film.

I plan to produce a twenty-minute film, composed of three to five distinctive parts. The length of each part may vary. The entire video would be based on dreams, nightmares, fragments of memories related to the dreams, consciousness, sub-consciousness, and a different or even distorted perception of reality. Instead of making it personal, the content would be collages and compositions of elements that can relate to different viewers.

Scenes I’ll shoot while I go back to China during the summer will be extremely important, because of their exotic nature and its strong connection with my sub-consciousness. Also, I plan to design an original sound as I’m planning to take a class about sound design next semester.

## **PROCESS**

To prepare for conceptualization, I will continue writing morning journals about my memories of my dreams, intact or fragmented. To enrich the content I’ll also try to write down some of my random imaginations during the day. Meanwhile, I will read articles on dream analysis to strengthen my understanding of the relationship between dreams, consciousness, reality and the body ego. I’ll also research surrealist art forms and films so as to improve my artistic understanding of how unconsciousness can be represented in art.

After conceptualization, I will start shooting clips of things related to my themes. I will use my summer in China to capture as many artistically interesting clips as I can, with a more advanced lens to yield higher quality. A fisheye lens

would be really helpful in creating the dreamy feeling of a video. I plan to use about 60% of time shooting the clips. The rest of my time for the project falls on editing.

I will use everything I've learned in New Media classes and Video Design class and meanwhile study the online tutorials on Lynda.com. The fact that I'm determined to continue studying New Media and/or Video Design will also help me develop more professional editing skills. I will edit the clips with Adobe Premier Pro and Adobe After Effects. During the process, I'll consult frequently with my mentor.

After completion, I'll post my film on Youtube and my own website. It is my goal to have my completed piece shown on grounds in a local exhibition. The location is yet to be determined.

## **TIMELINE**

### **SUMMER**

May - August 2017:

Writing morning journals; consulting psychology articles; shooting clips in China

### **FALL**

Sept. – Oct. 2017:

Writing morning journals; consult mentor about artistic conceptualization and methods of filming; study online tutorials

Nov. 2017:

Start collaging the clips; continue filming, writing morning journals

### **WINTER & SPRING**

Dec. 2017 – Feb. 2018:

Editing with Adobe Premier Pro and Adobe After Effects; experiment with sound design; consult with mentor

Mar. – April. 2018:

Final Editing; completion

## **BUDGET**

Canon EF 100 mm f/2.8L Macro IS USM lens (for close-up filming) \$899

Canon EF 8-15 mm f/4L USM Fisheye (for fisheye views) \$1249  
Sigma 24 mm 1.4 Art Wide Angle Lens \$849  
Light Weight Heavy Duty Tripod \$150  
Video/Portrait Studio Lighting Kit \$150  
Green Screen (for shooting clips that will be used as footages for after effects)  
\$60  
Cannon Camera Remote Control \$49  
(all estimate of prices are based on listed prices on Amazon.com)  
Total: \$3406

**Faculty Advisor:**

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**Evidence of Participation in the Arts**

I have already declared my concentration in Painting and begun to pursue another concentration in New Media. Therefore I'm taking both Introduction to Painting II and Introduction to New Media II this semester. Also, since I just found out my passion for digital art and video making, I'm also taking Video Design I. And I'll continue taking the higher level of these three classes next semester.

Meanwhile, I also spend a considerable amount of my spare time carving seals for my third-year award project. After consulting Professor Akemi Rollando, I discovered new possibilities with this project and therefore I'm spending even more time on it right now.

Also, as a Miller Arts Scholar, I'm taking CASS1011 this semester. Apart from being very engaged in the discussions, I volunteered to become part of the T-Shirt design team. As a generally more introverted person, I hope to use my artistic skills to contribute to the Arts Scholars community. I also recently become a Co-Chair of Studio Arts Board. By joining the Studio Arts Board, I hope I can not only focus on my own art but contribute more to the arts on grounds.