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[Sabbatical Report]

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Sabbatical Report

Assessment of Outcomes:

The primary purpose of this sabbatical project was to film, edit and produce short video pieces based on the footage collected in Tokyo, Japan.

I traveled Tokyo between May 15 and June 30, 2013 (led a study abroad program until May 30th) and collected such huge amount footage of Tokyo. I got around Tokyo everyday and filmed people, happenings, performances, sites, atmosphere and all visual phenomena that I encountered. As the main intention of this project was to dig into the margins of reality in present-day Tokyo, and interpret them with my personal visual language, I searched for original footage, sounds and dialogue that were natural and unaffected.

This project is my artistic pursuit to capture, record and share what I see. Seeing is a great starting point for a creative impulse and results from whatever stimulates my eyes, brain and nervous system. I seek the accident that happens on camera. My video therefore is centered on a process of personal discovery and realization. It also follows intuitive and unconscious approaches to the videos as visual poems in which I grapple with all visual phenomena that I meet. This project is therefore a series of discontinuous diary videos containing all forms of experimental and non-conventional video. The intent of the productions is aesthetic rather than journalistic in nature.

The work is completed and being submitted to peer-reviewed festivals around the globe where appropriate. *The Festival of Nations at Austria, CROATIAN ONE - MINUTE FILM FESTIVAL at Croatia, Indie Boots Film Festival at Chicago* are the festivals that the video have been submitted. This video was also produced as a multi-chapter DVD (attached with this report) and will be distributed through online as an additional screening platform such as my personal website, YouTube and Vimeo. These efforts to show my work internationally will ultimately extend the reach of this work and also benefit the WKU community.

As I had been stunned by things that I witnessed in Tokyo such as tranquil shrines, exquisite Japanese architecture, vivid marketplaces, otherworldly music and dance, enthusiastic political demos, and vigorous Mikoshi, the amount of footage was on the greatly increase. As a result, I consequently had to go through an overwhelmingly long reviewing and editing process, I ultimately created 21 pieces of video.

While it may not accurately be measured by Western music standard, I find each video has its own musical elements and tempo that basically leads the title of this video to <Tokyo Concerto> which has 7 sections as adagio, andante, moderato, allegro, forte, fortissimo and vivace. Each section consists of several chapters and each chapter depicts a specific topic as follows;

Adagio: <Tranquility> 05' 14", <In Praise of Shadows> 02' 32", <Shinto> 09' 01", <Clouds> 02' 39",
<Yasukuni Shrine> 04' 28"

Andante: <Asakusa> 03' 47", <Marketplace> 03' 29", <Sky> 02' 27", <J-Pop> 06' 03", <Odori> 08' 47"

Moderato: <Music of Japan> 07' 32", <Gujo Odori> 10' 10"

Allegro: <Urban> 13' 22", <Metro> 18' 38"

Forte: <Campaigns> 11' 47"

Fortissimo: <Mikoshi Samoncho> 06' 26", <Mikoshi Asakusa> 05' 00", <Mikoshi Torigoe> 17' 37"

Vivace: <Horse Race> 4' 50", <Street Performers> 07' 37", <Tsukiji Fish Market> 05' 52"

In conclusion, my sabbatical was productive and fruitful. A cross-cultural exchange of technical and aesthetic perspectives between Western and Eastern was a rewarding and enriching experience. All things will contribute to my practice as a studio artist and lead to currency in my field of new media and video. A variety of strategies for the use of video as an art-making tool were explored such as Smartphone filmmaking as a medium for artistic expression and social inquiry as utilized by contemporary artists in recent years. It has given me a necessary career boost that intend to continue through the making of more work in the series, further screening of the work, additional travel and research on Japan and beyond.