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My Study Abroad Story

I never strongly identified as being a Jew. For the first time I was a minority and was stereotyped based on my appearance. As I walked through the streets of Krakow, Berlin, and Prague with my brown curls, I was shocked by statistics of the slim number of Jewish citizens that remained. Tourism thrived on the sale of tacky souvenirs of menorahs and yamakas. My non-American friend proceeded to tell me I couldn't be Jewish because Jews have big noses. As I replayed these experiences in my head, I became hyper aware and proud of my heritage.

While studying abroad and travelling around Eastern Europe for 6 months I became fascinated with how our brains work in remembering past events and how these memories affect our identities. The different family customs, cultural events and expectations of each new companion defined an aspect of who they were. I also attended and researched countless experimental art events; many showcased large scale projection mapping- I was hooked.

This year I created PERSONAL PROJECTIONS, a collaborative multimedia installation analyzing memories of seven diverse students. Using LCD projection interaction on their bodies and skin, each video vignette explores an aspect of their identity. These scenes range from stereotypical expectations, gender roles, horrific events, and secretive experiences. PERSONAL PROJECTIONS displays intimate subject matter at monumental scales, making the cherished memories very public. The audience enters the stage, stimulated by fields of colored light and composed soundscapes that support each scenes imagery. One scene, "Homes" explores the complicated upbringing of Hojo Shin, through the strange events and familiar faces of the cities she grew up in. One section displays the dangers her friends in the Israeli army are facing, as the viewer hears sirens and war cries. My study abroad journey influenced me to research and interpret how our experiences help define our identity.



PERSONAL PROJECTIONS live in the Duderstadt Video Studio, 2016: Nikki Horowitz. Performed by Hojo Shin
Scene "Homes" analyzes Hojo's memories of traditional Singapore makeup and Vogue style magazine advertisements in Milan



PERSONAL PROJECTIONS live in the Duderstadt Video Studio, 2016: Nikki Horowitz. Performed by Kellan Kyrak
In the scene "Suppress" we explore Kellan's suppression of her Tourette's Syndrome tics



PERSONAL PROJECTIONS video stills, 2016: Nikki Horowitz. Performed by Larissa Marten
Scene "Princess" pokes fun out of societies disapproval and fear of manly women and feminine men



PERSONAL PROJECTIONS live in the Duderstadt Video Studio, 2016: Nikki Horowitz. Performed by Ryan Shea
In the scene "Detach" we see Ryan in fetal position with his blank face projected onto his body.
We analyze Ryan's concern with being detached from his loved ones



PERSONAL PROJECTIONS live in the Duderstadt Video Studio, 2016: Nikki Horowitz. Performed by Hojo Shin
In the scene "Homes" we see Hojo reflecting on the dangers her friends are facing in the Israeli army and label of being an outsider