

Project Proposal Draft

01-Title of Project: *creation and destruction*

02-Name of Student: Jamie Hamilton

03-Advisors for studio and research Elements:

Studio:

- 1 Stanya Kahn, Because of her extensive back round in performance and dance and involvement with the body.
- 2 Ellen Flanders, Because of her practice of film making, and philosophy.
- 3 Phillis Ideal, She lives part time in New Mexico, (as do I) which means we could perhaps speak in person. I am a proponent of real physical interaction.

Research:

- 1 Donald Russell, Because of his interests and knowledge in public, temporary art and the body.
- 2 Nadim Samman, Because of his background in philosophy
- 3 Edward A Shanken Because of his study of art science and their combination in interdisciplinary art.

04 Description of proposed project, practical element:

I plan on creating large scale aerial sculptures which will be performed upon by myself and others. This requires a twin development of both a sculptural system of great structural and aesthetic integrity and the intense physical training of my body and mind necessary for such types of performance. I will create structures of compressive and tensile members of steel, wire rope, fabrics, and plastics which can be erected in fields, cantilever from cliffs, occupy large spaces within and between architectural edifices. These structures will present me with the opportunity to perform upon wires and have other performers and dancers interact with the forms and structures. I will build the components by grinding, cutting, and welding steels and then test their integrity by pulling them up to load with winches connected to a dynamometer. When I am attaching to existing architectural structures as a canvas for the work, engineers will need to be enlisted.

I also will train my body for the rigors of aerial performance. I will spend time everyday practicing traditional Hatha Yoga and Kalari, walking on my high wire, and strengthening my body through other forms of physical training. I will be mentored in Yoga by Matt Huish, a student of classical forms of yoga for over 30 years. I also wish to study with ballet dancers to help me find grace from the core to the limbs. I also will seek out training from a master wire walker if possible, although wire walking is a closely protected art form and it is hard to find mentors willing to share their art. This disciplined work and study will provide the strength, courage, and grace which I wish to bring to my performances upon my sculptures.

05-Description of proposed project, written element

I wish examine the journey towards unification of mind, body, and spirit through the physical practices of sculpting and performance. How does a disciplined study and physical practice allow the transformation of mind, body, and material into the creation of art. Bruce Lee tells us "The aim of art is to project an inner vision into the world, to state in aesthetic creation the deepest psychic and personal experiences of a human being.... Behind every motion, the music of his soul becomes visible." Throughout history intense physical practice has been used as a tool for one to see into oneself and to begin to the understand how the world holds a universal

continuity of matter and awareness. But the great engineer gains insights similar to those of the martial artist. It is not solely the physical that brings us to insight. It comes from the deepest love for what we do, it resides in a distaste towards the cultural murmurings of boundaries and limits. By working fiercely, everything unravels and only the essential things should be carried forward. Philippe Petit one of the greatest high wire artists says, "limits only exist in the souls of those who do not dream." I will look into the philosophical and spiritual traditions of the east delving into the study of focus, non attachment, and perfection.

06- Project result:

The result will consist of a series of installations and performances in various locations around my home in New Mexico. I will install them in parks, urban settings, on rock cliffs and spanning gorges in nature. I will document the works with photographs and short videos works.

07-Research method

I will study practices in the engineering and rigging of tensile structures. The works of Frei Otto and Robert Le Ricolais will be studied carefully. I will study the practices of athletes and performers and how they approach their sport and art. The spiritual practices of Zen, Buddhism and Yoga will be studied to better focus my energies and channel my fears as I enter into the construction and performance in realms inhabited by bird, fierce wind, and vertiginous space.

08- Initial bibliography

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09-Research Question.

What characteristics make structures, either physical or psychic have integrity and beauty? How does mental and physical learning which contains both great practice and passion cultivate such structures?

10-Intended Audience

Everyone.

11-Current Artistic Practice

I study forms of the world whether they be natural or man made moving or static. Both tiny or huge, ancient or modern, resonances in structure and form can be seen. The spiral galaxy yields much the same structure as a draining sink, both forms dictated by the organizing forces of gravity and inertia. The paths of smashed atoms inside the particle accelerator follows the same graceful arcs and curves as the iron in a Paris metro stop. My sculpture and the process involved in its creation is a way of exploring my connection to matter, energy, and consciousness.

12-Formulate Entire Project in 2-3 sentences:

The realization of aerial sculptures and performances whose grace is born from an economy of human movement and material construction of an intrinsic beauty which denies reduction to a single issue. It is my aspiration these works fill the audience not so much with my impressions and dogma, but with their own questions towards death, love, and the fabric of our dreams.