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Space

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Space

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A thesis submitted to the University Honors Program in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the Honors Degree

Southern Illinois University

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In the department of Art and Design, I had to complete a Thesis to fill my requirements to graduate. For my Thesis I decided to explore space, specifically interior spaces. The concept of space as an identifier really interests me. I've been subconsciously incorporating interior spaces in all of my work for years now, with the underlying theme of identity and place. It's a concept that I found in exploring my own spaces and talking with my family, and I came to realize that we all explore space regularly. My family looks at space to mean "land", a way to use their passions to make a livelihood. My dad explored space to mean "home" and so he set out to build himself a home. My sister explores space to mean "community" and those who occupy a specific space. My spaces are interior and how people shape their interiors to reflect who they are. These works are the first time I'm embracing my own spaces to share with viewers. It was a way for me to offer a self portrait of who I am because of these spaces.

I chose to create a digital artist statement with my paintings as a way to pair my major and minor. I wanted to show my viewers the spaces I chose to paint and tell them why. I was best able to do that with a camera. My style is supposed to pay homage to YouTube bloggers and home video-type footage. In this way, I was able to explore expressing my deep connection to these spaces with my audience. Firstly, with painting, then with my camera. That way I was really able to bring them into my space and *show* them why they were important.

The film is intended to be viewed with my paintings, so that one may fully understand the concept and my attachments. I am able to dive deeper in the film and talk about these self-portraits. The paintings themselves show the personality of the three spaces (my home, my grandma's living room, my family market). Through my two projects, I was able to understand my own painting style further, understand my connection and the relevance to these interior

spaces, and incorporate a style of filmmaking that was new to me. In doing so I have a better understanding of the type of art I am drawn to and want to create.