

Friday August 27

So much has happened so far. This past weekend I spent all of Saturday and Sunday going through and uploading my best papers and projects from both the MACS and DA programs to portfolio. I'm glad I got that done before the semester officially started so I wouldn't have to worry about it later. Monday night I finished the first draft of my interview protocol and release form and sent that to my committee. I have a physical Capstone notebook and it is filled with 6 pages of questions. I went through it and chose my top 10 questions and made some accompanying follow ups. I also had a template release form from my documentation course too. Tuesday I started reaching out to and researching potential exhibition places. Right now that is the one thing I'm most worried about. I know most exhibition spaces have their schedules planned out months in advance so I know it's going to be really hard to find a place so last minute. If I can't find a space I'll either have to rent a venue or try to do a virtual exhibition. Those two options aren't ideal but if I have no choice then there's nothing I can do. Wednesday I had my first meeting with my Capstone committee. It was 90 minutes long and I got back a lot of good critique. I had so much on my mind that I could barely sleep that night. Thursday I needed a mental health day. With everything going on at work, school, and my social life I just needed a day to relax and digest everything going on in my head. Today I set up this Capstone folder on my google drive. Throughout this whole process I'm going to try to journal every week. I'm also going to upload and continue to update my plan of work, interview protocol and other documents as they relate to this project. After I finish adjusting my interview protocol and release form I'll contact my committee again and let them know. Tomorrow I'll reach out to my interviewees and see if we can schedule a time to meet.

Saturday August 28

I tried calling everyone but no one was free to pick up so I sent texts asking them to message me when they're free. Josiah called me back and he agreed to be a part of Capstone. He's usually free on weekends. I let him know that my question set and release form are 90% done and that I might get feedback for adjustments and if I do then I will notify him and send him the updated documents. Alaysia said yes and is super excited to help. Nnamdi said yes. Tony had to preach today so he told me to call him tomorrow after church. Tina is on leave till September 1st. I'm sure both Tina and Tony will be interested in being a part of my project though. I haven't heard back from Dani yet. I also started brainstorming design ideas for marketing collateral for the exhibition. Dani wasn't able to talk because she was at a wedding so she told me to send her a message explaining everything. I did and she also agreed. Church usually ends at 1 p.m. but since Tony is a minister he always stays a bit longer after service. Also considering him driving back home and factoring in he might get food I should probably call him around 3/3:30 p.m.

Sunday August 29

I made my first concept for my exhibition marketing. Tony didn't pick up so I left him a voicemail.

Monday August 30

Nnamdi texted me and I'm interviewing him Saturday September 11th. I'm going to try and call Tony again today after I get off work. Tina should be back tomorrow so I'll send her a follow up

email in the afternoon. Alaysia has a schedule similar to mine and she's free after 5 p.m. on weekdays. I think she said she wouldn't mind an in person interview so I'm going to have to see where we will do the interview and purchase a tripod, black backdrop, and a ring light. Dani is free every weekday this week so I'm going to see if I can schedule a Zoom meeting with her on Wednesday. I would do it today or tomorrow but I had to start going back into the office and needed a day or two to adjust. I emailed Camille from Motor House today about using a space in November. Hopefully she sees it and responds tomorrow. I had planned on emailing the Prince George's African American Museum & Cultural Center to but my friend reminded me that we actually have a friend there who is the marketing and gallery coordinator so I'm going to message her on social media first before I send a formal email. The email I sent to Motor House will be reformatted as a template email I'll be sending to other galleries and places. I'm going to Microsoft Word online to transcribe my interviews. I learned the hard way that self transcribing from an audio file takes forever from the Fieldwork course.

Right now I'm thinking about what colors I should give my interviewees when it comes to editing. At first I was thinking about giving the men cool colors and women warm but now I decided that after I finish each interview I'm just going to ask people what color they want to be. It's going to be first come first serve.

Just googled it and the Prince George's African American Museum & Cultural Center is exactly one hour away. I wouldn't mind having an exhibition there but I do hope I find a place that is closer. I might have to travel to my gallery multiple times so I just want to make sure it's convenient. Also I'm spending the rest of tonight researching places and tomorrow I'm going to email my chosen few. Also just realized I forgot to call Tony after work today and to set an official interview date and time with Alaysia. I'll do that tomorrow. Also tomorrow I'm going to call Alex from the Goucher gallery ((410) 337-6477) and DM'ing the gallery on Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/goucherartgalleries/>) as well. I think the Silber Gallery would be a good place since there would be ample parking and it would be good to have a grad student showcase their work.

Tuesday August 31

The Prince George's African American Museum & Cultural Center is temporarily closed and only doing digital exhibitions. Just messaged Josiah about scheduling a solid date for an interview. He's in California so I'll get a response later today. Messaged Alaysia to. The Silber Gallery doesn't open until 11 so I'll wait till then to try to call Alex. If she doesn't pick up then I'll DM the Instagram page. I tried calling Alex and she didn't pick up. I couldn't even leave a voicemail because her mailbox was full. Messaged the gallery on IG. Camille emailed me back excited that Amy recommended Motor house. She asked if the exhibition would be open to the public and what my budget was. I told her the event would be public and that I have a budget of a few hundred dollars. Josiah messaged me and I'm interviewing him this weekend at 6:30 p.m. Tina probably has a lot of emails and messages to check so maybe I'll give her till after tomorrow before I contact her again. I will call Tony again today. I tried calling him twice and left a voicemail this weekend and texted him yesterday.

Wednesday September 1

I think I'm going to give up on the idea of having an exhibition at Goucher. I've literally tried every form of communication and have gotten no response. I could try to go into the office but I have a funny feeling that no one is going to be there. Also with the same mindset, I'm going to try calling and messaging Tony one more time today and if I still get no response I'm moving on to reaching out to Khor. I'm going to send Tina a follow up email today. I'm a little nervous about my first interview but this one is super important. It's going to give me an idea of how the flow of the interview will go, some good follow up questions and threads, and how long these interviews might take. I started working on some more marketing collateral for the exhibition and I think I'm going to go with the black background design because it helps the colors stand out better and it's similar to how the art is going to be projection mapped in a dark space.

So Dani was still stuck at the hairdresser tonight and we have to reschedule for the same time tomorrow. I was kind of nervous. That means tomorrow I have 2 meetings. One with Alaysia at 5:30 and another with Dani at 8. I hope I'm not too tired. Still haven't been able to get in contact with Tony so sadly I'm going to have to move on. I'll call Khor tomorrow before I interview Alaysia. No one has responded to my emails about an exhibition space yet. In my Plan of work I have the 17th as the date of when I'm supposed to have a location. If I can't lock one down I'm going to have to talk to my committee about what to do. I'm nervous. It's the one thing in the back of my head that I can't stop thinking about right now. Khor is a pastor. If he is also too busy then I'll reach out to the other men on my list.

Thursday September 2

The Peale emailed me back and said they couldn't because their building is currently undergoing renovations. The Full Circle Gallery only exhibits "photographic techniques, principles, media, or ideas." I couldn't get in touch with anyone at the Goucher galleries. It's too late and hard to get a space in the Towson galleries. C. Grimaldis Gallery has an exhibition that ends Nov 6 and they need at least 2 weeks between exhibits to get the space ready. Galerie Myrtis is too expensive. It would be \$740 not including tax, staff, and clean up fees. The Goya Contemporary said no. The Prince George's African American Museum & Cultural Center is temporarily closed and only doing virtual exhibitions. My project isn't abstract enough for Mono Practice. I don't think the RESORT gallery is even in operation anymore.

Below are the notes I took on spaces last week:

On **The Peale** contact page (<https://www.thepealecenter.org/contact/>) it says they're temporarily closed till 2022.

Despite it being closed there's still an exhibition going on in Nov

(<https://www.thepealecenter.org/events/the-guardians-reshaping-history-exhibition-opening/>)

Art Gallery of Fells Point on the Avenue website hasn't been updated since 2018

Baltimore Clayworks wouldn't be the right venue for my medium

It's too late to get gallery space at **Towson University** plus it's a very long and rigorous process.

Red Emma's also doesn't feel like the right venue for the exhibition

Catalyst Contemporary has an exhibition scheduled for my time

(<https://www.catalystcontemporary.com/upcoming>)

CRYSTAL MOLL GALLERY (CMG) is closed plus isn't a good fit

I don't think the **Current** will be a good fit

Fleckenstein Gallery prefers printed works

Full Circle Gallery had a projection mapped exhibition earlier this year

<https://www.fullcirclephotogallery.com/orphanedlight>

They also don't have any exhibitions planned for November

(<https://www.fullcirclephotogallery.com/copy-of-current>)

They prefer the "stronger photographic community"

Galerie Myrtis pro black art and no exhibitions for November

(<http://galeriemyrtis.net/exhibitions/>)

Costs money. \$185 an hour plus

The **Winkel Gallery** isn't a right fit

I don't like the rental space and all of the requirements for the **Hamilton Art Gallery**

(http://hamiltonarts.org/?page_id=513)

Max Gallery is a no

Metro Gallery is a no

More Than Fine Framing not a right fit for my medium

Y: Art Gallery is permanently closed

Merritt Gallery is a no

SkyLofts Studios and Galleries is a no

Springsteen is a no

ST. CHARLES PROJECT is closed because Covid

Steven Scott Gallery has an exhibition up for the rest of the year

My piece wouldn't be a right fit for **Tradestone Gallery**

Bromo Seltzer Arts Tower would be a bad location

It's too late for the **Chesapeake Arts Center**

Missed the exhibition proposal due date for **Creative Alliance**

Too late for the **Institute of Contemporary Art**

Maryland Art Place has an exhibition up till Nov 6 so it would be cutting it close plus I might be too late to even apply.

Potters Guild of Baltimore is for clay work

Sowebo Arts isn't a good fit for me

Cardinal hasn't updated their website since 2019

My only hopes right now are the Waller Gallery and Motor House. I'm trying to think outside the box for exhibition spaces but it's hard.

Finally some good news today. Tina said she'd be interested in being interviewed. Going to send her everything and set up a time to interview her right now. So Dani cancelled again. She said she'd be free tomorrow evening and Monday so hopefully one of those days I can interview her. Sent Alaysia a friendly reminder and she hasn't responded yet. Hopefully she hasn't

forgotten about our meeting. She didn't forget. Also Dani messaged me back saying she can be interviewed. I told I already had one planned and she told me to message her right after so she can participate.

Friday September 3 (Interview 1: Alaysia and Interview 2: Dani)

I was so tired yesterday that I couldn't even write about the interviews. For future reference I'm never going to do 2 back to back interviews ever again. I worked 9-5 and as soon as I got off I was prepping for my interview with Alaysia. Right after my interview with Alaysia I started my meeting with Dani. My day didn't end until 9 p.m. yesterday. Alaysia was my first interview. I learned more about how these interviews are going to go by with how hers went. Her interview was about 36 minutes long. I didn't really need to ask my follow ups because she gave great responses that covered both the main question, the follow up and then some. Before we started I was a little nervous because I have a little experience when it comes to interviewing and because I am asking these intense questions. I logged onto the zoom 5 minutes early and so did she. I thanked her again for participating, asked her how she was doing, and then gave her a rundown of how the interview was going to go. I ask a question then she responds. I also let her know that she can talk as long as she wants on anything and go as deep as she wants. I printed a copy of my question set so I wouldn't have to switch between Zoom and word. I wanted to use the live transcription on Word online but if you don't interact with the screen for 30 minutes then it logs you out. So now I'm going to have to upload the audio file and let it transcribe from that. Thank goodness I didn't forget to record the interview. I'll start Alaysia's transcription today and try to finish this weekend. Alaysia did the interview on her phone instead of a laptop but it still worked. She was also successful in changing her background to a solid black to make it easier for me when it comes to editing. I did make one small mistake of leaving the view in Gallery instead of Speaker but I fixed it halfway through the first question. Overall Alaysia was a great interviewee. She wasn't intimidated by any of the questions, she gave well thought out responses, she told stories, and I can tell she really enjoyed the interaction. At first the interview was more formal but as we got halfway done we both became more relaxed and it became more like a conversation. I got a lot of good data from Alaysia. After we finished the interview we stayed on Zoom and talked for another 45 minutes about the questions and the experience. I got some good feedback on my question set. Alaysia said she wished I had a question about how Black people are portrayed in the media and she thought I should restructure my question of "What was 2020 like for you regarding your mental health?" to something like "What Pros and Cons did quarantine have on your mental health?" She was also curious as to my responses to the questions and if her answers were good enough. I answered any question she wanted me to respond to and I reassured her that her answers were good enough. After that interview ended I waited for Zoom to create a mp4 video file of the interview then I messaged Dani and told her I was ready. I was a little tired but I wanted to get her interview done so I have more time to transcribe and get started on the art process early than planned.

Dani unlike Alaysia was nervous. Dani is Afro Latina but she mostly passes as Latina so she felt a little identity crisis. Dani couldn't change her background so she just sat in front of a blank wall. I hope that won't affect my editing process too much. Despite telling me she was nervous

before we began, Dani gave me very in depth, well thought out, long responses. Our interview lasted a whole hour and we even talked for an additional hour afterwards. It was a great interview. Every response from her was gold. Even though I was physically tired by the end of it I felt very fulfilled because we had such a great conversation. I'm really starting to enjoy this. From the two interviews I had so far I was surprised with how some responses lead into each other. Also how much I learned about people. I feel a lot closer to them now.

I was so busy yesterday and so mentally tired today that I forgot to call Khori again.

Saturday September 4 (Interview 3: Josiah)

I'm excited to interview Josiah today.

Sunday September 5

My interview with Josiah yesterday was incredible. Our meeting was a whopping 90 minutes long! Josiah did end up rambling a bit for a few of his responses but all of his points were valid and important data. When it's time to edit I might have to cut some of his responses short. One bad thing that happened was Josiah had a bad internet connection so at some parts during the interview his audio cut out and his image froze. It would be a short freeze, about a second or two, and I told him a few times but not every time. After each of the interviews I finish I always find myself mentally tired and my eyes also can't take looking at a screen too much longer. Other than that I've felt very satisfied with all the interviews. With each one I'm using new follow ups questions and rephrasing a few questions. One thing that surprised me about Josiah's interview was before we started he told me he didn't have any time to look over the questions till right before we began.

Half of my interviews are now complete. My next one is next Saturday. I still need to set an official interview date and time with Tina and get a response from Khori. Still waiting to move forward with the Waller Gallery and Motor House. Since tomorrow is a holiday I'll follow up on Tuesday. I reached out to an old friend who had a show last year in columbia and they said they would look out for some spaces for me.

I uploaded my first transcript to my Capstone folder. I went through and underlined my questions and fixed a few sentences. The transcription software got a few things wrong but I fixed a lot of errors today. For the most part I will say the transcript is 90% accurate. I'll have to go through specific responses in depth once I decide who I want to use for which question.

Monday September 6 (Happy Labor Day)

The Waller Gallery emailed me back! Joy Davis the Director of the Waller Gallery said "Hi Khamar,

Thank you for getting in touch with us and considering us for your exhibition. Could you send examples or images of your work? At this time we may be able to accommodate something in November but I will need to get back to you in a couple of weeks.

Thank you for your patience. I hope we can be in touch!

Best,
Joy”

I sent her a screenshot of how the art would look and I also sent her a link to the exhibition I did last year <https://vimeo.com/424924639> as well as my project abstract. Hopefully I can exhibit there. The only bad part is that I have to wait a couple weeks to get officially approved. Also I don't know how much space I'll have to work with. I'm still going to follow up with Motor House again tomorrow. With how long these interviews and the videos are going to be I'm going to have to purchase some more projectors. I already have 1 and I'm going to need 3 more.

Tuesday September 7

Woke up to an email from the Waller Gallery. They'd like to have a call this Friday to talk about the project. I'm excited. Going to work on Dani and Josiah's transcripts this week. Followed up with Tina and our interview is next Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday September 8

Last night I started working on Dani's transcript. This morning I got an email from the Waller Gallery and something came up so now we're meeting on Saturday. If Khorl doesn't message or call me back by tomorrow then I'm going to move on to someone else.

Just finished Dani's transcript. Also I sent Amy the Harold Anderson Prize proposal to see if I can get some money for materials I need for my exhibit. Also went back and fixed Alaysia's transcript. Tomorrow I'm going to start on Josiah's.

Thursday September 9

I'll do one final check in by text with Khorl today but if I get no response by the end of the day then I'm moving on to Everett. I guess people who work in churches are just too busy.

Friday September 10

Something came up so now I have to meet with the Waller Gallery tomorrow at 12. Also I'm going to reach out to Everett today.

After waiting 14 days for a response, Motor House finally got back to me. They want me to come in one day next week to discuss how my project could best be exhibited. I won't respond until tomorrow after my meeting with the Waller Gallery.

I messaged Everett and got a response back instantly. He said he's interested and I'm going to get a call from him later so we can talk about the project. Just talked to him and he wants to participate in my project. I'm going to email him everything I sent to everyone else and plan to meet sometime next week. I should be done with interviews by next Friday. That'll give me additional time to prepare the transcripts, evaluate responses, and organize the project folder. I will be able to start on the creative aspect of the project sooner than expected! And I will have a more solid idea of where I'm going to have my exhibition by next week! The Waller Gallery

director has been really good at communicating with me but Motor House might have a better space. I'm going to have to check both out before I make a decision. Either way I'm happy that I have two options. I researched and/or contacted close to 40 galleries and spaces and I'm glad I'm finally close to tying one down.

Finished Josiah's transcript.

Saturday September 11 (Interview 4: Nnamdi)

Some big updates today!

First I had my meeting with Joy Davis from the Waller Gallery at 12 and it went amazing! She wanted to talk about how I envisioned the exhibit as well as logistics. At the end of our conversation she said she would love to work with me! I'm excited and relieved. She told me that they're supposed to do some renovations in November so my exhibition may have to be pushed up to October. Also she said it would be fine if I exhibited for up to five weeks. Joy still wants me to connect her to my Capstone committee to learn more about the Capstone process and other things. Joy also wanted me to submit a "wants" list for equipment the gallery could possibly get for me. So I'm going to work on that list as well as connect Joy to my committee.

As far as the project, I can have three projections going in the main room and have printed stuff and maybe another projection in the back room. Joy also wanted me to come see the gallery next Saturday during business hours. Once my car gets out of the shop I'll set up that appointment. I'm going to tell Motor House I don't need their space anymore.

I finished my interview with Nnamdi right after I met with Joy. Nnamdi's interview lasted a little over an hour. He gave me some great responses and got really personal. I wish I could ask more questions. His interview was great but Nnamdi kept on leaning to his side to rest on his arm and get uncentered. I can fix this in post but it's still something to note. The only person I worry about is Dani since she was the only one who couldn't change her background.

Everett texted me his email today and I'm going to email him everything and set up an interview time for next week. I'm going to work on Nnamdi's transcript and send the email and list tomorrow and enjoy the rest of my Saturday.

Sunday September 12

Just sent the introduction email. I was thinking about my exhibit and just thought of a concern. How am I going to play the audio piece? Yes I'm going to use a speaker but I can't leave my laptop in the gallery especially if it's going to be there for a few weeks. I'll have to reach out to Damian to see if he has a solution. I'll also see if Joy has a solution. Maybe the gallery already has some speakers or a device I could upload the audio piece to to play music. I'm hoping so.

Added my equipment needs list to my Capstone folder. Finished Nnamdi's transcript.

Monday September 13

It just occurred to me that I need to update my artist CV and artist statement. Everett hasn't responded to my last email yet so I'll send him a friendly reminder tomorrow.

Tuesday September 14

Joy said that the gallery should be able to get some of the materials I need. She didn't specify which yet and I responded asking but something is better than nothing. Just sent Everett a follow up message. I decided I'm not gonna update the info on the marketing materials until I get information on solid dates.

Wednesday September 15

Sent Tina a friendly reminder about our meeting today. She's ready. I still haven't heard back from Everett. I'll message him again tomorrow. I'm glad that as long as my exhibit is installed before the semester is over it still counts but now I have to change my plan of work. Tina cancelled on me because her son is sick. She said she'll let me know when the next time she would be free to do the interview.

Thursday September 16

Updated my artist CV. The month is halfway over now. I only have two more interviews to do. I really hope Tina and Everett communicate efficiently like adults so I can interview them ASAP because I was expecting to interview them this week and thought I would be done with interviews by now. I am a little annoyed. I'm about to message Everett again.

Joy says the gallery has bluetooth speakers and extension cords and that they are willing to purchase the projector mounts. All I have to worry about is getting the projectors and printed material.

I had nothing to do today so I'm updating my marketing materials with the gallery name, address, gallery hours, and days of the week. The last thing I need is the date range. I've made multiple attempts to contact Everette and if he doesn't respond tomorrow I'm moving on to contacting Jeremiah and my other back-up Delante. Figured it would be smarter to contact 2 people instead of one just in case one of them does what Everette is doing to me right now.

Friday September 17

Tina and I reschedule our interview for next Wednesday. Everett left me on read again so I'm just going to assume he's no longer interested. I reached out to Jeremiah and he said he was too busy. I reached out to Delante and he said he was interested. I'm about to message him to find his availability.

I was supposed to go visit the Waller Gallery this weekend but my car got totaled and I currently do not have a car. I'm going to a dealership this weekend to look for one and hopefully get a new car by next week so I can go to the gallery ASAP.

Saturday September 18

Delante said he wouldn't be available till early next month because he's going on a trip. I reached out to my old roommate from undergrad and he said he'd be interested in being interviewed. Our interview is scheduled for Monday September 27 at 5:30.

I'm glad I finally have set interviews for these last two people. I was worried for a second that I wouldn't be able to get 2 more interviews done before the month ended. So far everything is on track. Also I found a car I'm interested in buying so hopefully I can get it this upcoming week and visit the gallery this weekend.

Sunday September 19

I'm debating if I should start my content evaluations early. Since there's 10 questions and I want to include at most 3 responses from all the interviews that means each person should be featured 5 times. (10 questions x 3 responses = 30. 6 interviewees / 30 responses = 5). So I should at least choose one for each question since I have the time.

It's hard working with people's schedule's and also a little annoying when people say they're interested in participating in a project but just never respond. It would be a dream to do a project like this where people reach out to me if they want to participate and work with my schedule.

Monday September 20

Nothing new to update

Tuesday September 21

I found a car that I'm going to purchase so I should be able to visit the gallery this weekend. Also I created my MD-SOAR account today. I interview Tina tomorrow. I forgot to check in with her today so I'll do it tomorrow morning.

Wednesday September 22 (Interview 4: Tina)

Interviewing Tina today.

Tina's interview was great. It lasted about an hour. We started right as soon as I got off of work so I was a little tired during and after the interview. I decided on what colors I'm going to use with each interviewer.

Sunday September 26

On Thursday after work I went and picked up my new car.

Yesterday I went to the Waller Gallery for the first time. It's not far from my apartment at all. It took me less than 20 minutes to get there. I arrived 10 minutes early and texted Joy that I had parked. I didn't get a response so I just figured she was driving. I waited till it was another 10 minutes after the time we were supposed to meet then called her. She didn't pick up so I decided to get out of my car and go knock on the door. The gallery itself is a row home turned into an art space. So after waiting on the stoop for five minutes I decided to go back to my car. I

was going to try to call Joy again and if she didn't pick up the I was just going to head home. As I got across the street Joy opened the door and waved at me to get my attention.

I came back across the street and introduced myself. She welcomed me into the space and gave me a tour of the first floor. The space is actually bigger than I thought it would be which is great! It's apparent that the space is currently being renovated. The whole time I was there someone was upstairs hammering and sawing. Also the backroom was unfinished and painted. They want everything finished before the next exhibition which would be mine. We talked for about 45 minutes before I left. We went over potential places I could have the projectors, the timing of when the exhibition would occur, updates from the contractor, other spaces I could exhibit in for a worst case scenario, covid safety precautions, social media, and local spots to pin flyers and posters marketing the exhibition. From our conversation I think my exhibit would most likely be happening in December. It's not what I planned for but as long as it opens before the semester ends I should be fine. Plus it gives me more time to work on it.

Joy needs me to write a short and long bio along with sending her a headshot. I did want to start marketing the exhibition in the beginning of October but I'm going to wait a bit until we have a solid date.

I checked in with Fiyin and he's good for our interview tomorrow at 5:30. I'm going to work on and finish Tina's transcript today.

Tuesday September 28 (Interview 6: Fiyin)

Yesterday I finished my last interview! It was a long interview. It was an hour and a half long. We started right after work at 5:30. I was so tired afterwards. Today I'm going to work on Fiyin's transcript.

As for the project I'm going to cut one of the questions from the projections. So each projection covers responses from 3 questions total. I think the 9th question about religion is the one I'm going to cut. I still have to review the responses. If not that one then maybe the third one about the family's effect on well-being. I'm also going to start my response evaluations. I'm going to relisten to each interview and note which responses would be best to include. I wish I would have done this during my interviews but then again this is going to be difficult because everyone gave me great responses to every question.

Wednesday September 29

Just finished evaluating Alaysia's interview. I'm going to use her responses to questions 2, 4, 6, and 8. Response 5 is a maybe just in case I need it.

For the art, Alaysia is going to be purple, Dani is yellow, Fiyin is green, Josiah is red, Nnamdi is orange, and Tina is blue. I assigned the colors randomly. Tomorrow I'm going to evaluate Dani's responses.

Friday October 1

Got an email yesterday from Amy and I won the Harold Atwood Anderson Jr. Award! I'm so excited! Now I can get great projectors! My project is coming along on track and everything is working out great so far! A great way to start this month.

Saturday October 2

It took me all day but I finished my content evaluations. I originally wanted 3 responses per question but after going over all of the amazing answers I think I kind of want to do 4. I'll have to see how long each projector project file will be before I decide to add a 4th response to each question.

In my Content Evaluation the "X" are the responses I'm going with and the "O" are the additional options.

Sunday October 3

Sent Joy a headshot and my artist statement/bio

Short statement

Khamar Hopkins is an interdisciplinary digital artist based in the Baltimore area, who creates art that celebrates black culture and explores social dilemmas in the African American community.

Long statement

Khamar Hopkins is an interdisciplinary digital artist based in the Baltimore area, who creates art that celebrates black culture and explores social dilemmas in the African American community. Working primarily with motion graphics, code, and design, Hopkins' colorful, modern style draws inspiration from the paintings and illustrations of Aaron Douglas and the subject matter of Kara Walker's installations. By focusing on African American history and lived experience, Hopkins aims to inspire cultural understanding, topical conversation, and tackle the divisive rhetoric of racism and oppression.

Monday October 4

Today I'm going to take notes on what clips to cut from my interviews and do at least one person.

Tuesday October 5

Yesterday I took note of where to make cuts for specific responses. Tonight I got started on cutting Alaysia's responses and with concern for time I don't think I'm going to include any of the additional responses for questions. So as of right now each question is only going to have 3 responses and not 4. If I have extra time this weekend I might consider going back and adding them but for the rest of this week I'm going to focus on the smaller, more achievable goal.

Wednesday October 6

Today I completed my Harold Atwood Anderson Jr. Prize questionnaire and thank you letter. It took longer than expected because I wanted it to be just right.

Because I've been distracted with everything involving my car, the gallery, and the Harold Atwood Anderson Jr. Prize, I've fallen a little behind schedule. On my plan of work I wanted to have all clips cut by the 8th, Friday but it looks like I'll be a day behind and be finished on Saturday. It isn't a big deal but if I don't keep on track right now it will affect me at the end of the month. So far I only have Alaysia's clips ready and she had the shortest interview and responses. Tomorrow I'll start with the people who had the longest interviews.

Also I decided not to wait on the prize money to come in and just use my next paycheck to get all the equipment I need and pay myself back later. I just want to play it safe. Once I finally order them I'll need to message Joy and let her know so she knows what stands to get for them.

I can't believe it's already the 6th. I feel like now that I've finished all of my interviews, time is flying by a lot faster.

Thursday October 7

I'm working on cutting my clips and for some reason Josiah's were smaller than 1,280x720. I exported to match Alaysia's size but I just thought it was weird. Also maybe I should be exporting the clips at 1920x1080. Running Premiere is making my laptop really hot and the fan is really loud.

Tested out what Josiah's clips would look like in the code and they look great! I tested Alaysia's but something happened when I exported her clips and they all exported with grey boxes on the sides. Instead of going through and starting the whole process over again I'm just going to open the already exported clips in Premiere and cover the grey boxes with black rectangles to save me a bunch of time and effort.

Friday October 8

About to purchase my projectors. Found this article to help me decide on which one I'm going to get. <https://nechcloud.medium.com/are-toptro-and-yaber-projectors-any-good-e58ac2f09718>

I purchased a Yaber and TopTro projector. When they come I will compare the quality of both then if needed I'll send one back and get 2 more of the better brand.

Now that I'm editing I think I'm going to include the question in the upper left hand corner. Which means I probably won't be using mad mapper since I wouldn't want the question to be cut out.

I'm also learning a lot about how to use Premiere.

After reviewing all of this content I see when people tell stories their responses are more interesting than their opinions on certain questions.

I only have two people left to work on, Fiyin and Dani, and I'll get them done tomorrow. I'm worried about Dani's because I'm going to try to knock her background out since she was the only person who couldn't use a virtual background.

Saturday October 9

Finished Fiyin and Dani's clips. I'm worried about Dani's because I had to add a manual mask and it doesn't look as clean as everyone else's.

Sunday October 10

Started editing my clips with Processing. One thing I noticed is that Processing isn't exporting right. The clips are 25 frames per second but I'm not seeing that in the shots that are exported. For example a clip that's 2 minutes and 6 seconds (126 seconds) should have 3,150 shots but instead I have 517 (Roughly 4.1 frames per second). It exports the full edited clips but just not at the right rate.

I had a problem with Tina's interview file where it had grey boxes on the side and the background was a little off black but now that I'm editing what I thought was going to be a fault is actually looking pretty good. Now I kind of want to slightly change the background for all of the interviews. I'm making slight adjustments to the color palettes I'm using.

Monday October 11

I spent all day yesterday running all the clips through Processing to get image sequences. Now this week I'll have to turn those sequences back into video files.

Joy and I have a meeting on Wednesday to go over the exhibition logistics. She said she might be able to host me in November so *Fingers crossed.

Finished editing all of Josiah's clips. My projectors came today so I'm about to open them up and see how they project.

The Yaber projector is incredible!!!!!!! Super high quality image, doesn't have a loud fan, hasn't gotten hot, surprisingly great sound, and it came with every type of wire, and a remote. It was super easy and simple to set up. I can connect my phone to it with a special cable that didn't come included in the box.

The TopTro projector is also really nice. The UI isn't as nice but the projection seems a tad bit brighter. It's also a really nice projector. It didn't come with all the wires like the other projector but it does have bluetooth capabilities and came with its own carrying case.

I'm going to keep both projectors. I'm going to get another Yaber projector because it was cheaper but still great quality.

I also just realized that I'm probably going to have to purchase some high storage USB's.

Tuesday October 12

I haven't backed anything up in about a month so I'm going to do so this weekend.

I finished editing Tina's, Nnamdi's, Alaysia's, and Fiyin's clips. All that is left is Dani's.

Wednesday October 13

Finished editing Dani's files. Now I have to organize them in the order I want them to appear in. I also have to start my sound piece. I meet with Joy today so I'm excited to learn more logistics for the exhibition. It seems like this is all happening so fast.

Thursday October 14

Had a short meeting with Joy yesterday. I basically just updated her on the progress of my project and she went over the gallery schedule with me. She said she'd be able to host the exhibition from December 10th through the rest of the year. The only problem with this is December 10th is the absolute last day of the semester. We're going to be setting things up in November so I'm going to have to create a virtual exhibition for my committee and see if I can maybe have a mini small opening for them before the big one. Also now that I have more time to work on the project I can add the additional clips I wanted to include.

I also just realized I haven't heard from Andrew in a long time. I emailed him in September asking him to check my portfolio and never heard back from him. I'll follow up with him tonight.

I updated my marketing material with the right dates. I also started an online word doc of social media pages where I can share my exhibition graphics. I made a few small adjustments to my plan of work. I will begin marketing my exhibition on November 1st.

Joy said the gallery could get me 2 out of 3 projector mounts I need so I'll have to purchase 1 myself. If Joy will allow me, I have an idea of turning the back room of the gallery into a conversation space. There would be light refreshments, a few chairs, and would be lit well.

Tonight I'm going to work on going back and cutting out the additional clips I want to include in my project.

Friday October 15

Took tonight off so I could go get a haircut and go clothes shopping for a friend's wedding next weekend

Saturday October 16

Finished editing all of the additional clips I want to include. Now I'm in the final stages of editing. I have to edit the clips back in the order I wasn't them displayed and add closed captions then I'll be done with the visuals

Sunday October 17

Updated my plan of work again. I'm going to work on getting the visuals done first then worry about the sound piece. Finished adding captions to 2 of my videos. I'll have to go back and double check them again this week.

Monday October 18

Backuped all of my files. This weekend I also communicated with all of my interviewees and let them know the date of the opening of the exhibition.

The first projector will be playing a 40 min looping video. Went through and double checked all of the captions for Responses 2 and 3. I'll have to double check 1 tomorrow and after that I'll have 1 projector complete. The master cut videos are surprisingly smaller than I thought. Which is a good thing. Now I don't have to worry about going getting bigger USB's.

Tuesday October 19

Just ordered my projector mount and mp3 player for my exhibition. I will meet with my Capstone committee tonight. I'm happy to show them how far I've gotten. The video file for the first projector is ready.

After meeting with my committee I think now I have an idea of creating enough work for myself so that I'll be busy after I finish the creative parts of my project.

Here's what's next

- ~~Finish captioning last 6 responses~~
- ~~Work on sound piece (reference notes and projects from DA 699 Audio Techniques)~~
- ~~Update my plan of work with the following~~
- ~~Send Damian a link to my portfolio~~
- ~~Upload and send the interview documentation to interviewees (Fiyin asked to see his this weekend so might as well send it to everyone else as well)~~
- ~~Update marketing plan with physical places to market to and any additional digital ones~~
- ~~Start reflection paper November 1~~
- ~~Create gallery guide~~
- ~~Organize interactive conversation elements for exhibition~~
- ~~Order Posters, flyers, and postcards~~
- ~~Market exhibition~~
- Get gallery space ready
- Create a virtual exhibition documentation
- Defend Capstone

Wednesday October 20

Just to be proactive I sent Damian an invite to my portfolio today. I also sent out my documentation to my interviewees. Last night I updated my plan of work. Added some new physical places to market on my marketing plan. Working on response 4 and Josiah say "You

Know” a lot. Like almost after every sentence. I’m not going to cut it out because it would be weird for people reading his lips. I’m glad the transcripts removed all of the “umms” from the interviews. Finished response 4 and it ended up being 26 minutes. Before I go any further I’m going to go back and re-export the finished videos with a transparent black background behind the captions so they’re easier to read. Finished response 5.

Thursday October 21

I’m trying to get as much work done this week since I won’t be able to do any work on Saturday since I’m going to my friend’s wedding. Response 6 was about 27 minutes long. 5 was 11 minutes. Now I have 2 projectors ready at, 1 hour and 3 minutes. My additional mount came in today. Setting up response 7 and it’s 34 minutes long. I’m sure projector 3 is going to be even longer than projector 2.

Friday October 22

Finished response 7. Setting up response 8 and its 24 minutes. Without the last compilation the third projector is already almost an hour long.

Sunday October 24

Finished response 8. One more left!

Monday October 25

Just finished my last video! Projector 3 is an 1 hour and 14 minutes long. Now I’m going to set up another google drive folder for the interactive aspect of my project and then make the interactive postcard with QR code so I can order everything. I’m a little behind on ordering my poster, flyers, and postcards but I wanted to prioritize getting the video files finished plus I also have to make another postcard. Once I order everything I can work on the sound piece. I’m planning on being done at the end of the month so all of November I can just focus on the exhibition and my reflection.

I had a brilliant idea. I’m going to combine my regular postcard and interactive card. The front will be the name and info relating to the exhibition and the back will have the QR code and questions and such. This will save me money so I don’t have to order two different sets of cards and will help me reach a wider audience online in terms of the interactive element.

I ran into a problem. I can’t fit all of my questions on the card so I have to choose which ones I want to include. The questions I decided to include on the card are:

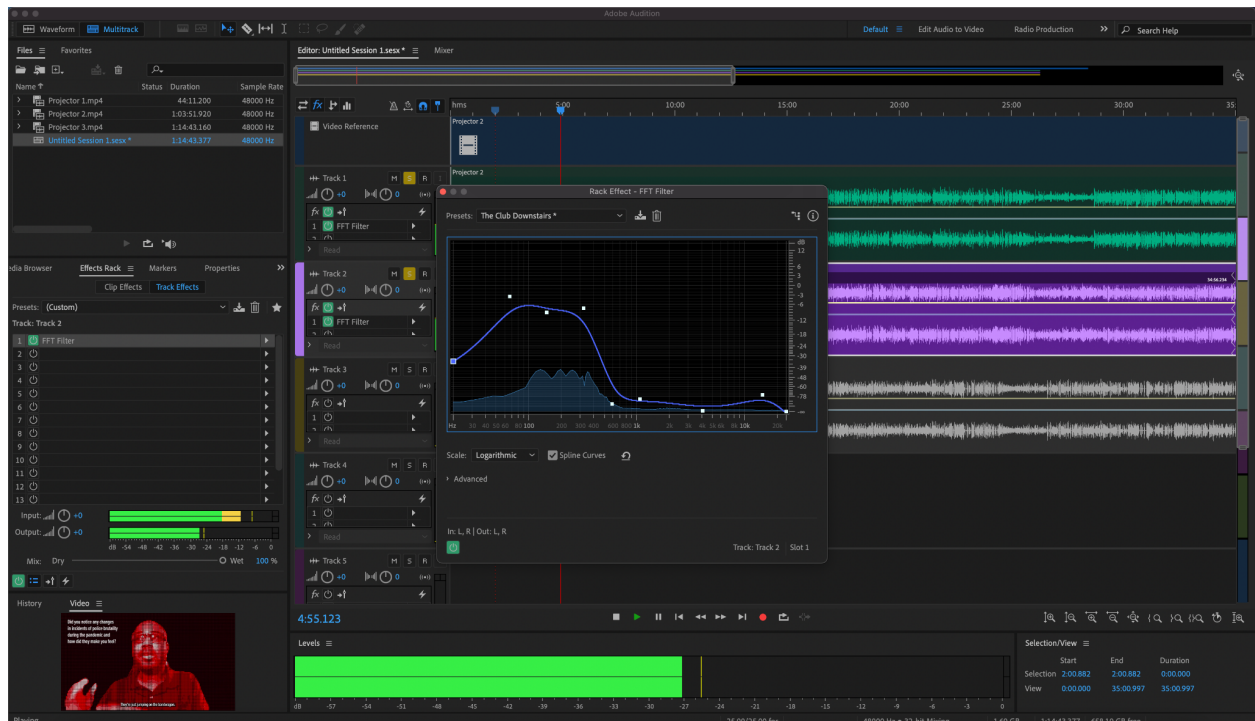
What are some of the biggest threats to Black mental health? / How do we conquer them? What was 2020 like for you regarding your mental health? Did you notice any changes in incidents of police brutality during the pandemic and how did they make you feel? Does participating in or seeing marches and protest effect your emotional state? Do you believe racism is still prevalent in America today? If so, why? Can you give an example of a racist interaction you’ve dealt with? Do you think there is a negative stigma on talking about mental health in the Black community? If so, why? In what ways do you think Black people are affected by intergenerational trauma?

I chose these questions because I felt like they were the most engaging. Anyone who scans the QR code can add, edit or comment on anything else on the google drive folder I made for the exhibition. I doubt anyone will post anything inappropriate or hateful but I'll still check on it every evening once I start marketing.

Just ordered my postcards, flyers, and posters. I'm getting 125 postcards, 60 flyers, and 5 posters. Everything was surprisingly well priced. I used Fireball Printing.

Tuesday October 26

I'm having fun playing with the audio and trying to find a good fit



Also I forgot I could add images to this word doc.

Wednesday October 27

I really want to make a word cloud out of the most common words for this project. Since I'm near the end I'm thinking of next steps and how I could take the project further if I had the time and resources. I think it would also be cool to pull good quotes from the interviews and like a separate room filled with them taking up the wall space like giant stickers.

Tested out my mount on my projector and it fits. And it also came with the right screws! Also since I put in my order for posters, postcards, and flyers this week, I don't think they'll get here before November 1st.

Thursday October 28

I organized my marketing material, uploading my final video files on the drive, and finished my audio piece.

Sunday October 31

I wrote a little blurb in what I want to say when I post

Monday November 1

I just posted on all my personal social media accounts about the exhibition. I'll start posting on specific pages later this afternoon. Also just sent an email checking up on my printed materials status. My order is "on hold" for some reason. So my order is on hold because they mailed me proofs to see and confirm the print job was done right but I haven't received them yet. Starting my reflection tonight.

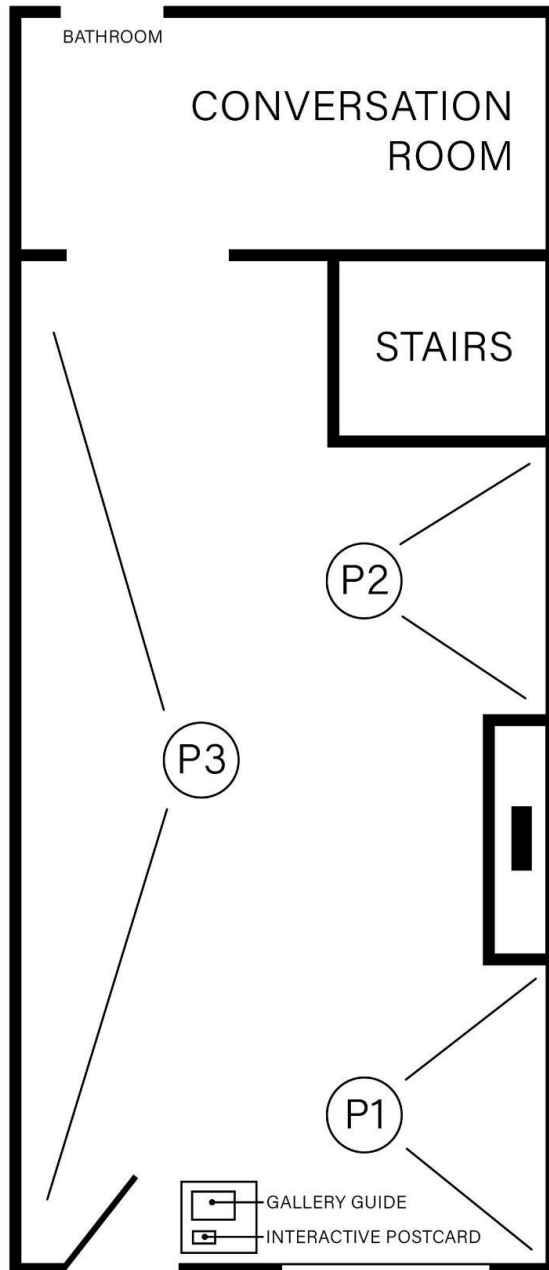
Tuesday November 2

My proofs came in today and they look good. My stuff is going into production and should be shipped out by the end of the week and arrive sometime next week.

Wednesday November 3

Emailed with Joy today. She's sending my bio/headshot/flyer out to her media contact to start promoting it. I joined the Academic Honor Board with Amy and I reviewed a paper for plagiarism. I finished my gallery guide. I wish I got it done sooner so that it could arrive with my posters, flyers, and postcards. I might just go to Staples and print a few copies. I made it with a white background so it's cheaper and quicker to print. Plus it'll be easier to read and stick out more on the table.

GALLERY GUIDE



PROJECTOR 1

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE BIGGEST THREATS TO BLACK MENTAL HEALTH?

HOW DO WE CONQUER THE THINGS THREATENING OUR MENTAL HEALTH?

WHAT WAS 2020 LIKE FOR YOU REGARDING YOUR MENTAL HEALTH?

WHAT WERE SOME OF THE PROS AND CONS WITH YOUR FAMILY'S DURING QUARANTINE?

PROJECTOR 2

DID YOU NOTICE ANY CHANGES IN INCIDENTS OF POLICE BRUTALITY DURING THE PANDEMIC AND HOW DID THEY MAKE YOU FEEL?

DOES PARTICIPATING IN OR SEEING MARCHES AND PROTEST EFFECT YOUR EMOTIONAL STATE?

DO YOU BELIEVE RACISM IS STILL PREVALENT IN AMERICA TODAY? IF SO, WHY?

CAN YOU GIVE AN EXAMPLE OF A RACIST INTERACTION YOU'VE DEALT WITH?

PROJECTOR 3

WHY DO YOU THINK SHADEISM EXISTS?

HAVE YOU EVER FELT INSECURE ABOUT YOUR OWN SKIN TONE?

WHY DO YOU THINK BLACKFISHING EXISTS?

DO YOU THINK THERE IS A NEGATIVE STIGMA ON TALKING ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH IN THE BLACK COMMUNITY? IF SO, WHY?

DO YOU THINK BLACK PEOPLE SUFFER FROM INCREASED RATES OF MENTAL HEALTH CONCERNS WHEN COMPARED TO WHITE PEOPLE?

IN WHAT WAYS DO YOU THINK BLACK PEOPLE ARE AFFECTED BY INTERGENERATIONAL TRAUMA?

WHAT KIND OF INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT DO WE HAVE FOR INTERGENERATIONAL TRAUMA?

All that I have left to do is my reflection, defense, documenting and preparing the gallery space, and having the exhibition. It's crazy how I'm almost done. A few months ago this felt so far away. My reflection is 20% done so far.

Thursday November 4

This morning I was introduced to Chino, the Waller Gallery's social media intern. I sent him a vector file of the art and he's going to make a marketing plan for how they're going to post and promote the exhibition on their end. My postcards and flyers came today!

Dani messaged me today. She wanted to share my flyer and tell people she was interviewed and asked if that was ok to tell people. I told her that it was ok that she did that and that I wouldn't share her identity even though she is cool with it. Did my third check in email with my committee.

Friday November 5

Didn't do too much stuff related to my project today. I had to work on some professional stuff since I just accepted a higher position at Hopkins and took the evening off to celebrate.

Saturday November 6

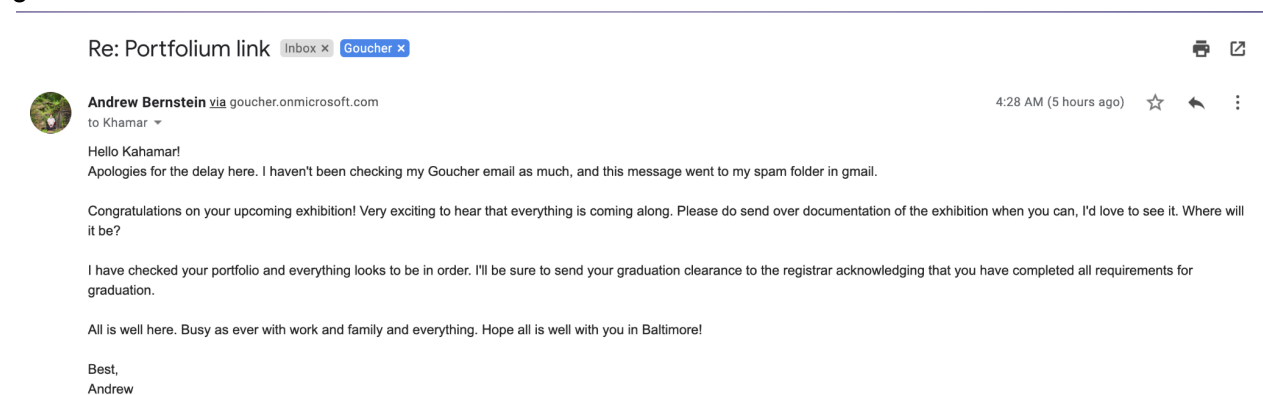
I met up some friends and gave them a few postcards to give to anyone who is interested. I also wrote a little bit.

Sunday November 7

Today we celebrated my mother's birthday so I didn't do anywork.

Monday November 8

I finally got a response from Andrew! Looks like my portfolium is good and I'll be cleared to graduate.



Wednesday November 10

My reflection is coming along good. I'm glad I have the extra time to write it.

Friday November 12

I posted on a bunch of Facebook pages advertising my exhibition. I still haven't heard back from the Waller Gallery and when they were going to start promoting it on their social accounts. I'm not 100% sure but my reflection feels like it's more than halfway done. It's at 14 pages so far and I'm using my journal as a guide for writing. I'm so happy I started and kept up with this journal.

Tomorrow I'm going to Graffiti Alley to post flyers, and I'm going to walk around to local businesses to see if it would be cool to leave some postcards.

I didn't do any writing today because I needed a break.

Saturday November 13

I literally spent most of my day writing and my reflection is almost done. Tomorrow I'll write a few more paragraphs, proof-read the whole reflection, and send it to my committee.

I covered my Capstone journey. Now I have to summarize everything I learned and answer the questions:

- ~~What would I do differently~~
- ~~If I felt like there were any gaps~~
- ~~How I can take the project even further~~
- ~~How it will help me in my future career~~
- ~~Personally evaluate the project~~

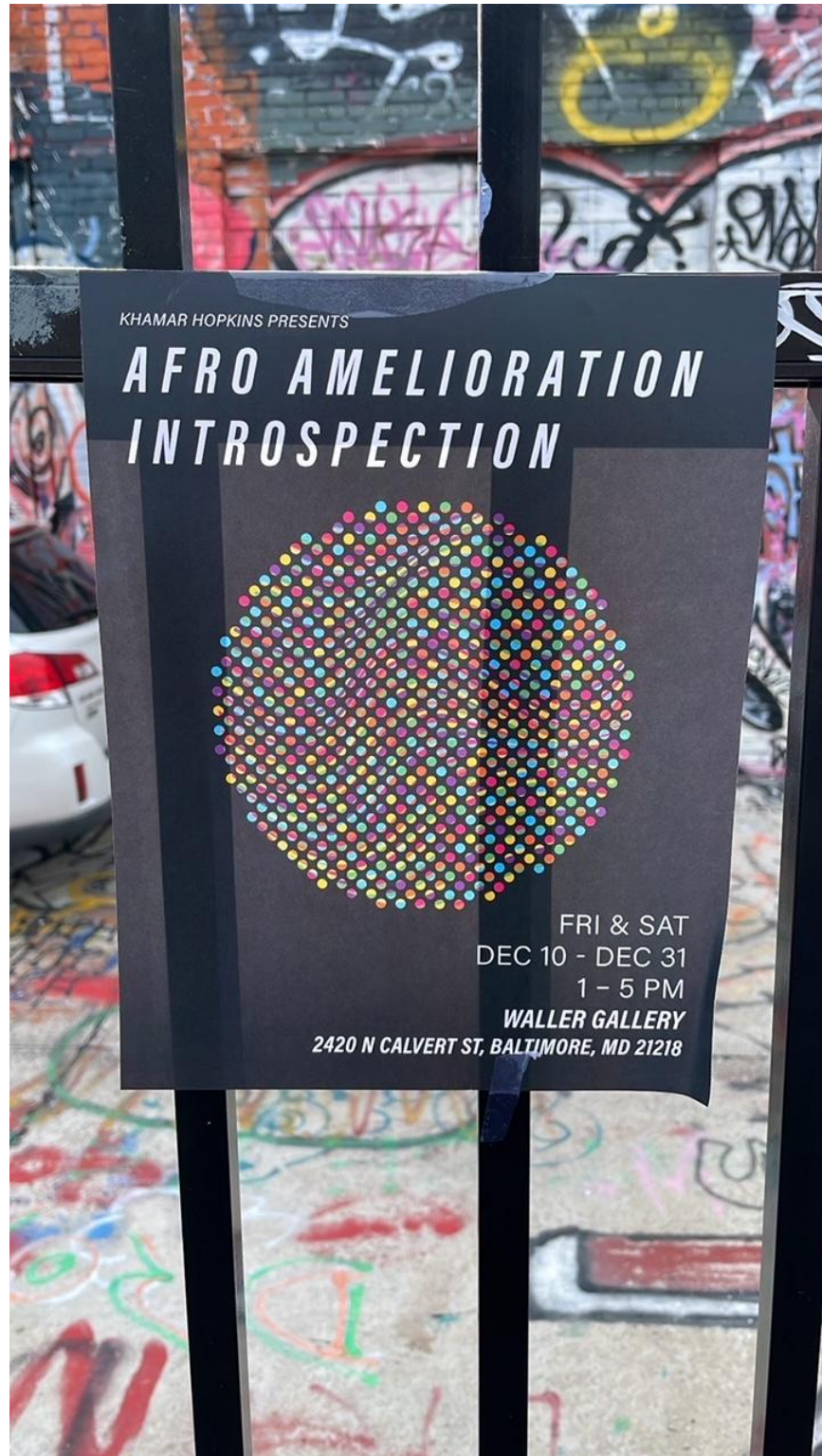
Sunday November 14

Joy asked for a description of the project and I sent her this

"Afro Amelioration Introspection is a projected video artwork, abstract sound piece, and solo art exhibition with a digital interactive component focused on the topic of Black mental health. Using ethnographic methods, the artist conducted a series of six interviews where they questioned participants on their personal feelings and narratives covering and not limited to the issues of COVID, family, police brutality, racism, intergenerational trauma, and the stigma on the subject of mental health in the Black community. This piece consists of video documentation of the conversations that have been transmogrified into nonrepresentational art using Processing. A conceptual soundtrack produced using the audio from the interviews. Lastly, a synergistic art show organized to showcase the project and create a safe space for conversation on the topic."

She also asked for my abstract again and I sent it.

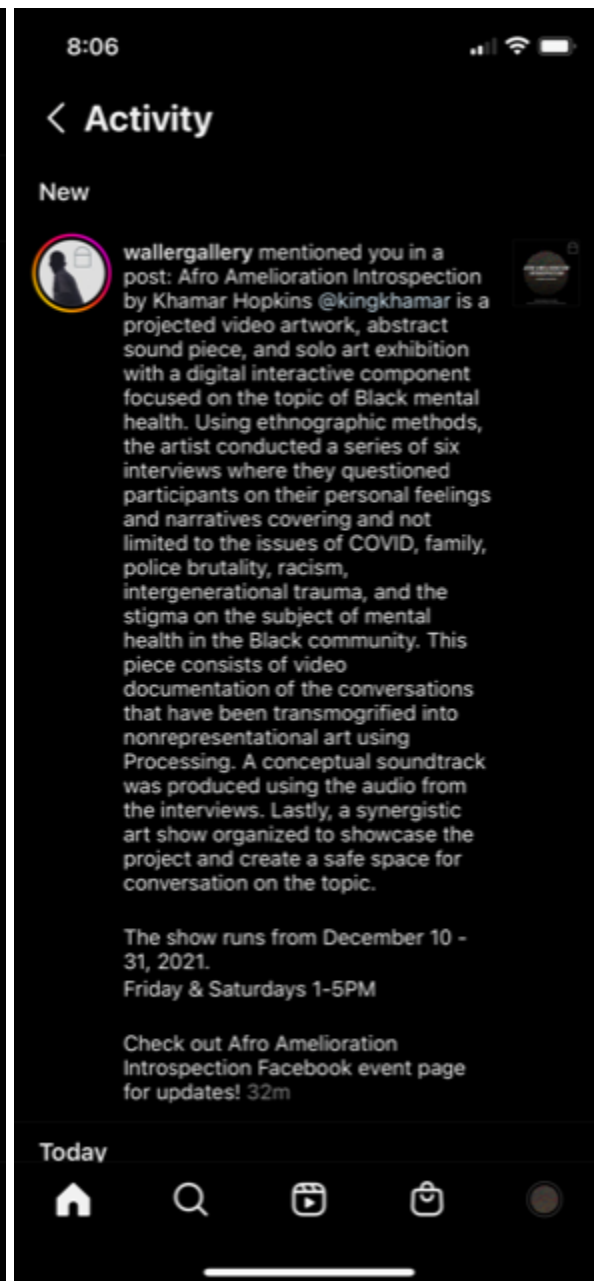
I didn't have the chance to yesterday but this morning I went to Graffiti Alley to post flyers. None of the local businesses let me post any in their stores.

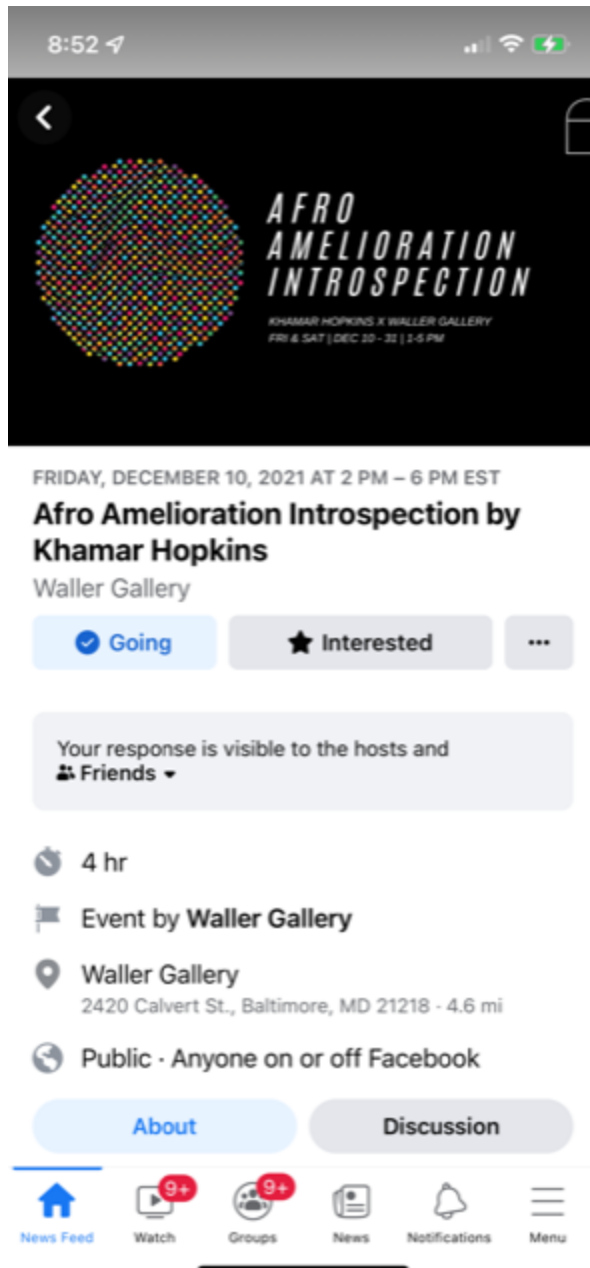


I finished my Reflection! I'm going to back it up and upload it on the drive then send it first thing tomorrow.

Monday November 15

The Waller Gallery posted about my exhibition today. They even made me a Facebook event page. I also sent my reflection to my committee.





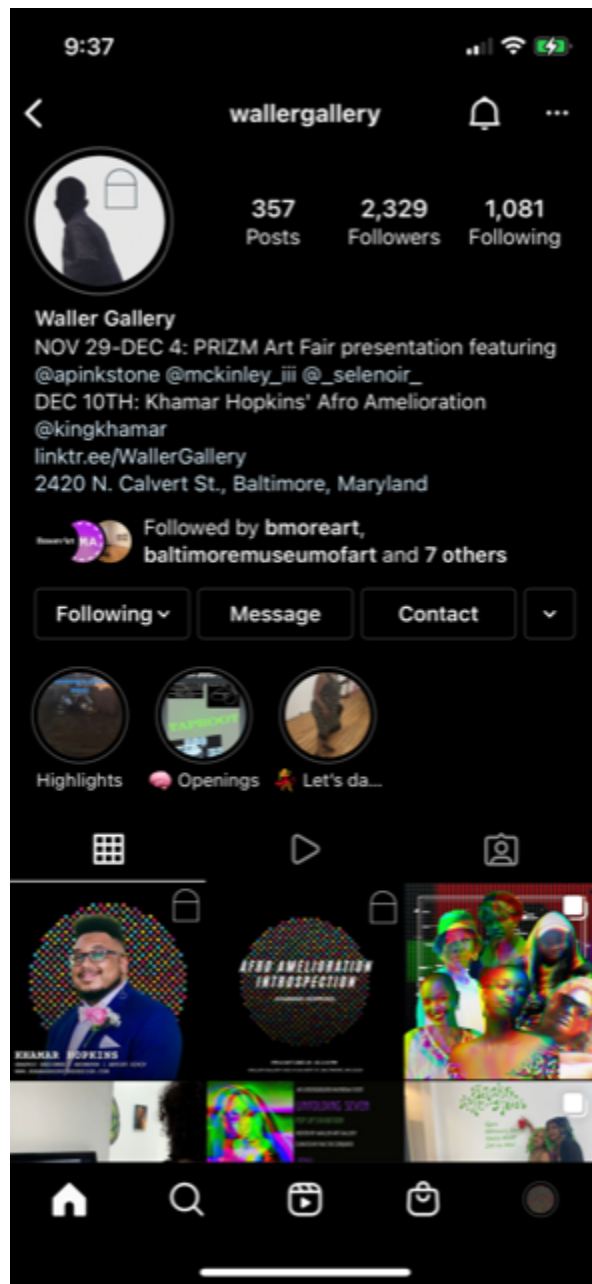
Tuesday November 16

Today I found out that I'm the first student ever to have an exhibition at the Waller Gallery. Hopefully this leads to art students having shows there in the future.

Just had my third and final meeting before my defense with my Capstone Committee. I have exactly two weeks to do a lot.

Thursday November 18

Yesterday I sent Joy an email asking when we could set up my exhibition. Today on the Waller Gallery Instagram they updated their bio and included information about another show happening before mine so I won't be able to set mine up after that one.



Tonight I'm uploading my video files onto flash drives. It's taking forever but it's better to do this now than later. I'm going to spend this weekend working on my reflection so I can dedicate next week to my defense presentation.

Friday November 19

Joy said we can prepare the exhibit space next weekend. I'm excited

Sunday November 21

I spent a few hours yesterday working on my reflection. I'm 80% done. Will spend the beginning of this week finalizing it ASAP so I have time to work on my defense. I had everyone's release form except Alaysia's. She sent it to me last night so I can sign and upload them all soon.

Monday November 22

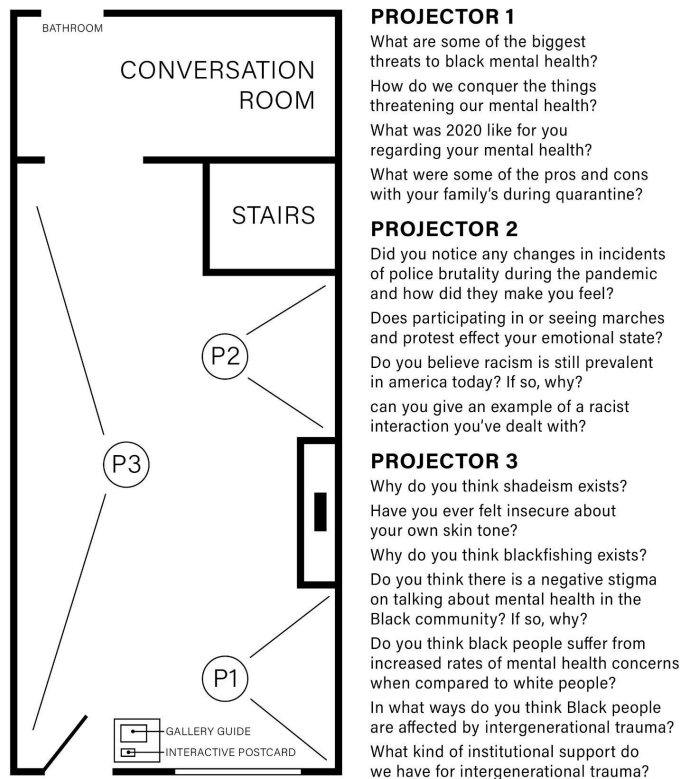
Chino asked me for 15 clips from my project to promote the art so tonight I'm going to spend my evening doing that. Luckily I don't work Friday so I can make up for tonight. I'm not going to do any work on Thanksgiving so I can enjoy the holiday.

It took me all night but I finally finished and I'm uploading the clips right now. I wish I knew sooner that Chino was going to need them. I would have done this weeks ago.

Tuesday November 23

Sent Chino the clips and explained why original audio can't be used. I also sent them the sound piece. Updated my Gallery Guide

GALLERY GUIDE



Release forms have been uploaded

Friday November 26

I'm going to try to finish my reflection today so I can focus on my defense this weekend.

Saturday November 27

Went to the gallery today to start setting up. Joy is having the gallery repainted tomorrow and then I can come in and finish up. My reflection is almost done. I just have to proof read it and maybe make some small corrections.

Monday November 29

Finished my reflection and defense presentation yesterday. I'm still going to review my presentation tonight just to be safe. Last night Joy emailed me saying that one of my thumb drives wasn't working so I gave her access to the folder with my final materials so she could download the file and use one of their USBs. Just went to Staples and printed out copies of my gallery guide for the exhibition. On December 1st I'm going to post on social media again reminding followers of the date/time and also to encourage people to interact digitally.

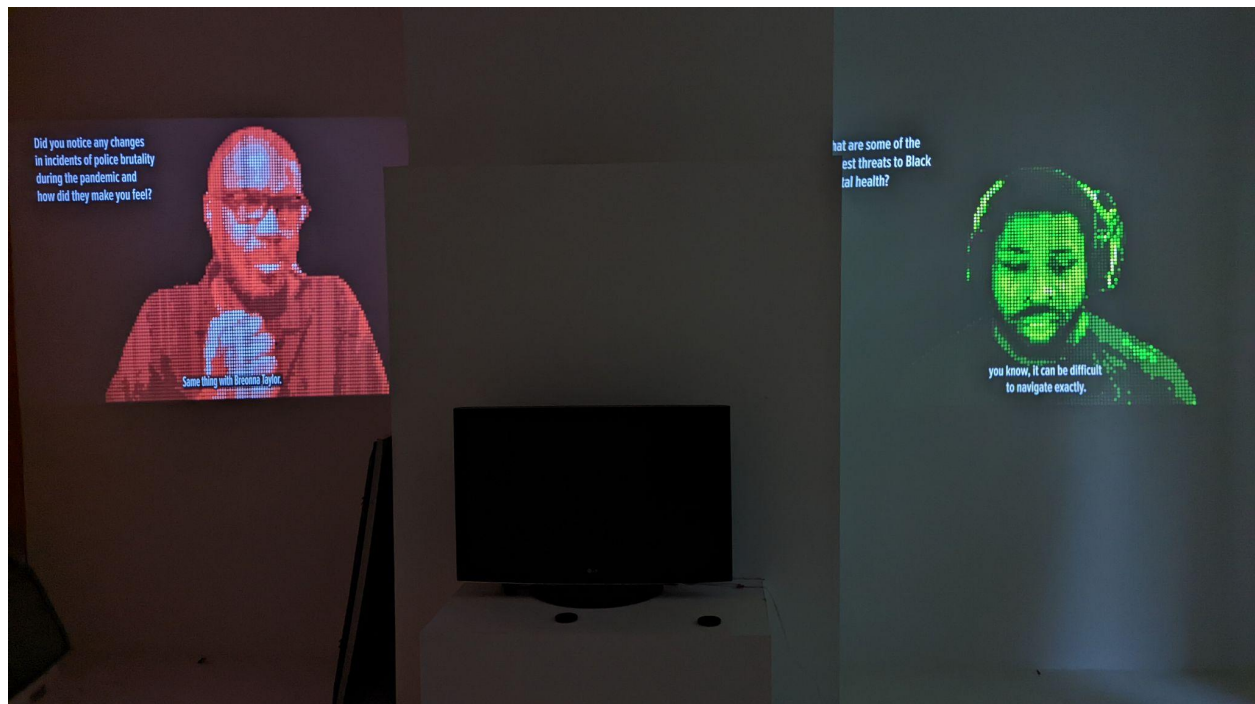
Tuesday November 30

Added some final changes to my presentation and I'm ready for my defense.

Wednesday December 1

Defense was good. I was nervous but I passed. Still have a little more work to do before the exhibition.

Joy emailed me this today. The space is almost ready



Saturday December 4

Finished making final adjustments to my reflection. All that's left for me to do is to upload my materials to MDSoar, respond to questions on the drive, and have my exhibition. This whole journey was a crazy experience and I'm proud of how well everything turned out.

Since the project is done, there's no need to update this journal anymore.