

Through The Eye

Rachel Chinouri



Concept:

The video is driven by the surreal visualisation of a woman's disconnect between the internal and the external self - specifically the feeling of isolation in an oppressive external environment.



Narrative:

The video shows the disconnect between the actor's internal self and her external environment by pitting the 'real' actress against a replica of herself. Ideally we would like to cast Rachel. We open on an extreme close up of an eye; a slow Dolly out begins and we slowly realise we are looking at a reflection. As Rachel begins to move through the video, the mirror self is slightly out of sync, representing her inability to communicate with her environment.

As the video progresses, overlaid elements are introduced which further the sense of disconnect from reality. These could include multiple exposure or onionskin style overlay to create a lagging movement, showing her internal self unable to keep up with her environment and becoming distressed. This could be emphasised by jagged style of movement that feels jarring and awkward, creating a similar feeling to how the editing is used in Bonobo's Kerala.

The video would be set in a room with a red backdrop and lighting, to create an oppressive atmosphere. We would use contrast lighting to highlight her replica.



Cinematography

The cinematography will replicate the artist's 'Cry for help' in colour, movement and framing, giving the audience a direct insight into her internal struggle. We think that there are 4 main visual elements that will engage and entice the audience, making them feel closer and closer to the mind of Rachel. 1. The colour red. 2. Slow zooms/tracks. 3. Close ups and eye contact. 4. Mirror images.

The pensive, atmospheric effect of a slow dolly out is one of the most powerful filming tools available. Using this technique and other camera movement alongside the structural flow of the music, we will create a visually fluent and engaging video.

Through various close ups of Rachel's eyes, starting from the very beginning to immediately entice the audience, the video will give a direct insight into the emotional disconnection within Rachel's mind.

To enhance Rachel's disconnection to her inner self and her cry for "help", we will use a mixture of (or individually) mirror images, duplicates, and reflections. This will create the sense of a fractured personality, someone who needs "help".



Inspirations

Höch's incorporation of collaged eyes into her works was really interesting to us. We previously had the idea to incorporate animated illustrations of eyes into the video, but after seeing Höch's work we thought that including collaged eyes over the top of our video, moving and pulsing with the music and movement of the talent could add energy. This also relates back to the song title and the recurring theme of the battle between the internal/external self as the eye is often thought of as a window to the soul.



We have also looked at Matisse's Red Studio due to his use of the colour red, which will be prevalent in our video, and the way he draws the viewers eyes to certain objects to show their importance and ensure the viewer focuses on them.



Edward Hopper's themes of isolation and detachment were also of inspiration to us. The way he reduces a scene to its core features is something we could communicate with our set and mis-en-scene. And the way he isolates his subjects from the outside or external world are something we hope to achieve in our video.



To ensure our production meets Covid-19 regulations we would carry out a risk assessment and ensure that all members of production have access to this. We would also ensure that all cast and crew members are briefed on the risks and help them to understand ways that we can, as a team, make the production safe. In addition to this one member of the crew would be responsible that everyone is following guidelines throughout the production process. This will include ensuring social distancing is maintained, the set is well ventilated, the set is kept clean, there is adequate hand sanitiser and disinfectant available etc.

Most importantly, we believe that our idea is possible to create within the current restrictions with little risk to individuals involved.

Video Treatment by:

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