

Stéphane Glynn

Proposal for Arts Scholar Summer Research Award

Have you ever wondered how your environment affects your movement? Alters the way your body lives and interacts? If awarded the Arts Scholar Summer Research Award, I would perform an investigation to solve these very questions. I would attempt to capture movements in various environments (urban, suburban, rural, etc.) to reveal differences in the body movements many take for granted. This summer, I will be spending most of my time between New York City (urban) and my hometown in Northern Virginia (suburban). Therefore, I would begin with a comparison between “urban movement” and “suburban movement.”

In his article *City Films, Modern Spatiality, and the End of the World Trade Center*, Juan A. Suarez defines an ideology called “skyscraper modernism,” calling it “a particular conception of modernism: one that has been theorized in terms of efficiency, streamlining, standardization, and mechanization. It is the kind of modernism that proclaimed ‘less is more’ and conceived modernity as a process of simplification and paring down, of increased control and management...of ‘mastery’ over ‘drift’” (109). Does the urban environment and “skyscraper modernism” of New York City result in a similar “efficiency, streamlining, standardization, and mechanization” of movement? During my investigation I will look at various sectors of New York City to see if people’s own bodies have become manifestations of skyscraper modernism. Specifically, I plan on taking a strong look at Wall Street, Upper East Side, Greenwich Village, Brooklyn, and other sectors. Within those general places, I would study churches, bars, streets, and other locations.

I plan on performing my research and capturing these movement changes primarily through film. Ideally, when I return to Charlottesville in the fall I could put together a

documentary or film as the final product of my research. Thus, I would be spending the money principally on buying a camera, film tapes, and (potentially) final cut pro so I can edit the film I take. I can also envision using small amounts of the money as motivation to get people to move in front of the camera (or to speak about their movement). In the future, I believe I would be able to extend this project to other areas. I definitely believe there are many interesting findings to discover!