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Bike Veil Bride

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BIKE VEIL BRIDE

by

Asa Crowe

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for graduation with Honors in the Art, Studio

Jon Winet
Thesis Mentor

Spring 2018

All requirements for graduation with Honors in the
Art, Studio have been completed.

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Asa Crowe
Spring 2018
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Endurance and durational art are genres of performance art associated with intermedia in which the artist puts themselves through some level of trial, in the case of durational art, for an extended period of time. A widely known example is *The Artist Is Present* by Marina Abramović, who silently sat in MoMA for hundreds of hours as over a thousand visitors took turns sitting across from her. As an intermedia student, I wanted to experiment with endurance art for the first time to figure out how it might develop my practice.

American wedding culture is arguably consumerist, exhibitionist, and a hindrance to independence. The props I used were a used wedding gown that had been disposed of at a thrift store and my bike. I put on the used wedding gown and publically wore it in an unconventional manner, on a bike ride. A secondhand wedding dress can often be obtained for less than the price of many cycling kits or even just a casual outfit bought new. Wearing one during the work demonstrated the disposability of an object sought after and saved for by so many. My secondhand dress would also become a “remnant piece” at the end, a reflection of the trial my body had been through and evidence of the performance that had been. Originally, I intended to sell and donate all of my clothes, buy the dress, and wear it as my clothing for a semester or so. This was incompatible with courses that involved welding, etc, so I thought I might buy the dress, wear it for three days or so as a trial run of the performance, then decide on a longer time period. This project needed one more parallel with a wedding, love. I chose to include the love of my life, cycling, through the use of my bicycle. Wearing something beautiful but impractical while doing something I live for, thereby hindering my ability to perform the activity, was exactly the trial and visual metaphor I wanted. My route was a single track mountain bike trail in Coralville. Documentation of the honors endurance piece was a video, shot on a Rebel T3 with a portable tripod and edited with Adobe Premiere. Further record was provided by the wedding outfit, a dress now full of burs, muddy shoes, and the veil helmet.

Performance art is distinct from theater and cinema, which are often narrative. It is more akin to forms like painting and sculpture but with the body as medium. This piece could be developed further. It encouraged me to be more ambitious and confident in my choices in order to create a more striking image through performance. I would like to try endurance and duration in a more promoted form instead of relying on documentation and whoever I engage with by chance. One thing I would change for future projects would be to have a camera operator so I could have interrupted the flow of the ride fewer times. I might have been overly cautious about the weather, since it would have been interesting to go out on a muddy day, but that could be a future endurance art project.