

1 Feat 3 Ways

Ainsley and Kira

This assignment required us to perform an everyday feat in three different ways. Because both of us were very exhausted on the day we needed to come up with our feat, we decided on sleeping as our feat, a very mundane and important action.

Because we chose to film after receiving class feedback, we had time to integrate other people's ideas into our final videos. As a result of the critique, we realized that there were many hidden implications in our ideas that we had not yet considered. After discussing it, we decided to lean a little more heavily towards the themes of voyeurism and the female body, as well as the physically demanding nature of capitalism. Our final videos touch on the ways in which women are constantly being watched, even when performing activities that are not meant to be "beautiful". They also touch on several of the factors that create difficulties sleeping, such as institutional expectations and the new age of technology.

Our oneshot is titled "I'll Be Watching You", and features Kira with a backpack and arms full of books, attempting to fall asleep while sitting on a chair. This video was filmed at an unusually low angle in order to make the audience feel like a creepy voyeur watching an unaware female student trying to sleep. It focuses on two themes: the constant feeling of surveillance and judgement felt by exhausted students trying to keep up with assignments, and the extensive reach of the male gaze, even when it comes to activities as mundane as sleeping.

The sequence video, "Get Back To Work", shows Ainsley trying and failing to fall asleep on chairs, removing one at a time and growing uncomfortable. This video focuses on the corporate space, and how unnatural it can be. The chairs being removed symbolizes workers being given less ability to rest over the years. Ainsley's outfit lends to this idea, as their black-and-white pantsuit blends in with the scene, suggesting they are being assimilated into the space. Like the oneshot, this video also carries themes of surveillance. The setting implies that the person is not supposed to be sleeping, and that whichever higher power is viewing them is aware of their transgression. Ainsley also sits in a traditionally masculine pose at the end, invoking themes of gender expectations.

The final video, the loop, is called "Sleep Cycle". It depicts Ainsley entering the frame and turning on their phone, then handing it to Kira who turns it off and leaves with it. The camerawork in this video is meant to invoke shopping channels, an environment where the female body is often used to sell products. The neverending activation and deactivation of a device used so widely in everyday life represents how much we rely on everyday technologies, to the point where turning off your phone is like going to sleep yourself.