

this much



my grandpa and my mom c. 1996

david alpert
curatorial practice '22

Growing up, my mom would ask me, “do you know how much I love you?”

With her arms spread as far as they would go, she would say, “this much.”

I’ve thought about this often. I sometimes feel sad and supported when I remember these moments.

Over the past few months, I’ve been researching my relationship with my mom for an upcoming solo show at the Orange Art Foundation in New York City. The Orange Art Foundation recently selected me as the winner of a juried photography show, and as part of that award they are curating a solo show of my work. The photograph I submitted was about my mom and me, and I plan on expanding the series with a new film entitled, *this much*—a short experimental documentary about my mom’s ceramics collection and studio practice. I am planning on combining Super 8 film, HD Video, and music (which I have been learning/experimenting with). I have worked with Super 8 before, but due to budget constraints I’ve always had to borrow all of the equipment and spend hundreds of dollars to purchase and process the film. Through a MICA Graduate Research Grant, I will be able to finalize this project and offset the material and production costs associated with this artistic and curatorial exploration.

You might be wondering, *what does this have to do with curatorial practice?* Good question. I work as both an artist and a curator, and the delineation between the two frequently melts away. This is a studio project in the sense that I am creating a film. It is a curatorial project in the sense that I am researching and archiving information about an art collection and an artist. Similarly to the work of organizations such as Art 21, this documentary will both serve as an art object and a curatorial project. The themes of familial research and personal history embedded in *this much* will serve as a case study for my future thesis work at MICA.



still from *i miss you; i feel* _____
super 8mm, 2019



hugging my mom from a distance
instax square, 2020
winning submission to *What is Your Reality in the Pandemic Era?*
curated by Orange Art Foundation

Budget

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| Super8-94 100D Ektachrome Super 8 Package (100', approximately 5 minutes) (includes film, processing, and production scan) | \$236.00 |
| Canon 512XL Super 8mm Camera (used) | \$315.00 |
| Canon VIXIA HF R800 Camcorder | \$249.99 |
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| Total | \$800.99 |