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4.301
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Soundtrack to life

My video clip, entitled “Soundtrack to life” takes a look at the various associations we have with fear, misery, and uncertainty. Through use of sound, simple events, and time it is my goal to bring some realization of these feelings to viewers of the piece.

Filming for this piece was broken into 4 general parts: a segment capturing hands playing a song on the piano, a segment showing the breaking of a class on the pavement, a segment with a person moving slowly to sit on a couch, and a segment of pool balls scattering on a billiards table. The piano piece serves as the backdrop for the entire piece setting a somber mood while providing a repetitive and tense tune to associate with the images in the video.

Combining these 4 clips was done with care maintain the desired emotions of the video. This was done mainly by keeping the images darker, putting some of the action in slow-motion, and blending the various images in order to tie them together. While the piano piece serves as the recurring visual in the video, the image of the person walking and then sitting is intended to actually provide some coherence to the disparate images being used. By properly using a man in a somber mood, the other images become associated with him and his mood thereby tying everything together.

I provide 3 different images to illustrate the emotions I aim to invoke. The most simplistic is perhaps the piano song I chose for the video. The piece is in C blues, repetitive, and matches over the other clips in the video. Building off of this, are two other simple images to complement the video. To mark the beginning, I use a glass shattering to symbolize emotional falling apart and to mark a point for a person when they are vulnerable to emotions such as fear, misery, and uncertainty. From this start point I bring the story back to the human image that I want to associate with all this emotions. The music slowly builds up – adding tension and angst – concentrating all these emotions like tightly racked pool balls. All that is required for these emotions to explode outwards, for these pool balls to break apart, is a small catalyst – in this case represented by a cue ball. When we finally have the release there are two important things that we feel. First, there is an outpouring of emotion which is uncontrollable and frenetic. However, as this subsides, there is a dénouement – a move towards a more relaxed and quiet state of mind.