

**Mikaela R. Williams**

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Artist Statement

I have been making video art in Tampa Bay for the past 10 years exploring collaborative soundscapes, dreamscapes and performance. I remember looking at my family's photographs; the old, small and delicate black-and-whites of our family's heritage in the Cayman Islands to Florida Life 50 years ago. A lot of the work that I did during graduate school was me processing my father's death and gathering all sorts of inspiration from artists like Joan Jonas and Alexandria Mir. After graduate school, I began to learn music on my own and observe local musicians around me.

My process has been sharing with the audience, my tortured soul living in and outside the church, searching for more dichotomies to make sense of my beliefs. The format of my videos have evolved over time, but still exploring the 'glitch' or low-fi quality in each new effect with every single passing technological upgrade. I also like to flatten the videos into 2-D works of art.

In my proposal, I talk about a work called, "Orca Medley", by a community project called *NATRIX* with Micaela Lydon. When I was a child, I was obsessed with Shamu at SeaWorld and deeply saddened by its encasement. A childhood symbol; a product of my environment that brought me awe and grief, all at once. I was inspired by nature documentaries. I enjoy the metaphysical and ethereal qualities of performing music with nature to create a surreal experience.