

# GALLERY GUIDE

TESS CORTÉS: *Vanishing Point*

MAY 10 - AUGUST 10, 2024

THE JACK W. AND SALLY D. EICHELBERGER FOUNDATION VIDEO GALLERY

*Through digital still lifes created from digitized family movies, photographs, and computer-generated 3D models of heirloom objects, I reconstruct family histories fragmented by the passage of time.*

*My background in traditional painting and drawing informs my approach, even as I transitioned into time-based media like video and animation. The still life genre has always captivated me due to its versatility in conveying narratives about everyday life, culture, and formal elements such as color and composition.*

*A few years ago, I had a realization about my own artistic process: working in non-traditional media shouldn't restrict my exploration of still life. This realization prompted me to deconstruct the genre's fundamentals, both formally and personally. Through still life, I delve into explorations of composition, color, and the element of time.*

— Tess Cortés

## INTRODUCTION

The Contemporary Dayton is proud to present Tess Cortés, *Vanishing Point*. Using digitized family movies, photographs, and computer-generated 3D models of heirloom objects, Cortés invites viewers to contemplate the intersection of memory, perception, and the passage of time.

Both recollection and imagination, *Vanishing Point's* scrolling horizons symbolizes the convergence of past and present.

In conjunction with the exhibition, the artist has also produced a limited edition video print available for purchase in The CoSHOP Pop-up Print Shop.

## ABOUT THE PROCESS

Despite using digital tools, Cortés maintains a painter's sensibility in her video, valuing subtlety in color, texture, and composition. To create these works, she began by digitizing images from old family films. She then used a 3D modeling program called *Nomad Sculpt* to create digital versions of several milk and carnival glass pieces she inherited from her maternal grandmother, along with other everyday objects. Additionally, she utilized *Procreate* to create some of the artwork and frame-by-frame animations. Finally, she composited and animated the digitized elements in *After Effects*. For 'Houseproud (home movie)', she also employed a program called *Isadora* to synchronize the video with the sound of her mother's voice.

## EXHIBITION CHECKLIST

*Houseproud (home movie)* | RT 2:33 | 2020 | 16:9 Single channel digital video with sound

### SYNOPSIS

'Houseproud (home movie)' is an experimental short video exploring virtual and temporal fragmentation of personal family histories.

A computer program is used to manipulate old family movies to the sound of the artist's mother's voice. As she interviews her about her childhood, layered fragments of stylized video clips morph and jump. These scenes are interrupted by the phone ringing and the slicing of an orange. A switch back from memories of the past to day to day life in the present; her answering the call of friends and the artist preparing a snack for her son.

### SELECTED SCREENINGS AND AWARDS

2020 KinoDrome International Motion Picture & Screenplay Festival (Cleveland, Ohio) Winner: Made in Ohio (Micro-Short) kinodromefestival.wixsite.com/welcome/2020

Official Selection: 2020 Fisura International Festival of Experimental Cinema and Video (México) [www.instagram.com/p/CIHkAl2j2ki/](http://www.instagram.com/p/CIHkAl2j2ki/)

Official Selection: 2020 Vastlab Experimental Festival: Films (Los Angeles, CA) [vastlab.org/2020-experimental-films/](http://vastlab.org/2020-experimental-films/)

*Untitled (vanishing point)* | RT 8:12 | 2024 | 16:9 Single channel digital video with sound

### SYNOPSIS

In 'Vanishing Point,' the artist blends family objects with memories of textures and patterns, creating an evocative exploration of space and time. The horizon line acts as both a timeline and a perpetual horizon, symbolizing the convergence of past and present. Within this framework, she reimagines spaces and experiences, weaving together a collective narrative where past and present coexist harmoniously. Through a visual journey of recollection and imagination, 'Vanishing Point' invites viewers to contemplate the intersection of memory, perception, and the passage of time.

## ARTIST BIO

Tess Cortés is a visual artist and educator living in Dayton, Ohio. She received an MFA from the University of Cincinnati and a BFA from Wright State University. Her work has been screened nationally and abroad. She currently teaches at The Modern College of Design in Dayton.



Tess Cortés (contributed)

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