

March 5, 2025

Dear Members of the Review Committee:

It's with great enthusiasm that I recommend to you Timothy Butcher's innovative project *Dusk-Singing Circle Spirit and the Eastern Hemlock Sigh* for the 2025 Exhibit of Mentored Student Research and Creative Activity award. Timothy's innovative project explores the intersection of sound composition, digital and interactive media, language and performance to deepen our engagement with the natural environment and our experience of place in a profound way.

Since beginning his MFA candidacy three semesters ago Timothy has experimented with a range of technologies and modes of expression, including writing, text, sound art, sculpture, performance, and digital media. These projects have explored fundamental aspects of experience, such as time, location, presence, perception and the landscape. With this project Timothy builds upon that experience in a truly novel and captivating way. My role as his advisor has been to act as a sounding board to help clarify the nature of these investigations and to pose questions about their origin, legitimacy, and relevance in relation to the discourse of contemporary digital media art. Where applicable I help Timothy to have greater awareness of other contemporary artistic developments in relation to these themes. I view this project as extremely timely, responding to critical aspects of our current cultural and political moment, addressing the influence of technology on the human experience and the importance of recognizing our impact on the environment by encouraging audiences to reflect on their relationship with the landscape through a participatory framework.

This project leverages cutting-edge digital tools in a unique integration of sound, interactive media, language and site specific art addressing important topical considerations such as the ecological crisis and cultural heritage. It is exactly the type of novel and groundbreaking project that I believe the college should support in the strongest way possible.

Sincerely,



Gerald Habarth
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