

February 18, 2025,

Dear Mentored Student Research and Creative Activity Review Team,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for Ava Furlow and to highlight the exceptional research and creative work I have had the pleasure of mentoring. Ava has produced an impressive and innovative piece that masterfully fuses modern scientific inquiry with historical photographic techniques. Her work combines highly technical microscopic imagery of her own bodily fluids with an early 19th-century photographic process, the cyanotype, creating a dialogue between art and science while challenging conventional boundaries between the private and public spheres.

Throughout the course of her project, Ava demonstrated remarkable creativity, technical skill, and intellectual curiosity. I have witnessed her commitment to rigorous experimentation and thoughtful exploration of themes that bridge disparate disciplines. Her ability to merge precise scientific methods with expressive artistic practices is both rare and inspiring. Ava's work not only pushes the boundaries of traditional media but also invites viewers to reconsider the interplay between personal experience and historical context. Further, Ava's technical execution and tonal control of a very difficult and inconsistent photographic process is superior.

Ava's innovative approach to the medium of photography and dedication to research and technique has contributed significantly to both the artistic and academic communities of the photography program, the School of Art and Design and the larger university community. I wholeheartedly support her ongoing endeavors and recommend her to any institution or program seeking to support and foster creative research and interdisciplinary collaboration.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Sherwin
Professor of Art
School of Art and Design