

Impairments in Proprioception/ Stillness in Motion

by Jessica Oler

Eyes closed equate to misbalances, movements I cannot control.

Falling.

A feeling from the interior.

Like a cylinder rotating in a circle as it rolls up my body from the inside.

Off-putting.

Like a bunch of strangeness.

Like an unknown, uncontrollable aliveness inside of me.

Like my ancestors who have come and gone before me.

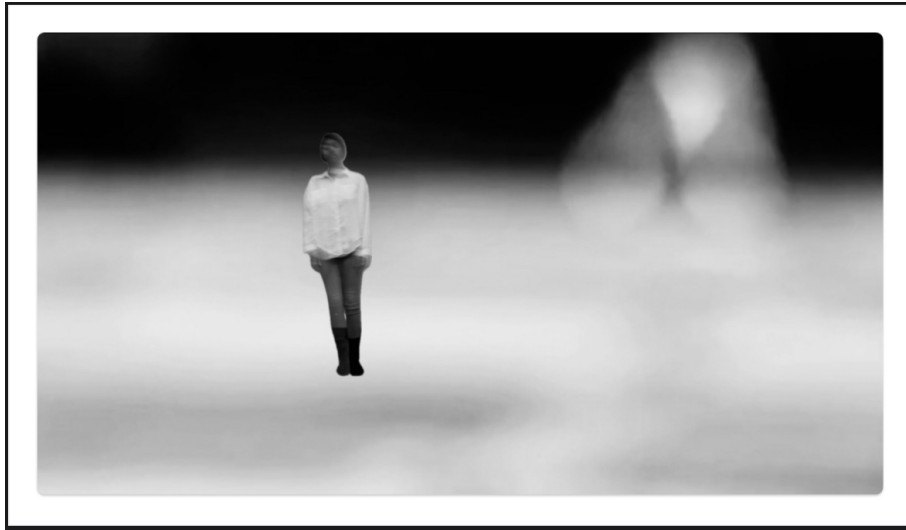
Forced movement.

My body sways, becomes ruckus, unsettled.

Pulls and leans to seemingly find a safe center.



shhh



shhh



Impairments in Proprioception/Stillness in Motion, photographic collage by author, 2025

Jessica Oler is a visual artist, writer, poet, and scholar from Northern California. She is currently a third year PhD student in the Gender Studies Program at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. Her photography, photographic collage, poetry, autoethnographic writing, and painting explore themes of meaning-making, memory, and abstraction as method. Oler's personhood and artistic practice continues to be grounded in transgressive Black feminist thought. Her work has been shown at California College of the Arts; Lewis-Clark State College Center for Arts and History; Chautauqua, Rochester, and Brooklyn, New York; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Miami, Florida; Lawrenceville and Atlanta, Georgia; Alameda, Oakland, and San Francisco, California; and Alexandria, New South Wales, Australia.