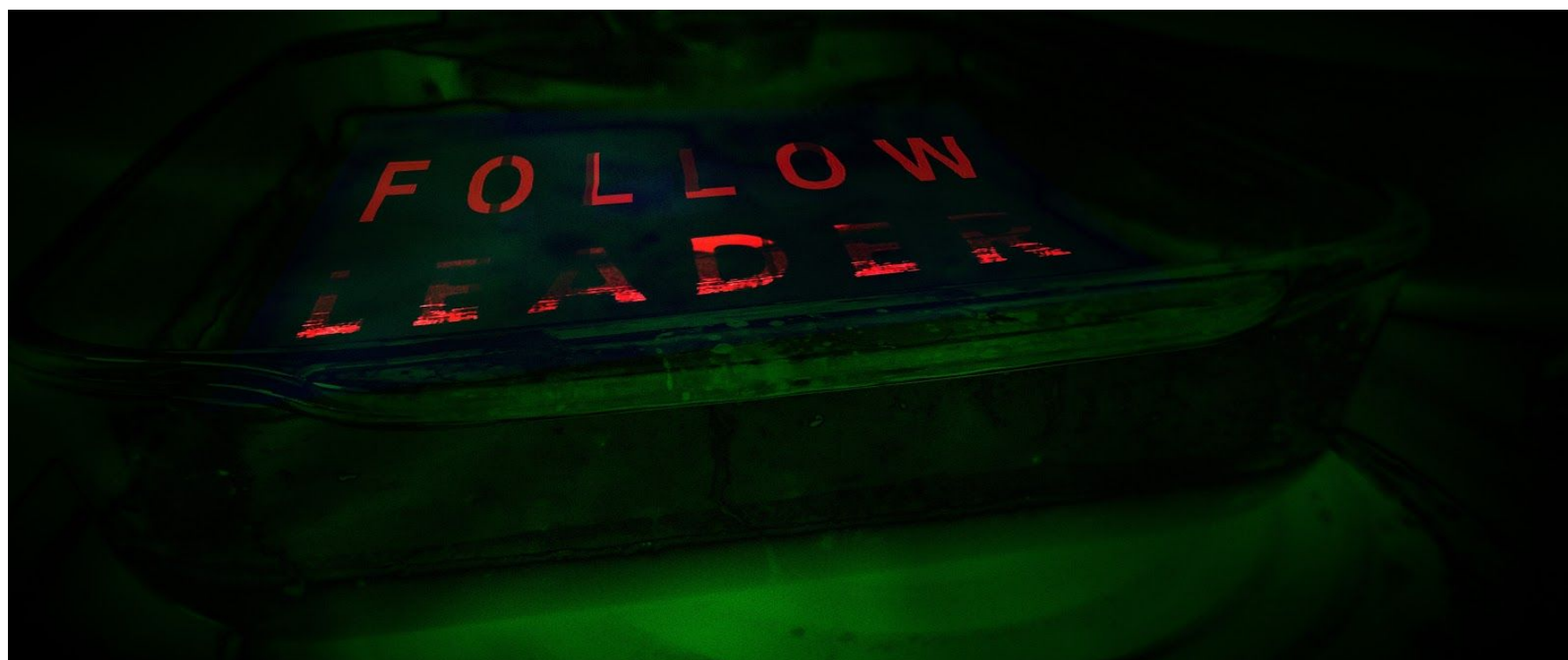


ARTIST STATEMENT: FOLLOW THE LEADER - SCOTT DANIEL JOHNSON



My work explores the relationship between male toxic masculinity and the social and psychological impact it has had on me growing up. With influences as diverse as Kenneth Anger and Maya Duran, new synergies are generated from both explicit and implicit textures. Ever since I was a child I have been fascinated by the essential unreality of the mind. What starts out as triumph soon becomes finessed into a carnival of mysticism, anxiety, and torment leaving only a sense of unreality and the unlikelihood of a new beginning. As shifting replicas become clarified through boundaried and diverse practice, the viewer is left with an epitaph for the possibilities of our future. The intentions and motivations for this work were to create vivid examples of the toxicity of male masculinity through the generations within our culture and contrast them with my own personal experiences growing up around toxic environments and people. The overall process took on a divine metamorphosis from its original flesh. The initial proposal idea was more about a broad array of ideas but upon receiving a revelation my eyes were awakened to my creative direction. The focus shifted to a singular idea of personal struggle, persecution, and torment. My process consisted of incorporating digital footage into a montage aesthetic, blending each clip until they appear seamless thus creating a completely new creative avenue from which I started with. From this direction, I begin to manipulate the content to convey my personal feeling and perspectives I have on the issue. Through the process of making this work, I was able to come to terms with my past feelings about masculinity and identify the root cause of the trauma for me. I was able to bring these deep-seated thoughts to the surface and out of the dark chambers of my consciousness. This work to me is about more than visuals, esthetic of avant-garde aesthetic or filming a cake being prepared at three in the morning. This film it is about visually exploring my dispositional attribution of individual behavior as a result caused by internal characteristics that reside within me, as well situational influences that stem from the environment that I lived in and the continuation of the internal war and struggle I still face today.

