



I've needed glasses for years. During one of my eye appointments I was diagnosed with pigment dispersion syndrome, an eye disorder caused by the pigment in your irises flaking off. The color granules clog the eye's drainage canals and can build pressure on the optic nerve, potentially leading to pigmentary glaucoma and blindness. I needed to make a film exploring the medical problem that was plaguing me.

I use painting on film and abstraction to evoke internal, visceral feelings. I want to give viewers a subjective experience that is emotionally and psychologically on a par with mine. *Pigment-Dispersion Syndrome* (2022) is structured by the stages of the disorder and is a film that increases in intensity. The experience of watching it can be scary or intense, but it is meant to be unique to each viewer. I want to reclaim a different kind of beauty that challenges the primacy of traditional vision. I've always made work that is imperfect, where you can see the decay and missing detail. It's a reaction to conformity. Through the deterioration of the image, I embrace the idea that there is beauty in aging.

The film operates in portions that are abstract—a wash of textures, colors, a visual rhythm—with recognizable moments through found footage. A lot of this material is decades old

and already decayed. I softened the emulsion and painted onto the filmstrip. I then photographed the individual frames on an optical printer to capture textural details. Film is the raw material of people's ideas and fascinations. How and what they choose to film can be revealing of a person's values. We get to see through their eyes. I wanted to share that fragmentary vision. There are repeated tropes, like the fact that everybody wears glasses. At one point, we pan from the eyes of a cat to a woman, reflecting the intensity of somebody trying to see and us looking at her seeing. The good news is I just went to the eye doctor, and they told me the loss of pigment has plateaued and won't get worse. There's no longer any reason for me to worry about losing my sight. ●