Image/Video report 1

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For the first assignment, I decided to play with smoke and mirrors, literally. I used a palo santo bark to create a very blue smoke. The smoke is naturally blue and less turbulent than some of the other woods and incense I tried. My balcony has a very warm and gentle light first thing in the morning, so I set up my camera right as I woke up. The final video just came naturally, with a steady hand and the right wind speed. The smoke was not too turbulent nor too still. The light illuminated the bluish smoke really well, and became a slightly different hue. The mirror effect was added at the end, and definitely adds dimension to the final video.

The flow of the smoke was consistent, rose up in height, and backlit by the sun. The object used was quite small, about 2 inches by 1 in. There were no obstacles for the smoke to be contained by. To get the shot, I placed my palo santo on a plate in the brightest spot on my porch, along the railing. To begin, I orbited the palo santo counter clockwise, hiding the sun from the camera. I stopped orbiting, keeping the palo santo in the focal point of the camera, with the sun directly behind it. It was a cool morning, and air temperatures were about 56 degrees.

The object was placed about 10 inches away from the camera, with the field of view being about 3 feet, with the horizon in the background. I simply used my iphone for this one. Some things the iphone can do are comparable to nice DSLR’s, but of course not as programmable. I used a mirror effect in one of my editing apps called clips, which makes great videos on the iphone.

The image reveals beautiful symmetry due to the mirror effect, but what's more fascinating is the combination of the fluid flow and the sunlight refracting through it. The smoke is a pale bluish color, and illuminates into a calm blue with the sun behind it. I don't particularly like the plate in the shot, not the balcony. If I could do the same thing on the top of a mountain with no human made objects in the shot I think it would have been more successful.

*Visual simulation of smoke - stanford university*. (n.d.). Retrieved September 29, 2021, from http://web.stanford.edu/class/cs237d/smoke.pdf.