Program 13 presents two works by DoVA alum, Jayson Kellogg (MFA ’16): “This is Me” and “Compulsion”. In regards to these two works, Kellogg writes:

These series of videos explore the gap between the personas we perform and the internal instability we carry as a species without a defined being. This paradox of human nature is both tragic and comedic. And to reveal it, I draw upon charged encounters that confront human behavior with an ambiguous response: an actor preparing for a role and the multiplicity of ways we can or don’t perform an ethical response.

These works are staged and intentionally fictive, yet what is revealed is documentary in nature. For the pieces attempt not just to show a compelling or unusual performance but reveal the way our fictive, improvisational personas become just as much us as we become them.

Born in California, he received a B.A. in sociology from the University of Southern California in 2012 and an M.F.A. in visual art from the University of Chicago in 2016. His work has been exhibited within the U.S. and internationally. He served in the Iraq War from 2006-2008 with the Marine Corps as a Navy Corpsman.
This Is Me (2015)
HD Video, Color, Sound, 16:22 Minutes

An actor performs scripted lines, which appear at the bottom of the screen in courier font. These scripted lines, however, do not convey a story but merely articulate thoughts an individual would say to oneself during a state of confusion or crisis. With no narrative or character study provided, the actor adopts alternative strategies that blur the line between fact and fiction. 

Compulsion (2016)
HD Video, Color, Stereo Sound, 23 Minutes

Compulsion is a parable on crisis: a state where the necessity and urge to act can become the very things that prevent one from knowing how. What follows is a scene where the characters exchange identities and roles in a continuous attempt to remedy the situation. This repetition frustrates and confuses their performances, while also revealing the nuances and subtleties of their multiple personas.