Alice Klock - Piece Proposal

If selected to create a new work with Western Michigan University I would like to choreograph a piece that explores and demonstrates the visual disturbances, or aura, that I see when I get a migraine. I have been getting migraines ever since I was very small, and have struggled over the years with the difficulty of explaining what I experience when I’m in the midst of one. Of course no one can experience them with me and my attempts to describe them fail as it is beyond any shared experience I could reference. Even within the medical community there is a lack of understanding about migraines as they can differ so wildly from patient to patient. Therefore, it feels like an incredibly personal thing to me, a part I can’t quite explain, a part of myself that mystifies others. This reality extends to a larger concept I would like to explore in this piece, the concept of individual perception, individual experience, and the difficulty in fully translating our individuality to others. I would use the complexity of dealing with migraines to demonstrate our human need to connect, to proclaim ourselves, and to be understood by others. I would work with group sections to demonstrate the initial phases of auras in which small pieces of a large picture distort and fall away. I would work with individuals to show the isolation that comes with navigating the world through a lens that is sometimes untranslatable. With small group sections I would endeavor to show the attempts we all make to reach out when we feel blind and the resulting connections or loss of connections that occur between people as a result of this.

For the score for this piece I am considering using music created by artists who also experience migraines, and share and understand what that means. In particular, I am researching the life and music of Hildegard von Bingen.