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Integrated Seminar: Fake  
Interview with Leia  
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After days of pushing the interview aside and not finding the availability to meet up with her partner, Viki finally finds it in her heart to commute two hours from Queensland on a Saturday night to make an appearance at the Sheila C. Johnson Design Center at 2 W 13th street. Though she did not anticipate the interviews to prolong for three hours, she left the building content with the unprecedented knowledge that she was able to gain that night. Viki went straight to the point and interrogated her partner on matters that she felt would harvest an artistic visual, the universe.

Viki: "What do you believe about the universe?"

Leia: "I think that people definitely have an existence that's higher than the physical world. I believe in aliens, I think there are other lifeforms that have visited the universe and affected us."

Viki: "Do you think you ever unknowingly walk past aliens, like in 'They Live'?"

Leia: "No, not like that. But the crash in Roswell, New Mexico definitely happened, I watched a documentary on it. Aliens are real, the government is hiding it from us."

Viki: "So you're a conspiracy theorist!"

Leia: "Oh god, I'm the *worst* conspiracy theorist, I hate- I'm so scared of the government. I had to tape over the cameras on my phone, iPad and everything. I thought they were listening to me and stuff, I don't know if that was just paranoia or if I actually believed that but I mean that people can do that. Oh, and 9-11 was most definitely an inside job. Watch some documentaries on it, it's a totally controlled demolition."

Viki: "How does you as a physical being contribute to the universe? What beliefs do you have of yourself?"

Leia: "For starters I had childhood depression and anorexia. So I was just a child and had my innocence stolen from me because of the horrible culture around me. I would pray every night and ask God to make me beautiful. I would punch myself and have bruises all over myself because seeing some sort of physical result from my own suffering made me feel like I deserved this, because I'm not good enough. My mom named my manic episodes "Five O'Clock Breakdowns. I would be miserable and argue with my family, so my parents didn't think I grew out of tantrum and they'd punish me. Which was weird because I got good grades, I had this amazing writing level, I was super fluent in English and had great vocabulary and was learning Chinese at the time. I had straight A's and was socially very mature and I had tons of friends and was an all around good kid. But I was just sad and angry all the time, I didn't understand these emotions I picked up on and the negativity that I felt so early in my life. I grew up going to a Catholic school in which I hated, all the unrealistic expectations set on me and the unethical teachings of the Bible."

Viki: "Has your battle with depression and anorexia shaped you in any way? Did your change in perspective about life and God improve your life and how you felt about it?"

Leia: "Honestly it was the most liberating feeling in my entire life. I am the most happy renounced Christian in the universe. It lifted off so much guilt that I was just hearing around for just not being good

enough and not living up to the standard of Jesus that you're not supposed to be able to live up to. Like every time you're falling short you're dishonoring God. All this super hypocritical bullshit, fuck all of it. I felt like my life is mine and I could control where I'm going and I'm doing this because I want to get better because I want to be happy. Fuck Christianity, I ain't about that."

Viki: "That's good, I'm happy for you."

Leia: "I got a tattoo on my 18th birthday with my dad. He always wants to help me and buy me things."

Viki: "What is the tattoo and what does it mean, if it means anything?"

Leia: "I have 'electric girl' tattooed because electric impulses in your brain, mine misfire all the time and that's why I have seizures. A brain can have too much electricity to be controlled by a normal body. So I'm bigger than this body, I'm electricity. I feel weighed down by my body because of illness and shit. I feel like just being liberated of that and feeling a consciousness in the universe would be so lit. So I'm not scared of dying in fact I'm sort of excited."

Viki: "Do you have some sort of a concrete, fixated belief? Something equivalent to blatantly mentioning a pre established religion?"

Leia: "I think that everything is energy. That's what we are, like an electric charge. Everything is some sort of energy, energy can't just stop existing it has to be transferred. So that's why I believe we're not just going to be nothing after we die. Energy can't die because of the law of energy conservation. I think life has value. Just the fact that something is alive is valuable and you don't deserve to have that taken away from you. That's also why I have the tattoo."

What Viki had originally anticipated were simple, concrete answers that could easily be transformed into an art piece. If Leia had blatantly said she believed in Christianity then all Viki would have to do was make something Jesus related. However; an individual's beliefs proved to be far more idiosyncratic and built with experience, which is why conducting the interview was so essential to the other part of the assignment.