Sul Lim

There hasn’t really been a time in my life where I feel as uncertain as I do now. No, it’s not because I can’t choose between photography or illustration as my Parson’s major. I feel like I’m wasting my time here. Don’t get me wrong, I’m enjoying my time here and I’m doing what I enjoy most; creating artwork. Most of the time, all I can think about is the people I’m surrounded by in this school. These past months in Parsons has really changed my outlook on others and it really challenged me to look deeper in myself. This semester has me doubting myself in my technical abilities. I look around and all I can see are students of completely different interests. When I came to Parsons, I thought I would be meeting people more like myself. That hasn’t been that case at all and I think it’s taking its toll on my motivation as petty as that may sound. This year, so far, I’m disappointed in myself in general. The quality of my work isn’t as high as I’d like it to be and I’m not feeling so inspired. The problem ultimately lies within me but I can’t exactly pinpoint the reason behind my lack of motivation. I’m just having a hard time seeing my future in art from a financial standpoint. The cost of this school certainly doesn’t help. The main thing I wanted to focus on was improving my technical skill in drawing and ability to recreated imaginative scenes in my head to paper. Drawing and Imaging certainly taught me how to use illustrator and… make silhouettes. Seminar seemed to be just directionless babble about how media and the internet takes our information. Discussions we had in Seminar class last semester would just be preaching to a choir about social justice opinions, “political”, and poor knowledge of technology. I’ve learned one thing from my last seminar class and it’s that contribution to the conversation isn’t really worth the effort and I’m far better off simply listening. Nothing challenged the way I thought or invited me to see different. Just the same sentences and opinions regurgitated from one another.

“We want to enable cookies so that we can personalize and improve your experience on our website. Like, what does that even mean?” Said a fellow student in Seminar 1: Avatar one afternoon class.

“Yeah, it sounds kinda scary.” Said another student, nodding her head in agreement.

An HTTP cookie is data sent from your computer to the hosting server, they don’t receive anything you don’t give. Just because you don’t understand something, it doesn’t always mean it’s scary.

(Also, side note, when people talk about computer viruses in my class and say they give remote control to strangers to their computer to remove “viruses” makes me cringe. If you have malware on your machine:

1. Stop downloading shady content
2. Download Malwarebytes, use it
3. Manually look through your computer
4. If it’s that bad, reinstall windows.

Giving a stranger remote control of your computer is horrible idea. Yes, even if they claim to be from Microsoft.)

I hate to think I’m on some high horse when I say these things. I’m not particularly intelligent or socially aware. I try to have an open mind, I promise. The writing prompts we had for the class would always be a funneling topic that spouted similar perspectives from all of us. It just leaves me feeling exasperated when it feels like everyone is part of a hive mind. I don’t feel like I have the artist mentality at this point because there certainly seems to be a pattern of behavior from these students.

The Parsons Student way:

* Disrespect your professors and staff members, remind them you’re an ungrateful kid with parent’s money
* Treat your environment terribly and leave trash everywhere
* Vandalize walls with your poor drawing skills and shock value language
* Be pompous, you’re basically a professional designer, not a student
* Don’t forget how unique you are

I’m exaggerating my points here but that’s my basic perspective on our student body as a whole. Yes, there are exceptions, I realize I may have been guilty a couple of these tenets. I know this might seem off topic, it probably is, but this seems to be what left the biggest impression on me this past semester. My overall experience is taken from the people I meet since I’ve been told that they are one of my greatest assets here in The New School. It hasn’t all been negative when it comes to the people I’ve met here. There are many students who are talented and have a variety of interesting backgrounds. I think it’s the professors who have the greatest potential for impact on my academic life. The professors have been by far the most open minded individuals compared to the student body.

The best class I’ve had by far was my Time class. Panagiotis Mavridis had been a great instructor, in my opinion, he had a very good eye for visual art and pointed out many things I could not have figured out on my own. He gave firm criticism and shared great readings that made me see relationships between humans differently. He wasn’t afraid to share his opinions and at the same time, never became emotionally charged when someone disagreed with him. He was a very optimistic. He had a very firm grasp at the ‘bigger picture’ in life, being able to see how humans interact and why we come to perceive time in a linear way. I’ve taken away more in his class than I have in all my other classes combined.

So, overall, I’ve learned a lot these past months here in New York. Maybe it hasn’t been the best experience so far but it’s been an experience. I’m going out and meeting new people. I’m seeing new sights, being kept up late at night by traffic, and sucking money from my father’s wallet. It’s been very good, really. I’m grateful for my time here. Because I’m living a very leisurely life of an artist. I hope in this semester, I’ll make better marks and learn more from others. I look forward to the coming years and always wonder where I might end up in the upcoming future.