

Two Sides to a Story

creating thoughts, creating memories, creating connections, creating joy, fear and excitement, creating projects,

I think till now, one phrase that has stuck with me is, “By definition, whatever you have is exactly what you need to produce your best work.” I fall into the trap of thinking, "When I learn this, I'll be able to start." However, through my *exceptional* time management skills I neither learn ‘that’ nor start ‘this.’ At the beginning of our journey, I was unsure of my capabilities to make anything. Although I still lack the specific skills to implement my ideas, the class has encouraged me to be ‘creative’ with what I’ve got and it’s pushed me to experiment with mediums I wanted to explore but put off .

While I am not particularly proud of any specific creation, I appreciate that I got to try new platforms and go back to old one’s I had left a while ago, such as sound editing, drawing, Canva, and even Instagram. I created an entire Instagram page for one project, despite never posting anything online before. I hope to explore video as well, if not for the final then at least I feel encouraged enough to start at some point.

I can't say I was inspired by the artists' work, as abstract art isn't what draws me. However, I was certainly inspired by their attitudes and enthusiasm. Even if they didn't sound very excited it was clear that they believed in and were inspired by their work. Regardless of how *cool* their results were, for all the artists, the process was more important than the outcome, and their passion was evident.

I would be lying if I said I enjoyed writing the responses, but I appreciate the accountability they provided. They forced me to think deeply about what I read, as I was trying to make the responses more than just summaries. It pushed me to make connections and consider interesting thoughts I have about the reading.

Sometimes I fell asleep during meditation, but bringing awareness to my surroundings was valuable experience. Although 10 minutes may not seem like much, as a general practice, it should be helpful. I tend to be stuck in my head, paying little attention to what's around me. It feels safer to ignore things that make you uncomfortable, but this prevents you from living in the moment. I appreciate that meditation helped me notice my thoughts and surroundings. I'd like to continue a similar practice, probably with my eyes open.

I'm not sure how I will apply these lateral thinking techniques to engineering. It's difficult to think creatively about something you spend all your time trying to understand. Although, after all the artist visits and seeing how they work, I have considered using engineering concepts to be creative in other fields, rather than trying to “reinvent the wheel” in engineering.

definitely, walking around the city and using public transportation, although very basic, were the most exciting parts of this trip. As someone who is *great* with directions, getting lost here felt like an adventure. Just seeing all these shops and the weird things they sold was exciting. If sort of recreates that feeling of "pleasantly confused" I explained in my midterm paper. Maybe it's when something unusual is presented with no context, but somehow it's made to seem normal, that all you can do is just flow with it. Like a crazy statue in the middle of the street that people just walk around, or a random guy singing opera in the U-bahn like it's a regular Tuesday. Well, at least for me, these things are unusual. Locals are probably used to it.

I definitely never got bored walking around here. Just the drastic change in architecture and scenery between one station and the next was entertaining. It didn't feel real sometimes. I get why this city attracts art, although I wouldn't have guessed it before coming. Berlin seemed like it would be a dull, crowded city, but there was a lot of diversity here in art, scenery, people, and food.

There was a lot of anxiety about coming here, I'd never travelled alone in this way, but Berlin was definitely a lot of fun. I didn't think I'd make good friends here, but I feel like as a class we all became closer and made interesting bonds. Many nights I stayed up to finish making assignments, but to be fair, I'd start late. There was too much I had to see in Berlin. The city seemed dull and exciting at the same time, with so many strange things happening and everyone going on like it's the usual.