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FP Interview

#1

Interview with Ariadna Soto

Ariadana is a student with Illustration major at Columbia College, and one of my simply incredible friends. She is a totally extrovert that enjoys to socializing and talking with different people, also gives me mental supports often. In this interview, we talked about her life goals, past trauma, plans, and designs and so on.

Hi Ariadna! I'm so happy that you would like to engage this interview with me. And it was very incredible that you do illustration, printing, graphic design, part-time job and many things. How do you juggle it all?

When we talked about this, she obviously didn't have any preparations. So, she told me from the start, "I don't know how to manage time. So far, I still struggling with balance my school, social and personal life." Since Covid happened, students must do online classes which is a hard time to her. Especially, after she experienced a worse relationship and came to American in the beginning, she felt so insecurity and fear to socialize.

After that terrible term, everything seems like back to right way, College makes she realized that "Be responsible of your stuff and time." She says, "Before the teachers always tell you this, tell you that, give you instructions and stand behind you all the time. But it is completely different thing at college. Nobody will come to tell you do anything unless you go on your own, the teachers often keep telling you are good, your works are good." Also, the language is another aspect that makes her fear to socialize and speaking for a little bit while.

Because of above of all, she just starts to try to manage her time from the third semester at college, socialize more new friends with different nationality and religions, quit her part-time job to spare more time for her art products.

Since you have learning this for years, what prompt you to have the think of being an artist?

"Let's back to the beginning." She speaks. Since she grew up in a family full of anime and art environment, various of inspirations and curiosity contribute her have a feeling to do art and learning that. The first time she began to contact art was seen one of her aunts' paintings that attracting her impressively. After a short while, she starts to draw at 5 or 6 years old. Even though there have many times she struggled between retake and leave during her art process. However, eventually she felt one hundred percent to be an artist. Most of reason is her family gave her a huge of supportive faith and emotions, they always tell her "Just do something what

you really like, and this is your own life.” Thanks to all of these, she knows what she wants and goals, confident to do and speak anything all the time.

What is the biggest challenge during your art experience and personal life?

She said with no doubt, “Art.” Since she has her family’s support, she could do a lot of interesting things she likes. Particularly, she cared how to settle art style of her during that time. “I am not do art for job.” She says. There are many people do not think being an artist is a good thing, “poor” always is surrounded with “artist” all the time. Even some of people in her big family, still have that kind of bias with art. Since of that, she had stressed with her art and wanted to do perfect and detailed. Also, struggled with her art style, she felt unconfident with her diversity art styles. She thought she should have her own particular style. She says, “when I told my uncle this, he just say you already have your style---diversity!”

#2

Interview with Xinmin Zhang

Min is a graduate student in rail communications and lives in China. She was a bit of an introvert and spoke softly at all times. In this interview, we talk about her past, present and thoughts.

What do you think of your personality? And why?

Presumably, we rarely talk about very formal and serious matters, so she had no idea where to start with this one. Then, she said, “It is hard to keep a present, but also to change hugely.” From the past to the present, she has become steadier and gentler, less susceptible to the influence of circumstances. She told me that she used to speak freely without much consideration or if it hurt someone, but now she does. She felt that there was more, morally or realistically, to be considered as an adult.

Before college, for example, she was more sensitive. This was because her relationship with her friends was not good at the time. She prefers to like the state she's in now, more confident and calmer about solving problems.

I know you've been taking a few music classes, but you had to give them up before you went to college. How do you feel about that?

“Honestly, I could be more positive about talking about this now. It is normal that I felt frustrated and unacceptable to make an important decision since I am informed to give up music and study railway in the college which was already arranged by my parents.” " she said in a quiet

tone. Moreover, there was a reason why she did not think herself capable of continuing in the musical life. She felt it was also an opportunity to reflect on her own life and find her own direction. So, since going to college, she's tried to take it all in, worked hard and made a lot of friends.

For now, do you have any plans for the future?

She said, "I just want to live my life and be happy." She told me about her plans to work, travel with friends, and live for now. Particularly, life turns to more meaningful and important for people after Covid. Based on the condition of this society, the intense competition from everywhere, she just wishes to follow her own pace, and work on what she like and needed.

#3

Interview with Hongliang Hu

Hongliang is my grandfather, who turns 75 this year, and he's had a lot of tough, happy times through the years. He always played the part of the man who knew so many interesting stories and could fix so many things, like the mechanic in our family.

If you could pick one word to describe yourself, what would it be?

-straight forward, I would say. I prefer to think of it as a natural personality, like someone who is gentle, someone who is ebullient, someone who is reserved. Experience has an effect on the process of forming one's own personality, but nature is also important, and cannot be rejected or removed. And for my part, I do think I am a straightforward person, and do not like intricacy, especially as honesty is a vital principle to me.

How have you coped with the tough times over the years?

- There is so much, whatever it is, that has happened that it is hard to predict what will happen in the future.

-I can give an example through the construction of our house, which was sort of a struggle for me during that time. Depending on the circumstances, to build a house you need to have a hundred thousand ready, but I only have fifty thousand, which means I have to think about how to get another fifty thousand. Then I would analyse whether I could earn the money or borrow it from a relative, just trying many ways of dealing with this and always finding the 'answer'.

- In a word, the actual situation and one's own ability were to me the most important factors in considering the difficulty.

How do you feel about yourself in your life? Do you feel satisfied with the present?

-I am content with my life now and enjoy it. Particularly, I think it's a result of the hard work I've put in over the decades, so I do feel very fulfilled in my current life. And my kids have their own lives and jobs. I have nothing else to worry about.

-I believe that 'three days are appointed, and seven points are gained by fighting,' so I did try to get a better life when I was young, and now I can take a break.