



Interview Project

Identity in Art: Self-expression of Artists and their Voices

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Overview

This project tells stories on how artists perceive their identity, career, and life as artists in the industry in forms of personal interviews. Each interviewee will be asked to share their own perspective in response to questions that examine artistic value, meanings, and forms.

Interview Questions

1. Tell us about yourself. Who are you? What do you do?
2. Why are you passionate about art? Why do you choose to become an “artist”?
3. What were some of your most memorable experiences working in the industry? (E.g. shooting a scene for the first time, first audition, a performance, a success or a challenge, a discouraged time, etc.. Please share any experience that you think is interesting or important to you.)
4. Why New York? Or, more generally, why did you come to the U.S.? How is the City different from the other places that you’ve lived/stayed in terms of a space to create art? How did living in the U.S. and the City shape the way you perceive art?
5. Are there any obstacles that are significant to you that you would like to share with us? For example, did your family support your decision to come to the U.S.? Did you experience any cultural shock when you first came here?
6. Do you think the pandemic has changed some ways that artists connect with their audience? And if so, what changes do you think that the pandemic has brought to your life as an artist?
7. Do you use social media? What role do you think social media has played in your life as an artist? Does using social media help you engage your audience? What would you say about the innovation/reduction that social media brought to the arts?
8. Do you think your passion in the art discipline has changed overtime? If so, what were the changes, and how did you manage to adapt to them?
9. If you would like to share, where do you see yourself in 5 or 10 years? Will you stick to your passion in art or is there something else that you would like to pursue?



Sweft Washington

- I. As someone who didn't start a professional career from an early age, can you talk a little about how you came to the decision to pursue arts and work as an artist?
- II. Who are your biggest artistic influences?
- III. Can you share one piece of your artworks that most expresses yourself, and why?
- IV. What would you say about the certain "duties and responsibilities" that artists need to convey and carry in their work? Do you ever feel a sense of duty because what you create can have an influence on the audiences?
- V. Talk about your experience living and working in China. Does your experience of living in an Asian country serve as an inspiration for your work?
- VI. Can you share some insights on why you started a dance company?
- VII. How do you balance art and business?

Christine Choy Hey Christine! How are you? What's been up recently?

- I. You started scholarly in architecture. Why film? Can you talk a little about how you came to the decision to pursue film and work as an artist?
- II. What do you enjoy the most about filming?
- III. What are your biggest artistic influences? Where do you get your inspirations from?
- IV. You have a very distinct voice and are such a good story teller! What are the most important things in your films and documentaries, and why? Is there a reason why every time you start a new project?
- V. What would you say about the certain “duties and responsibilities” that artists need to convey and carry in their work? Do you ever feel a sense of duty because what you create can have influence on the audience?
- VI. What is one of your projects that you think represents you or your identity the most, and why?
- VII. The Korean and Chinese Film course: what are your thoughts on Korean/Chinese/... films and directors in the American film industry?

Chun Wai Chan

- I. You started dancing at a young age, can you talk about how you came to the decision to pursue ballet dancing as your career at first? What inspired you, or promoted you toward the decision?
- II. How was your experience in the U.S. different from where you used to be? Were you, in any aspects, influenced by the difference?
- III. If you would like to share, what obstacles did you have on your way to being an established artist?
- IV. Can you share one piece of your artworks (a show, a dance, a choreography, etc.) that expresses yourself the most, and why?
- V. How do you think your Chinese-American cultural background has brought you with unique aspects and insights on arts?
- VI. Asian representation: what would you say about Asian representation in the performing arts discipline today? Did you ever feel that there was a lack of representation, and did that evolve to be more inclusive and diverse?
- VII. Art and social changes: do you ever feel a sense of duty because what you create can have an influence on the audiences and the society? In what ways do you think dancing helps to change society in a positive/neutral/etc. way?
- VIII. If you would send a message to teenagers who also want to be an international artist like you, what would you tell them?

Nan-Cheng Chen

- I. Tell me about yourself and your identity (artist, cellist, Asian-American, teacher, director, etc.)
- II. What made you want to become a cellist, and why?
- III. If you would like to share, what obstacles did you have on your way to being an established artist?
- IV. Can you share an artwork or a project that you did that expresses yourself the most, and why?
- V. How do you think your Chinese-American cultural background has brought you with unique aspects and insights on arts?
- VI. Representation: what would you say about Asian representation in the performing arts discipline today? Did you feel that there was a lack of representation, and did that evolve to be more inclusive and diverse?
- VII. How do you understand the connection between arts and social changes? Do you ever feel a sense of duty because what you create can have an influence on the audiences and the society? In what ways do you think arts influence society?
- IX. If you would send a message to young students who also want to be an international artist like you, what would you tell them?