

Last Saturday I attended the C3 Expo at our school which is an anime convention. This is my second year attending the convention and some of the artists that I have met there. While walking through the event I conversed with artists that create with many different disciplines who came there that day to sell their art. My friend Athena had her own table there (I wil do a full interview with her later on) but I went to the various tables and rooms to speak with a bunch of artists and ask them little questions about their art while explaining my project and inquiring about their art process. One of the first artists i interviewed had a unique style of using flip note studio (which is a drawing platform on the nintendo DS) their name is Las Frogas who is currently a fine arts BFA major here at Columbia currently working on their thesis project illustrating through their nintendo DS. Which I feel is a perfect fit for my project because FlipNote Studio is an app that was mainly used for drawing when a large percentage of those in my age group were little. So I was marveled that they were still using something to create amazing art to be sold using an app I had long forgotten about. Their thesis is mainly about their time on the internet as a young child and how the culture of the internet shaped them as an artist and how it inspires the art that they make now. They enjoy making art that is silly, fun, and they want others to view their art the same way and they lastly wanted me to add that they love frogs. I selected them to interview first because I was drawn by their completely unique style and I felt like their art would be amazing on my site.

For the second interview I had recorded it was with Morgan (aka Momo Scribbles) who is a Senior at Columbia and the vice president of the Illustration student group here at Columbia. They draw to keep their imagination alive, and they fear losing their imagination as they get older. They were inspired by anime as a kid and wondered when they were going to represent as a black person in animated media so they started their own comic so that they could create the representation that they wanted when they were younger. This speaks to me deeply because when I was younger I felt the exact same way and when I started to draw or illustrate I naturally created characters like me but I never at the time thought of making projects to fully insert my representation into the world like Morgan is doing. Their goal is to just inspire black people to create and insert their different stories into the media. Which is extremely similar to my purpose regarding this site, wanting to uplift many different artists and showcase their work so that I can inspire many artists of numerous disciplines.

For the 3rd interview was Sleepy fox cosplays, they graduated from Columbia 2 years ago with a degree in fine arts (even though they use illustration more). They get their inspirations from adventure time and anime characters which led to them making their own characters. After that they evolved into cosplaying their favorite characters at anime conventions and then they realized they could sell their art and cosplay at the same time or at the same event. They have been trying to build up their skills with cosplaying and making their own cosplays as of late. This artist connects to the message of my site and its purpose because they explained how they evolved as a artist and how they built their skills to span across different disciplines which would be a great addition to my site and I personally look up to all the artists that I had interviewed even the ones that I hadnt even mentioned yet but I told all of the artists that I talked to that I would contact them further later if they would like to be contacted further about me created a full page to fully display their art and evolution over time.