

# Lam̄a

ISSUE 4: JANUARY

Merged



Mariam Hamad, Thuc Ngo, Maryam Al-Ghanim and Hala Al Darbasi

# Editor's Note

LAMحـA /Lamha/, or a glimpse. A window into the vibrant and diverse world of Carnegie Mellon in Qatar.

Here at Carnegie Mellon, we are a diverse community of individuals from different cultures, religions, and backgrounds. Some of us have traveled far to come here, whilst others have lived here in Qatar their entire lives, but we share our pursuit of knowledge and self-discovery, creating a beautiful tapestry of unique perspectives and experiences in our campus.

Our campus is only a representative of the greater melting pot of cultures we belong to: Qatar. The recent FIFA World Cup in Qatar was a prime example of how different cultures can come together, in this instance, for their love of football. We witnessed cultural fusions, from a K-pop star and Qatari singer on the stage of the opening ceremony, to Qatari thobes and ghitras coated with Argentinian colors.

In light of the cultural explosion we witnessed last winter, this issue, Merged, is centered around celebrating our differences. We are constantly reminded of the richness that comes from embracing our differences at CMU-Q, from learning phrases in different languages to the unofficial CMU-Q tradition of the Desi Club's traditional dance being performed annually, to the colorful displays of different cultural traditions on International Day. These avenues, whether they be extravagant performances or simple everyday interactions between students, reflect the spirit of unity and acceptance on our campus. We encourage all students to continue learning about one another's cultures and to take pride in sharing their own heritage with the CMU-Q community..

LAMحـA is for the students by the students. We are more proud than ever to continue being an anchor for your monthly conversations, and an archive for your university experience.

Sincerely,  
LAMحـA Editorial Board



## Dana's note

Having been fascinated by LAMحـA's mission of empowering students' voices since the very first issue, I am excited to be joining the LAMحـA editorial team to help fulfill that mission and to help further deepen our campus' conversations. Our campus contains a diverse range of perspectives and I can't wait to work with LAMحـA towards highlighting these perspectives buzzing in our community's discussions.

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Shot by Maryam Al-Ganim



Social



# Synergies

# The Art of Expressing Myself

## A Personal Journey

By Sara Al- Sabbagh

Art has always been a passion of mine, ever since I was a child. I have tried different types of artwork over the years based on my interests. At first, I used to draw the sun on the corner with a landscape, keeping it simple. Then, I decided to explore landscapes and how to better them by adding more complex features. Growing up, I used to enjoy watching anime and saw many of my friends drawing them. This inspired me to attempt drawing my own anime portraits, and I loved it so much. I'm sharing two of my favorite anime artworks that I did in 2017-2018.



I wanted to have each drawing include its own unique, personal touch; in which one is colored to add more meaning or a story behind the drawing, whilst the other one is black/white.



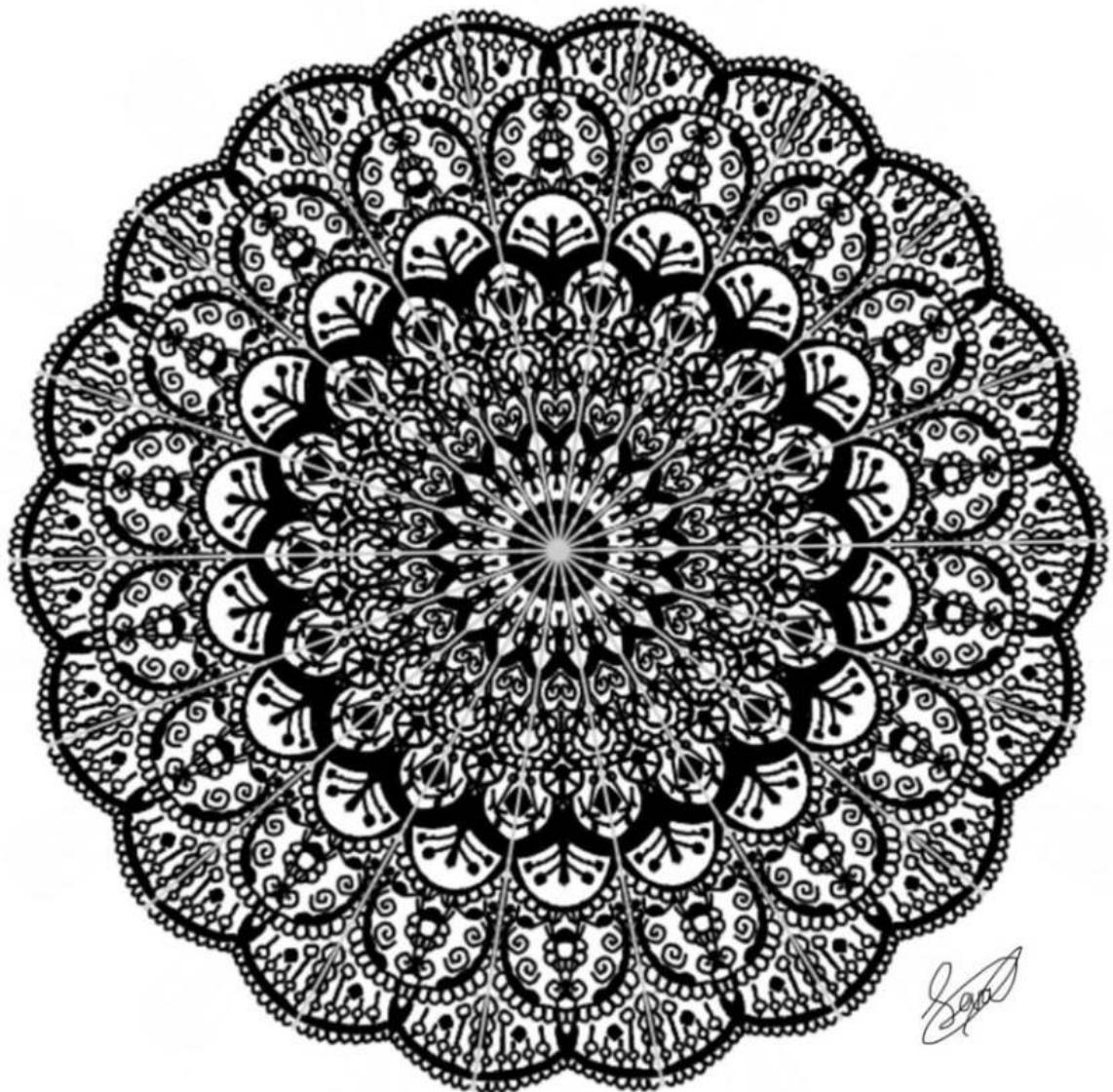
When I started university, I found myself feeling overwhelmed with deadlines, so I decided to use art as a stress relief. This made me realize how enjoyable sketching mandalas are, despite taking 6+ hours to complete. I became invested in exploring more mandala ideas and getting more and more creative with it. I've started to experiment with digital sketches using my iPad, making the process more efficient.



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“I decided to use art  
as a stress relief”

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# Hijab

By Boushra Bendou originally written on 11/22/21

**If you preach freedom of expression,  
why are you so obsessed with seeing my hair?**



©Boushra



A few years ago, I remember going into the living room where my father was mastering the art of watching the news and working on his laptop simultaneously. On the TV I saw a hijabi woman being interviewed and my heart instantly swelled with pride, so I sat down to enjoy seeing someone who looks like me speak on national TV.

What I did not realize immediately was that there was another woman, white and blonde sitting opposite the hijabi woman. To my surprise, the women were arguing about whether a woman should be allowed to wear the hijab or not. What saddened me most was that the blonde woman called herself a feminist, a term which I had been proud to call myself for a long time (and I still do). But at the time not only did this woman state on

national television that my right to wear the hijab should be revoked and that this piece of cloth on my head is oppressing me, but she also said this in the name of feminism, which is completely contradictory.

**Feminism is supposed to be the advocacy of women being able to choose what they want to do.**

**So how am I oppressed if I choose to wear the hijab?**

Surprisingly, after watching the entire interview, I came to the conclusion that I agree with both women. Hijab can definitely be used as a tool of oppression, and in many cases it is. In fact, in a few Muslim countries such as Iran, Afghanistan, and Indonesia,

women are required to wear the hijab by law which is wrong as it is hypocritical. These countries twist religion as they pick and choose what to enforce, which in many cases leads to **resentment** towards Islam.

However, in your so-called 'free' countries, where Muslim women are fortunate to wear the hijab by choice, it is unfair that you get to take that choice away by labeling the hijab as a form of oppression in all cases. The hijab is oppressive only once it is forced on a woman.

### **Why do Muslim women wear the hijab?**

Although as Muslim women we are not required to justify our clothing choices to others, it is important that we educate and show that the hijab is more than just a piece of cloth. Therefore, I will give you just a few reasons why some women choose to wear the hijab.

First and foremost, the hijab is worn by many Muslim women as it is interpreted by most Islamic scholars from the Quran (verse 24:31) to be a religious obligation. However, as Mubarak says in one of Leila Ahmed's books, 'Though the hijab is seen as a religious obligation by religious scholars, in fact, it is ultimately each woman's prerogative to decide whether or not she will cover her hair. No one... can ever force a woman to cover against her will, for that in fact violates the Quranic spirit 'let there be no compulsion in Islam'. Hence while the hijab is titled as a 'fard' (obligation) in Islam, it is also important to know that forcing a woman to wear it is considered a sin, which is why it is hypocritical for some countries to use Islam to justify forcing women to wear the hijab.

Speaking of hypocrisy, Muslim women who choose to wear the hijab did not invent the idea of covering for religion. Yet, they are

the most attacked for it. Major religions like Christianity and Judaism also have the idea of dressing modestly. How is a nun who's fully covered any different from a hijabi woman who's fully covered? Clothing worn by nuns is seen as a sign of piety whereas hijab is seen as a sign of oppression. How is a Jewish woman who chooses to be modestly dressed for her religion seen as progressive while a hijabi woman is seen as backwards? This shows that the resistance the hijab faces in western countries is fueled by deep-rooted racism and islamophobia rather than just 'feminism'.

To explore another reason women wear the hijab we need to dive into the wondrous world of the objectification of women. It is a well-known fact that women are constantly reduced to sexual objects in everyday life and across all industries.

In fact, as United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) states, many studies show that in the media 'girls are depicted in a sexual manner more often than boys; dressed in revealing clothing, and with bodily postures or facial expressions that imply sexual readiness. One study finds that 'on average, across 58 different magazines, 51.8 percent of advertisements that featured women portrayed them as sex objects and that 'when women appeared in advertisements in men's magazines, they have been objectified 76 per cent of the time.'

Moreover, women are put under a lot of pressure by society to look a certain way and be attractive. UNICEF also states that 'consequences of hypersexualization for girls and women include anxiety about appearance, feelings of shame, eating disorders, lower self-esteem and depression.' A woman's value is based on her appearance, she is judged based on what she has or what she lacks.

## **For me and many other women, the hijab helps make a powerful statement: We are more than just our bodies.**

Rather than oppressive, we see the hijab as liberating as it means that we don't have to conform to restrictive societal standards. As Ayesha Nusrat says in her New York Times opinion piece, 'in a society that embraces uncovering, how can it be oppressive if I decided to cover up? I see hijab as the freedom to regard my body as my own concern and as a way to secure personal liberty in a world that objectifies women.' Similarly, Mubarak states in Leila Ahmed's book, 'the hijab is a form of modesty, security and protection'.

Another important reason why women wear the hijab is that they see it as an assertion of identity. North African and Middle Eastern countries have had their fair share of European colonizers. Under colonial rule, Muslim women were encouraged to change their appearance in order to conform to European standards and 'fit in'. As Killian states, because of that, "the veil became a symbol of national identity and opposition to the West during independence and nationalist movements".

Unfortunately, some Western countries have been trying to dictate whether or not a woman should be allowed to wear the hijab. In France, particularly, the hijab is seen as a symbol of the oppression of Muslim women. On March 30th of this year, they went as far as proposing legislation calling for the "prohibition in the public space of any conspicuous religious sign by minors and of any dress or clothing which would signify inferiority of women over men".

What is infuriating about this is that France justifies its Islamophobia by making this legislation about advocating for women's rights. I just have one question: why does France want its minors to be uncovered? As Manar

wrote on Twitter following this event "Age to consent to sex in France: 15 Age to consent to hijab: 18 Let that sink in. It isn't a law against the hijab. It's a law against Islam..". What fuels this legislation is not feminism, it is Islamophobia.



A woman at a protest against Islamophobia in Toulouse, France, shows a drawing reading 'My veil, my choice, free' in French. Alain Pitton/NurPhoto via Getty Images.

Islamophobia in France has existed for a long time. The first openly anti-Muslim law in France was passed in 2004, banning schoolgirls from wearing a headscarf, based on the belief that "religious signs" are contrary to political secularism. Even before this law, French feminist groups did not allow hijabi women in their meetings as they decided that hijabis by definition cannot be feminists. This is saturated with irony as these 'feminists' solution to fellow women being 'oppressed', was to expel them from schools and exclude them from their so-called feminist movement. But by that logic, aren't you further oppressing them? Yet again, hypocrisy at its finest.

Furthermore, tragic incidents in the U.S. like 9/11, had a big impact on how Muslims were treated and viewed, particularly women. Teenagers and women who wore the hijab were seen as the face of a religion that symbolized terrorism to many in America. They were subjected to violence and were called very creative insults like 'rag-heads', they were yelled at to 'go home!', people forcibly pulled off these women's hijabs.

According to Leila, some assaults were appallingly brutal; women who wore veils were beaten and even killed just because they wore the hijab. Because of this, women were justifiably afraid to go out or even accompany their children to school. This eventually led many women to stop wearing the hijab as a measure of protection from being hate-crimed anywhere they go.

Marginalizing Muslim women, by constantly pressuring them to remove the hijab, only creates more resentment and opposition to the country. How can these Muslims be devoted citizens when they are assaulted and constantly told to go home?

### **What needs to be done**

In conclusion, to the blonde woman on TV, and those who watch and support ideologies portraying Islam as oppressive, white feminism needs to be abolished and reconstructed to be intersectional. Feminism should be inclusive and it must take into consideration aspects like religion, race, class, and sexuality. Freedom is not just being able to not wear the hijab but also being able to wear it. People need to become more educated about the hijab, starting with children in schools by being more inclusive and destroying stereotypes about hijabi women. In France and other Western countries, the problem goes deeper than the oppression of Muslim women, it is racism, and feminism should not be used to justify racism against Muslim minorities.

# From Volunteer to Fan: My Experience Volun- teering at 2022 FIFA World Cup

By Malak Ibrahim

I had the opportunity to volunteer at the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar and it was the experience of a lifetime. I began the application process to volunteer back in May 2022, unsure of whether I wanted to do it; but I chose to proceed anyway. In September 2022, I was accepted as a volunteer in spectator services at the Lusail stadium. I decided to accept the position without realizing what an amazing opportunity it was going to be.



I was never the biggest football fan, but after working several shifts, attending different countries' matches, as well as witnessing the amazing opening and closing ceremonies, I

became one. I gained valuable experiences with my team, tried out different roles and learned about the effort required to organize a major event like the World Cup.

The majority of the matches I saw, including the semifinal, final, and quarterfinal, included Argentina. My favorite game to watch was Argentina vs. Saudi Arabia undoubtedly, because of how passionate the Saudi fans were and their unexpected victory against Argentina. Finally, a piece of advice from me: never pass up opportunities that come your way, always take them!







# Humans of



# OMUQ

# Fifa Interviews

By Majed, Ihsane and Edwin

## Qatar

I am proud of our national team, but can't help but feel a little bit of disappointment about how we performed. Especially considering the reputation of the country, and that we won the AFC tournament in 2019, some had high expectations for the team to fulfill. People expected us to lose, but I had some hope for our team because we were technically the best of Asia going in, but that didn't pan out. Despite that, I'm still proud of our team for at least going out there, and was happy to see some players playing very passionately. Hopefully they don't stop the talent flow from Aspire Academy since it's been working and they should continue improving with time.



**On Qataris/Qatar supporters leaving the games early...**

Now, our team's performance was not good, but it is our nation (in addition to us being the host nation) and I think we should have a feeling of obligation to stay in our team's games until the end. Whether we win or lose, it's our national team! As the host nation, we should have set a better example. We have a lot of ambition and passion, but we tend to be private about it - like in our majlis, I've seen it first hand, but we should work on better translating that passion outwards.

At the beginning, people were giving our players valid criticism, and I agree with that, they should be scrutinized on their performance, but it shouldn't spill over to become talking about the players themselves - as people. They might have played badly as football players, but they're still people. Besides, these are the same players that won us

our first Asia cup. We should be respectful to them in any case. - **Majed**



# MOROCCO

I think the Moroccan national soccer team has always had strong members for a long time and the missing factor was a coach that brought the team together. Walid Regragui definitely made this happen. This time around, I was very happy and proud of how far they reached. They were the first African and Arab country to get to the semifinals, and it has made me and the rest of Morocco very proud and excited for what's to come.



I think the team will improve and make it to the next World Cup because the coach, Walid, has changed the team's energy and improved their psychology. As a footballer, understanding the team's psychology and chemistry is important, and by using this understanding, one can make or break a team. I hope they can first get the African Cup, as they are definitely able to do it. After that, the World Cup, because they have what it takes to get there.



I'm also looking forward to the women's Moroccan team, as they are playing in the Women's FIFA Cup this summer in Australia. We are the first Arab team to make it to the Women's World Cup and I believe they can get far, as they have a very talented team. We need to support women's football more, because there are very talented players who deserve the same level of respect men also get. However, the popularity of women's soccer relies on the viewership, and I understand the business aspect of it. - **Ihsane**

# Korea

During the last few world cups, our performance wasn't that good. This time, I thought it would be the same, since our first two games weren't that great. But still, we had hope. There were lots of supporters at the games and the atmosphere was amazing. Because they were there, we believed that we had a shot against Portugal. After 90 minutes in the game, it was 1-1 and we thought there was no hope. But I still remember that 91st minute, a player went there and made a perfect pass, and everyone exploded! Since Korea was in a weak position, you really feel something in your heart when they win a crucial game, even if you're a non-emotional person like I am. You just couldn't keep your emotions hidden around other supporters, you join their vibe. Even after the match when we were waiting for the next match to see if we would qualify or not, **those minutes were the best period of my life**. Even though we got demolished by Brazil, but it's fine, I was still happy with our performance.

It's pretty hard to find other Koreans in Doha and on campus, and those who actually



speak Korean or are involved in the culture. But in the games and even at the entrances of the stadiums I could see lots of Koreans, and **it felt like home**. It felt really nice. Most of the supporters were Korean, so we felt like we knew each other well. Before you

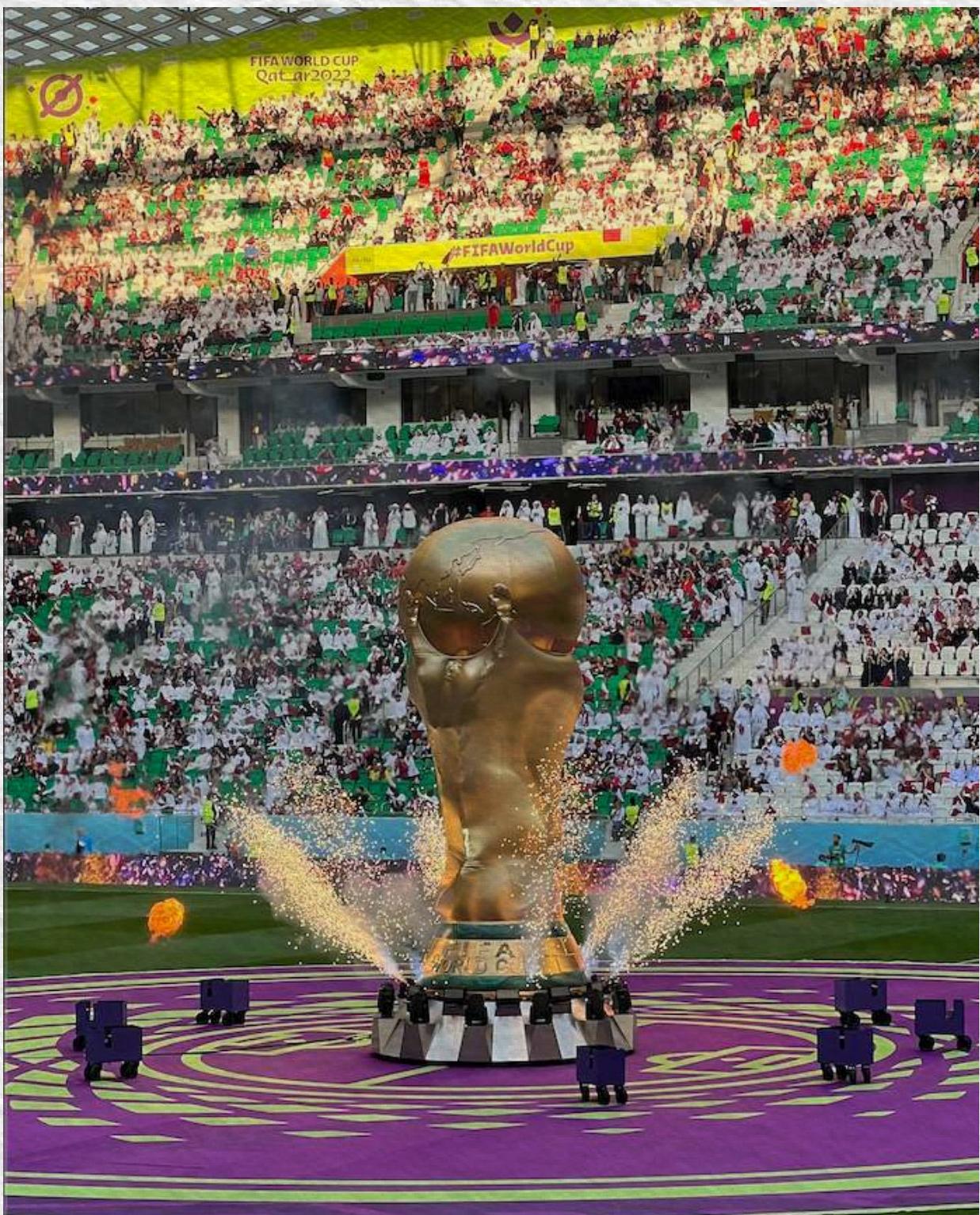
enter the stadium around the vendors, you'd see a lot of Koreans who'd get instruments, sing, and wave the flag. **In that space, we felt united**, singing the same songs and waving the Korean flags.



And it wasn't just Koreans! You'd also see foreign people buying the Korean flags and waving them around. It was kind of funny, but also special, because I felt like "oh, Korea is pretty popular all around the world!"

I would see people in Korea watch the games through their screens, and they'd celebrate together in pubs and such. I heard that the atmosphere was amazing, but they'd usually tell me they're jealous I could attend the games and feel the actual atmosphere of the world cup.

Specifically, I would talk to my father a lot, who is a big football fan, and even though we aren't that close, it was really a great opportunity for us to call and text each other and enjoy the matches together. - **Edwin**



## Thread



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A Semester Abroad: Where to go - A Thread



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Yara @yaraganom

Replying to @ Lam7a\_Mag

I loved walnut street, my specific restaurant/cafe recommendations are: Mercurio's and Girasole (italian), Tocayo (mexican), Coffee Tree Roasters Cafe, Acorn and Cafe Moulin for brunch, and Liege Waffles for dessert. For good eats on Craig Street, I recommend sushi Fuku,



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Yara @yaraganom

Butter Joint, Laurenceville, and my absolute favorite is Geppetto's brunch. It has the best breakfast crepes, sandwiches, and cappuccinos.



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**Mohammed** @mohammedaljawaheri

Downtown is usually lively. Definitely try going to Craig Street and Murray Avenue between classes for diverse food options. One favorite was Dobre Tea Cafe for chill cozy cafe vibes (you'll feel like a hipster).



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**Mohammed** @mohammedaljawaheri

If you're into really snobby tumblr food like me (think: butternut squash crumbled feta with unicorn tears and stardust) try the cafe at the Hunt Library that opened recently.



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**Mohammed** @mohammedaljawaheri

Also, try going to the Andy Warhol Museum and the Phipps Conservatory, you get free passes as a CMU student!



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**Abubakr** @abubakrmohamed

You should visit the Carnegie Museum of Natural History which is located adjacent to the campus. They've got all kinds of exhibits - from fossils and minerals to live animals - and even interactive displays and educational programs.



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**Eaint** @eaintthetsu

Check out every building on campus, there's a lot of interesting facts and history behind each one. You should also go to sports games to feel some of the classic "American College" experience.



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**Abubakr** @abubakrmohamed

Located close to campus are the Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens that you have to visit if you love plants and nature. They've many different types of gardens and exhibits with all sorts of plants from exotic and rare species to seasonal flower displays.

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**Yara** @yaraganom

Go to musical shows like orchestras and operas from the music school, they have a yearly concert in fall. Hiking in Shenley park is so beautiful. There's a cute indie movie theater in Squirrel Hill you should check out.

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**Yara** @yaraganom

Pittsburgh also has a lot of handmade crafts shops which are fun to explore.

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**Abubakr** @abubakrmohamed

Personally, my favorite place to visit was the Carnegie Science Center. You can check out cool stuff like robots, and astronomy, and even learn about the technology behind Pittsburgh's steel industry.

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**Abubakr** @abubakrmohamed

They've also got an Omnimax theater, planetarium, and a miniature railroad display.

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**Eaint** @eaintthetsu

Travel outside of Pittsburgh! I went to New York, Washington DC, and Chicago. In New York, go to the museum of modern art, try new foods (Joe's Pizza), and walk the highline in NYC. In DC, you should visit Georgetown.

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## Thread



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A Semester Abroad: What was the culture like - A Thread 🌎

8:50 PM · 30/01/2023

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Abubakr @abubakrmohamed

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Replying to @Lam7a\_Mag

The student population is so large and diverse and this fact heavily influences the culture there. CMU-P is a large mixture of different groups with varied interests and hobbies so there is always something to do.



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Yara @yaraganom

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The first thing I noticed was the level of independence people have. You need to deal with a lot of issues on your own, it's more self-sufficient compared to Qatar. I missed the sense of community here at CMU-Q.



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Yara @yaraganom

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Considering that, I still found comfort in a larger campus and having my own space, and got used to being alone.



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**Mohammed** @mohammedaljawaheri

Very different, that's one way to put it. Everyone is very consumed by what they're doing, always working, mostly in their own bubbles. Need be on your toes and on the move. You get used to it quickly though.

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**Abubakr** @abubakrmohamed

The history of the university is fascinating and still plays a role in the activities being done today such as painting the fence and buggy racing.

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**Eaint** @eaintthetsu

Something that I thought was cool is the prevalence of spontaneous sports games that are played on the Cut where anyone can join and play at any time.

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**Eaint** @eaintthetsu

The culture is very individualistic, they respect people's space. There's a bigger sense of community in Qatar than Pittsburgh. It's more relevant to walk there than take a bus or taxi compared to Qatar. Food delivery is extremely expensive, picking up your own food is cheaper.

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**Eaint** @eaintthetsu

It's more self-service in the states so you need to get used to doing stuff on your own.

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## Thread



Lam7a Magazine

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A Semester Abroad: Tips on making friends 🤝 - A Thread

8:53 PM · 30/01/2023 · View

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**Mohammed** @mohammedaljawaheri

Replying to @Lam7a\_Mag

Reach out to your classmates, it's easy to bond with others over that.



**Eaint** @eaintthetsu

Talk to the people who came to exchange with you, it's a chance to make new connections. I made more friends due to class activities and group projects. I also joined the International student club which had weekly meetings where I met new people.



**Eaint** @eaintthetsu

You need to be outgoing and be the one to approach people to make new friends. When people find out about you being new, they usually offer to show you around.





**Yara** @yaraganom

Go to clubs and live on campus. Living on campus forces you to be more present on campus and be more involved in campus life. People are friendly, but don't take initiative to talk and get to know others; but when I put myself out there people were so nice and accommodating.

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**Mohammed** @mohammedaljawaheri

The best option is student clubs. If you have a niche that you're into (volleyball/ultimate/dancing/etc) there is probably a club with a small cozy active community that you can engage in, and it's a lot easier to make friends there when you're engaging in the campus.

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**Yara** @yaraganom

Even though there was so much diversity, there weren't many Arabs and I joined the Arab Student Association (ASA) club and made a lot of friends.

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**Yara** @yaraganom

Through ASA I got to know the Middle East and North African Student Association (MENASA) club at the University of Pittsburgh and met a lot of new people there.

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**Abubakr** @abubakrmohamed

CMU-P has over 300 clubs that focus on a variety of things ranging from academics and sports to video games. You should attend the club fair that is held at the beginning of the semester to discover and join all the clubs that are of interest to you.

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## Thread



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A Semester Abroad: Things you should know when going on exchange - A Thread  
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Abubakr @abubakrmohamed

Replies to @Lam7a\_Mag

You should be prepared to face weather that is drastically different from Doha. Towards the end of the Fall semester, you would probably need to wear multiple layers to avoid the intense cold, especially if you are someone like me who lived in Doha their entire life.



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Eaint @eaintthetsu

If you're rooming with someone new, make sure you communicate with them before you travel and communicate boundaries and your expectations early on. If it doesn't align with you, you can change your roommate.

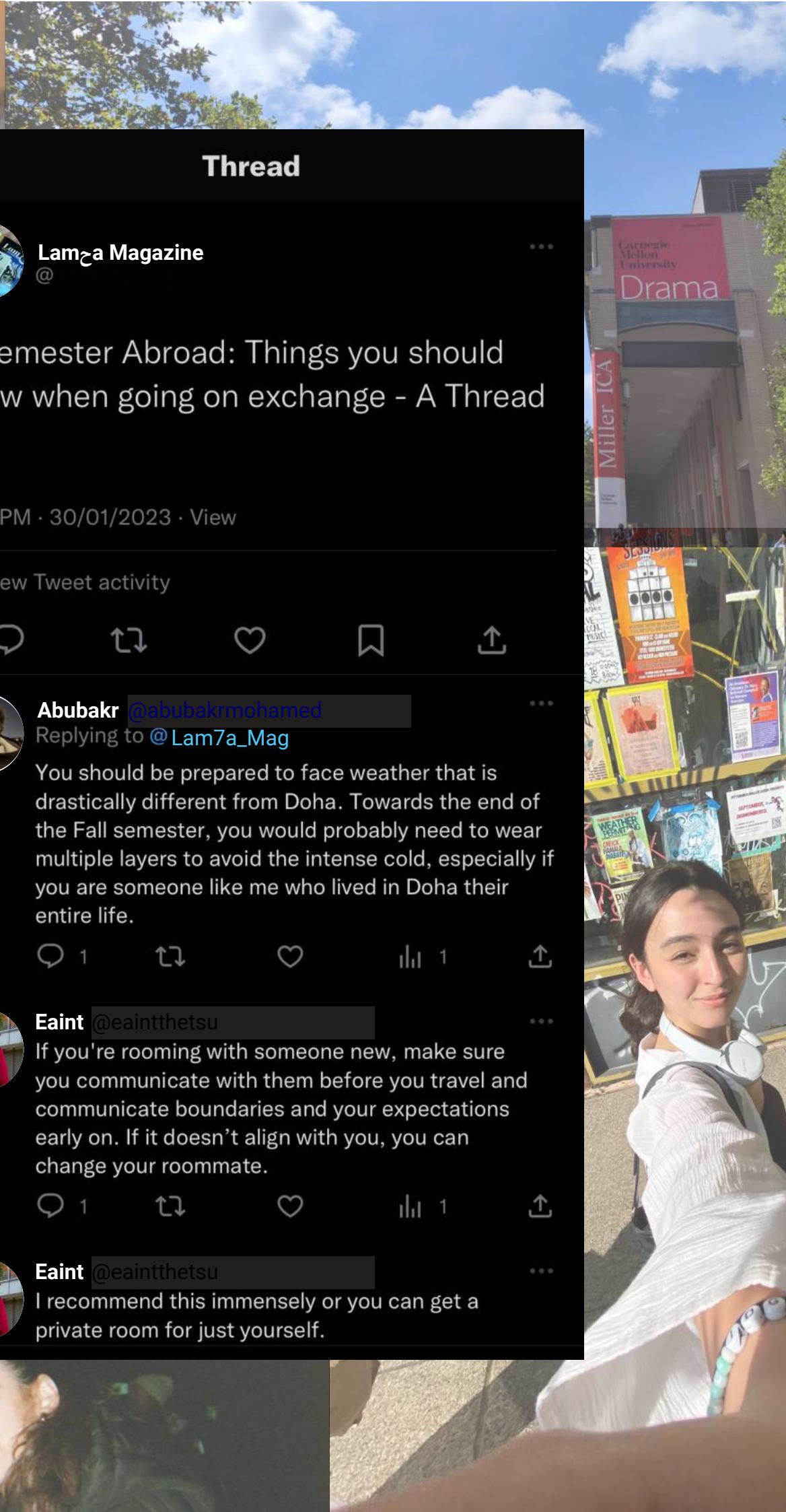


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Eaint @eaintthetsu

I recommend this immensely or you can get a private room for just yourself.



**Mohammed @mohammedaljawaheri**  
Living off-campus is a tradeoff. You get a lot more freedom especially as you get a full fledged kitchen, and are less likely to share bathrooms.

**Mohammed @mohammedaljawaheri**  
But it also comes with the hassle of looking for properties, dealing with landlords and the like, and that experience can be very hit or miss.

**Mohammed @mohammedaljawaheri**  
One thing to keep in mind is that dorms are not all created equal. Some definitely have their reputation, but some are quite good, and you might not even be sharing rooms, something to think about.

**Eaint @eaintthetsu**  
If you're living off campus, make sure you pick an area that's near campus. Check out the busineses to make sure you can commute easily, 61 and 71 were two very useful busineses.

**Yara @yaraganom**  
In terms of study environment, don't be intimidated, the learning environment is very supportive and flexible and inclusive.



**Yara** @yaraganom

Be wise with your spending, it's very expensive to live there and be smart with your money. Don't go to wholefoods and go to local grocery stores and take advantage of student offers and discounts.

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**Yara** @yaraganom

The public transportation is very reliable and safe, as well as free for CMU students.

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**Yara** @yaraganom

Also, you don't need to buy a fridge or microwave if you don't have one in your dorm. You can rent a mini fridge and microwave if you're on campus.

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**Eaint** @eaintthetsu

Go to the on campus events there, watch out for the activity board instagram, they post everything that's happening on campus @activitiesboard.

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**Eaint** @eaintthetsu

Take the Cultural History and Visual Arts class, it's the Pittsburgh equivalent of Arts in Qatar, and it's a chance to explore museums and art in Pittsburgh.

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**Yara** @yaraganom

You should try to travel domestically, because it's very easy. Use this opportunity to explore more than just Pittsburgh because it's worth it. I went to New York, New Jersey, and DC.

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**Yara** @yaraganom

Everything closes so early, so I recommend going out during the day, at night you can go out to eat.

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THOMAS  
HILL

CINTA  
GIPSY

**To: all the parents**

**From: the children who failed them.**

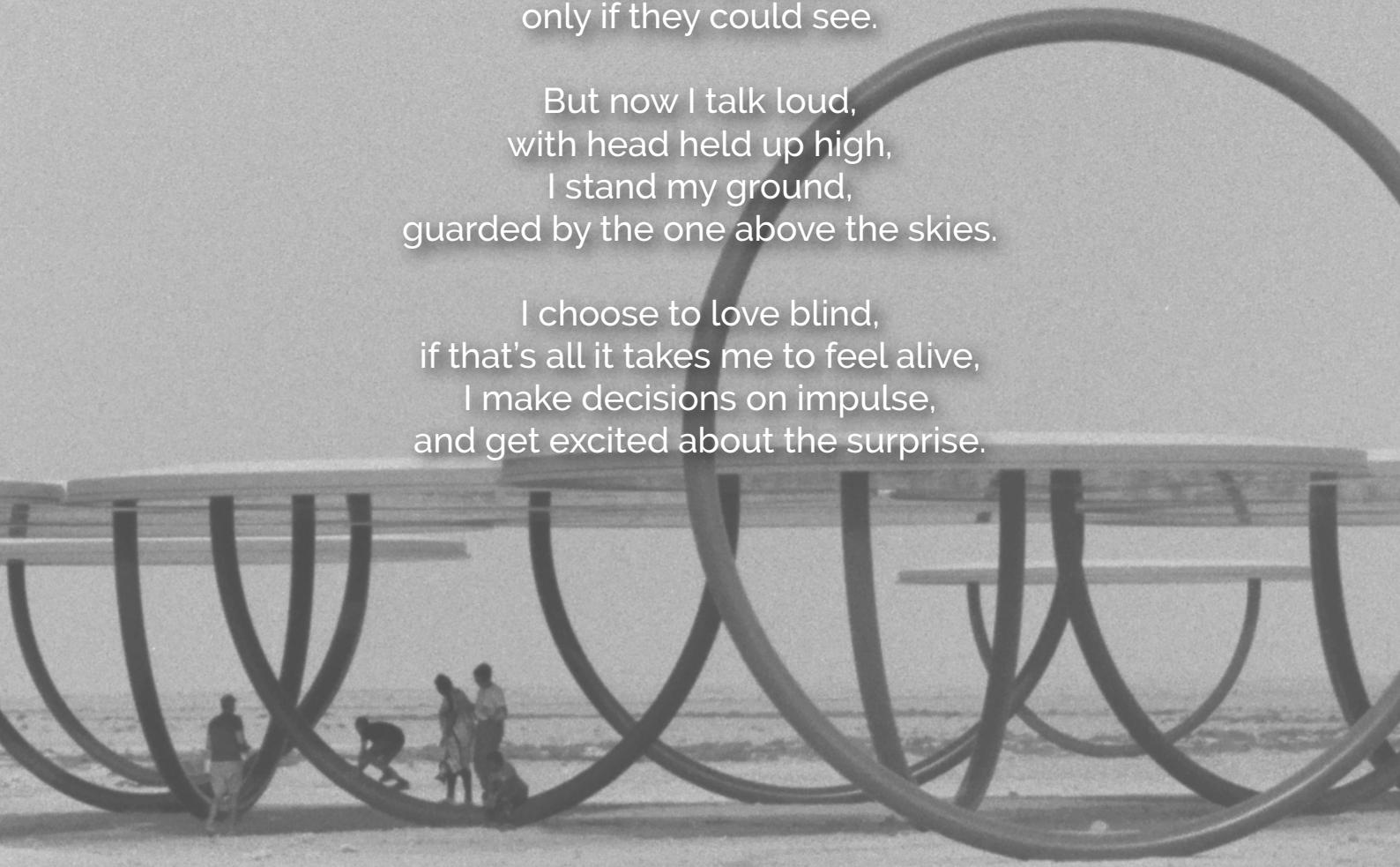
"Stuck in prophecies,  
imagining what life could be  
another night awake,  
but grades are at stake.

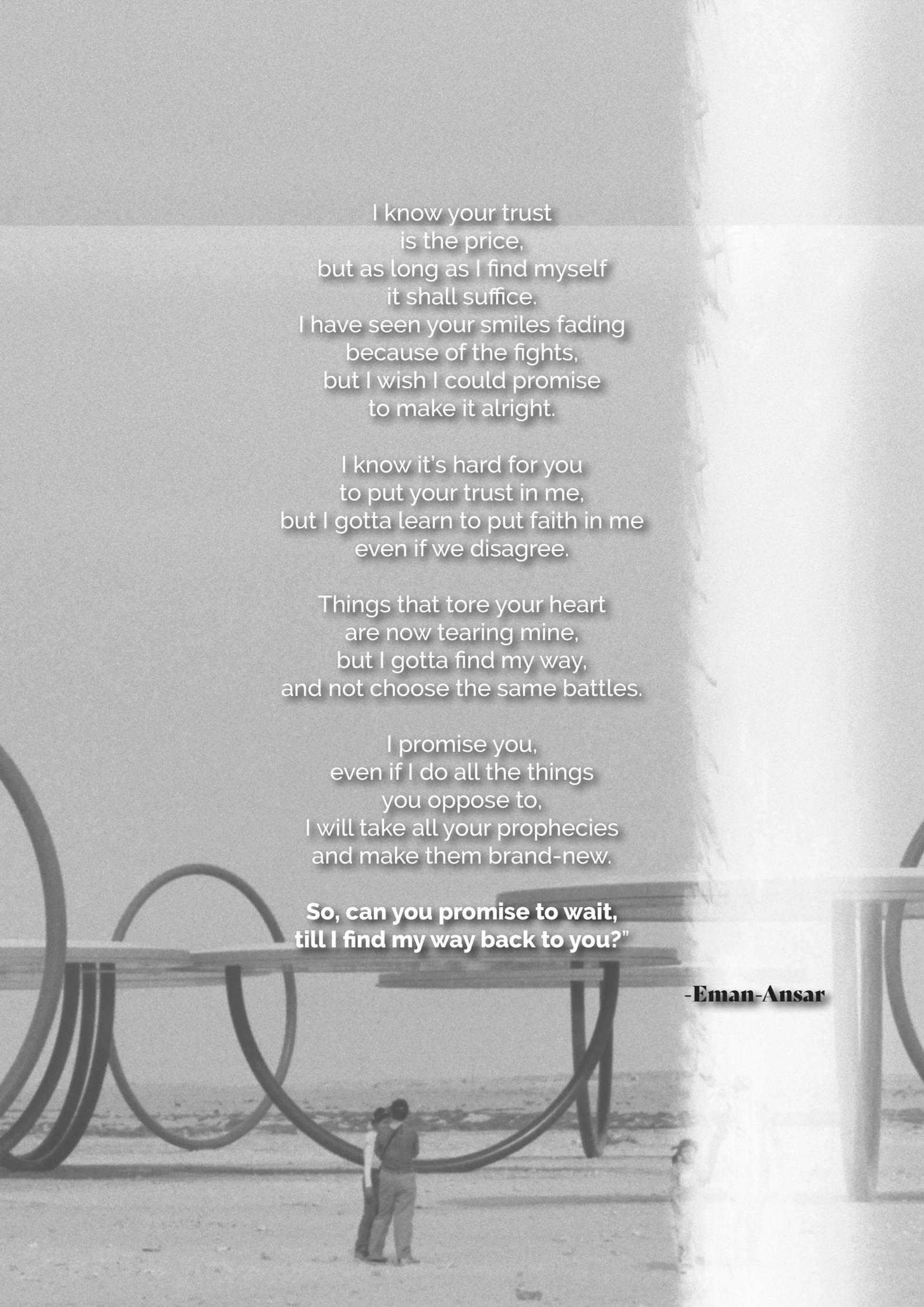
a living hostage  
with broken promises,  
trading all my friends,  
because that's what the cost is

living in the world  
they wanted me to,  
but was I the girl  
that they knew  
or the one they locked up  
in their prophecies  
only if they could see.

But now I talk loud,  
with head held up high,  
I stand my ground,  
guarded by the one above the skies.

I choose to love blind,  
if that's all it takes me to feel alive,  
I make decisions on impulse,  
and get excited about the surprise.





I know your trust  
is the price,  
but as long as I find myself  
it shall suffice.

I have seen your smiles fading  
because of the fights,  
but I wish I could promise  
to make it alright.

I know it's hard for you  
to put your trust in me,  
but I gotta learn to put faith in me  
even if we disagree.

Things that tore your heart  
are now tearing mine,  
but I gotta find my way,  
and not choose the same battles.

I promise you,  
even if I do all the things  
you oppose to,  
I will take all your prophecies  
and make them brand-new.

**So, can you promise to wait,  
till I find my way back to you?"**

-Eman-Ansar

# Songs of the Month

By Abdulrahmen Darwish



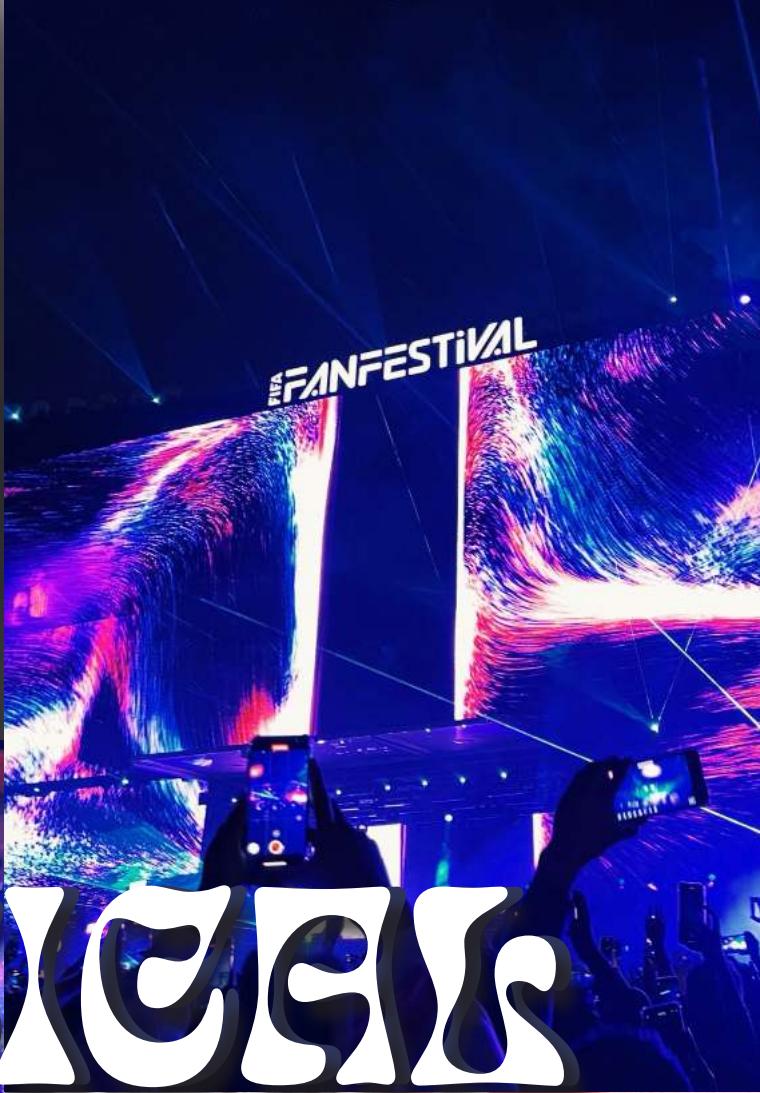
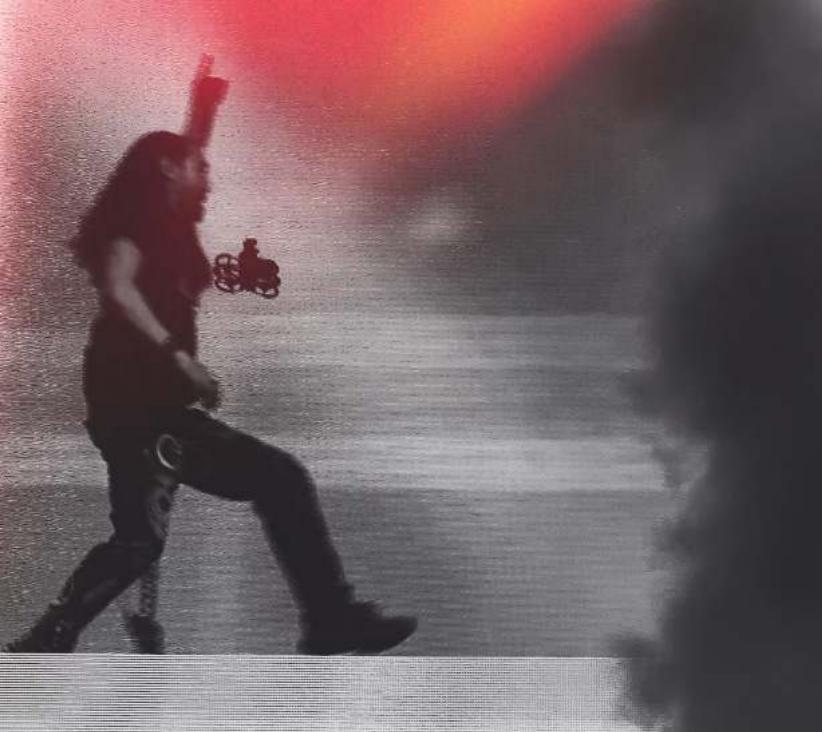
## Far Away - Yebba ft ASAP Rocky

Wow. How can I even describe how great this song is? Like this song is honestly just 10/10. Yebba right now is becoming huge collaborating with major industry names such as Drake, Mark Ronson, Stormzy, and now ASAP Rocky. Her vocals are INSANE in general and this song shows it off perfectly. The haunting vocals, the hook, and what makes it a 10/10 song is how well ASAP's verse just meshes with the song. You can tell she is just becoming bigger and better in the industry. Trust me on this song, make sure its on all of your playlists by tonight.

## El Layali - Barry Can't Swim

House music. I do not understand how people do not like it. It is great beats, insane mixes, and just positive energy. It is also so versatile. There is tribal house, afro house, deep house, and one of my personal favorites (and yes this is biased)..Arabic house. El Layali remixes Egyptian artist Hamid El Shaeri's classic song Ouda. It gives a more modern touch and a more current feel to it, which shows that some music is timeless. It is a must add and honestly everyone I showed it too loved it. It is great for driving, going to the beach, and just sitting and chilling with your friends. This song is perfect for any occasion and you do not need to thank me when you love it.

Once again, if you need more songs and a playlist, just follow my Spotify at @darwiish :)





By Diana Gazizova



**"BOHEMIAN LEO"**  
By Sarra Khelifi

This piece, which I drew 5 years ago back in 2018, means a lot to me as it was the one that got me into the Art Center in Souq Waqif where I had the honor to be the youngest member in a group of elite artists who benefited me due to their expertise.

This artwork features the classic, iconic style of pop art that I am really fond of. These multiple colors can better represent the range of the powerful traits found within the lion. The "Bohemian Leo" who has courage, nobility, monarchy, strength, confidence, and valor.

# Fifa collage

Submissions by Mariam Al Thani, Moudi Al Sulaiti, Piadora El Chanti, Mayar Al Kurdi, Nour Nasrallah and Rediet Lemma



"The first time I went to the lusail boulevard I was anxious, I wanted to document the world cup but didn't know how people would react to having a camera in their face. I pulled my camera out and this was the result of the first picture - people were carefree and ecstatic, and the amount of life I felt there is one I will never forget. "

-Mariam Al-Thani



"This was my first game to kick off my World Cup experience and it was hands down the best. My best friend and I went to the stadium in red and yellow to support Spain at Thumama Stadium. I'll never forget the energy in the stadium, considering Spain scored 7 goals one after the other! People jumping and flags flying high, it was a surreal game and the perfect way to start my World Cup experience."

"It's always been a dream for me to go to a France game because I'm such a huge fan of all the players, and I felt so lucky to experience the game with my parents as they're huge supporters as well. It felt surreal seeing the nations 3 colors everywhere and chanting "allez les bleus" in the stadium. It took me back to when I was in the south of France during the 2018 final when they won the cup."



-Piadora El Chanti

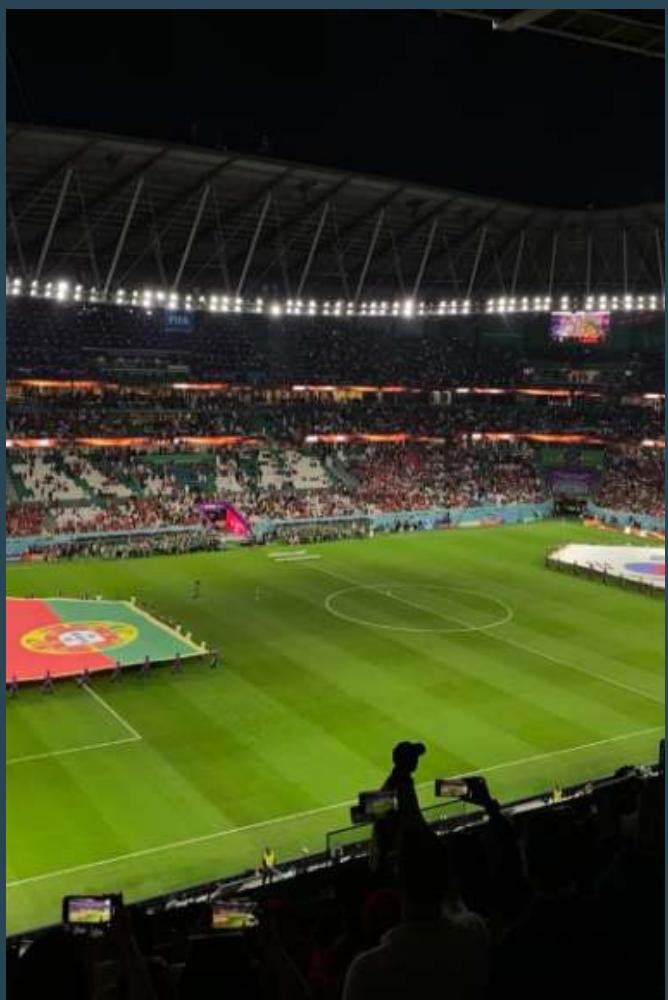


"Portugal vs South Korea was my favorite live game that I was able to watch. South Korea qualified at the 90th minute, which was one of the greatest WC plot twists."

-Mayar Al-Kurdi

"Fan Zones were the best place to enjoy the FIFA matches on a big screen. I went with my friends and watched Morocco knockout Spain in penalty kicks."

- Mayar Al-Kurdi



"The World Cup stadiums were a thing of beauty. My favorite was the Lusail stadium. The pre-match ceremonies always managed to impress me no matter how many times I've seen them."

-Mayar Al-Kurdi



"After the World Cup final, it only made sense to join the fans and celebrate at Lusail Boulevard. Wherever you looked, you'd find the Argentinian flag, whether on buildings or in the hands of the cheering crowds. It was truly the place to be that night."

- Nour Nasrallah

GreenSpine, Education City-  
Rediet Lemma





# Fifa on Film







Shot by Moudi Al Sulaiti



