

Being a student at SJSU has enriched my perspective of art. As short as one year of attending SJSU has taught me that there is more to the art world than I initially thought. I have discovered mediums that I have never known of at the time, strategies for creating various projects, and the stories of my professors of how they grew their talents. However, most importantly, I have learned how to take a project from its infancy to a physical model or an installation. Witnessing the process of my professors undergoing a creative journey of developing a project has opened my eyes to what really matters in art, both from a business and creative perspective. I was especially enamored by this realization during my time in Art 1 with Professor Johnathan Fung.

Speaking of whom, in my freshman year of college, I was selected by him to take part in Youth Design Leadership, a program monitored by Local Color and Studio Gang. The program introduced young adults to design through educational workshop sessions, professional practice opportunities, and the experience of taking a project from its planning stages to a physical model with roadmaps for how it could be implemented. During Youth Design Leadership, I was able to converse with students in the program and Local Color and how they paved the way for their art career. After the program had concluded, I realized what my career goal is in art. I realized that my goal would be to inspire others with my art. Creating community development, community ownership, and strengthening the connection between cities and appreciation of art would serve as benchmarks for achieving that career goal. Because of the many possibilities of technology, especially present in Silicon Valley, I would also combine various digital art mediums to further achieve this goal.

Attending Youth Design Leadership and Art 1 (and currently Art 3) have illustrated how to approach my goal. The most important step that Art 1 and Local Color have demonstrated to

me is the inspiration phase. Specifically, discovering problems in a community or in the world would allow the ability to discuss with other artists how they view the problem and starting ideas of how to approach it. Engaging in experimental prototype design activities is paramount to kickstarting the design planning of a project, and potentially involving other artists to develop further ideas. Communication is essential in art, and having detractors when aspects of an art installation are flawed is critical in growing as an artist, and an aspect of design planning I will experience many times. Allowing for creative input from the vision of other artists also critical in communication.

As I write this artist statement, I am currently a first year sophomore in college. To say that Art 1 and Local Color have changed my outlook of art and life is an understatement. I am endlessly grateful for Professor Fung's belief in my potential as an artist, the wisdom that was acquired when speaking with Local Color, and the experience that came from participating in YDL. Thanks to those people and experiences, I have been able to understand what I want out of my future art career. I also understand the projects I want to design and collaborate on with other like minded artists across various mediums. The goal would be to bring together technology and design planning to improve connection between cities to understand the importance of art and advocates of change, as well as build a strong sense of community in urban areas.

- Neal Raghani