

An Adventure for Inspiration: Rediscovering the Creative Process Through the Grand Tour

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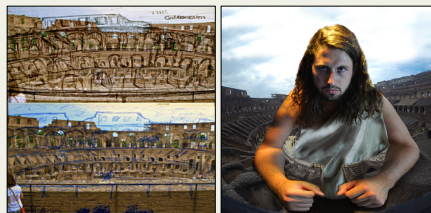


Introduction

This is multi-part collaborative research project investigating the creative process through experiences and adventures associated with The Grand Tour, a 17th century European expedition that exposed young minds first-hand to culture, art, and music. We planned our travels in a parallel version of The Grand Tour so that we could study similar scholarly works of the liberal arts first-hand, with a modern perspective. The experience was primarily utilized as inspiration for creating artistic works, which culminated in a series of multimedia projects presented as an art exhibition. The artworks in the exhibition were derived from inspirations found in Rome, Florence, Paris, Berlin, and Salzburg. The inspiring works and experiences included, but are not limited to, fine art, graffiti art, music concerts, performances, monuments, sporting events, and people we met in our travels. This journey, from proposing the project and taking the tour, through post-production of the artistic works, has given us insight on the creative process as well as how to work towards creativity at all times.

Rome

The ancientness of Rome, particularly The Colosseum, not only filled us with awe, but also gave us the opportunity to experiment with different creative exercises as well as seek to capture the power of monument for inspiration. This led directly to a series of monument personifications in the project exhibit.



Florence

Florence, a city vibrant with its powerful heritage, naturally supplied us with Renaissance excellence in its food, art, opera, and tradition. However, it was our own passions, Liza's in dance and Josef's in distance running, that allowed us to be most creative in this environment. Here we were able to create more with our adventures and bodily pursuits than with the paintbrush and pen.

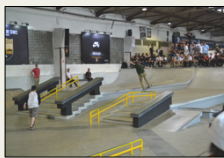


Paris

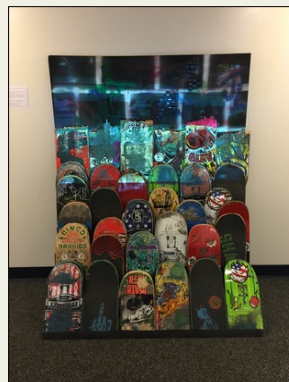
Paris, a city interlocking the contemporary with the classical, offered exposure to a spectrum of artists. Upon their observation, inspiration was provided for experimentation with creation methodology in the approach of unfamiliar art forms.



Berlin

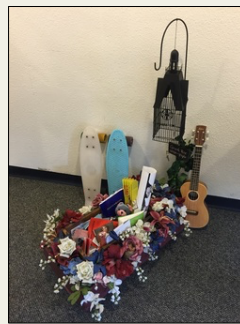


Berlin, a city now dominated by a dynamic contemporary culture, presented completely new inspirational art forms in street art, skateboarding, and a barrage of elaborate posters. These inspirational modes pushed our creativity to a higher level to construct our most dynamic art piece *The Wall*, which incorporates sculpture, video projection and graffiti elements (as seen to the right). This is an example of inspirational synthesis, as well as a mixed media creation.



The Grand Tour Art Exhibits

The Grand Tour Art Exhibit first opened in the Les Idees Gallery at Duquesne University and was later moved to Miami University for a second showing and reception. The grand opening event at Duquesne began with the premiere of the documentary of our Grand Tour, and was followed by a procession to and reception at the gallery. The multimedia art exhibit had twenty art pieces and was composed such that a visitor passes through the gallery in the same order that we visited the cities on our Grand Tour, in hope that the viewer could simulate a tour through the gallery that paralleled our journey. The types of artwork included drawing, photography, poetry, painting, sculpture, abstraction, water color, video compilation, and various combinations of these media. The exhibit was designed in a fashion that was to be easily accessible to all visitors. By including many different types of artwork presented with different media, we hoped to connect with each and every viewer, even so much that we made some of the pieces interactive to emphasize the accessibility and dynamic nature of the exhibit. Ultimately, the project and exhibit sought to inspire others to find their own adventures and to become active in the creative process.



Conclusions

We found from our experience that adventure sparks inspiration that in turn fosters creativity, and that the involvement in this cycle promotes the creativity of oneself, as well as the creativity of others. We learned to take advantage of the time at hand to seek out inspiration through our own form of adventure, specifically by partaking in both relatable and new inspiring experiences, allowing us to experiment with ideas and take risks in order to explore new creative outlets. Through our tour, we learned to involve ourselves in the inspiration and creativity cycle. The stories we heard and the works of art we witnessed in Europe were not only proof of their creators' processes, but they continued the cycle by inspiring us as viewers to create works of our own. Just as others have inspired us, we have learned to strive to be the inspiration for the creativity of others.

Website

To view the documentary, all of the exhibit pieces, and any other material associated with the project, please visit: lizatorrence.weebly.com/grand-tour.html



Acknowledgements

We wish to express our sincere gratitude towards Duquesne University and Miami University for granting us this collaborative research opportunity. We wish to thank Duquesne University for allowing us to use the Les Idees Gallery and the Miami University Art Department for allowing us the use of its student project display cases. Thank you to Dr. Kathleen Glenister-Roberts, Dr. Stephanie Baer, Juliet Amedu-Nwagwe, Brigitte Szivos, and the Endowed Honors Fellow Selection Committee. We would also like to extend a highly deserved thank you to the support from our families and friends, especially our parents.

"Where you find adventure, there will be creativity."