

note from abroad

12.04.2021

a little special newsletter of our exchange student from Hslu in China Scfai

Hi There! Hope you guys are doing well! I'm Manfei from the 2. year Hslu animation department. Right now I'm sitting here in a computer room with other 40 something chinese students. Everyone is animating with high concentration right now, and I realized that a cat actually just walked in our classroom. Maybe she is also a student from here too.

Yes, as you might know I'm doing an exchange semester in Chongqing, China. I arrived at the Sichuan Fine Art Institute in March and I've been studying here for a month so far. I have a dormitory for my own at school in a "exchange students apartment". Everything is fine so far.



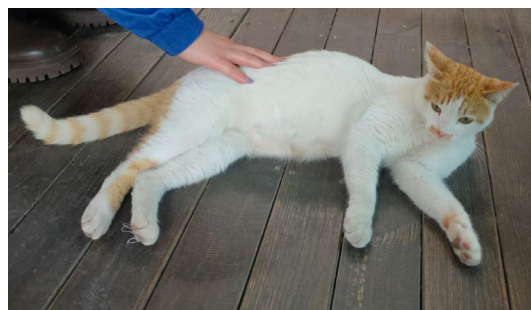


Front door of animation building A

Each department has several buildings. The animation department here owns 8 buildings that are built in the same wood-style. The buildings of the other departments look very different.

Under the Film-animation department there are 7 sub department.

- Animation Regie (Storytelling),
- Animation Product (Marketing Products in relationship with animation figures) .
- Animation-Making. (2D,3D,(Stopmotion)) Here is where I am right now.
- Film-Making,
- Film-Camera,
- Drama Art(Stage design),
- Media Art



the guard of animation department

There are two cats (and a kitty) that live at the animation department and they always appear during the lessons. It's quite normal to have them lying on your keyboards of your laptop or walking elegantly on your desks or staying between your legs. The teacher always ask the cat to play somewhere else and grab him out.

animation product

Since the Anime-Comic-Game culture are very common in China, there is a subject called Animation Product, which means marketing products that derives from animation. For example Disneyland as a theme park or figures and model etc., products that can be derive from anime or movies or original character. Nowadays many people will buy and collect them (and they can be really expensive! Since its a collection.), they are asked in the marketing.

Here are some photos I took from the student works. (feel free to zoom in)





Stop motion Modell that are built from teachers and students.

Teaching ways

There is actually no more Stop motion as a subject, only 2D and 3D. Their Bachelor study takes 4 years. Everyone from different animation sub department will learn the same theory in the first two years, and focus on a specific direction they chose in the third year. They would go each year on a “inspiration trip” as a class, where besides visiting the tourist spots, they will get some drawing missions there too. Everyone of my class had to learn 3D programs (Maya, Zbrush,Blender) for a whole year as well(their first year), because the teachers (Depends on the tacher) believe that one will be out of the animation world if one dont know how to use 3D programs. He thinks even as a 2D-animator needs to know a 3D programs otherwise it’s very difficult to find a job.

The teaching way is kinda “realistic“ orientated. They teach their students how to make animation to get money/ to get a job. What kind of animation are popular, what elements or stories does the public want to see, what does the animation film marketing needs etc. First to think about the central message of the stories, then to build up a concept and all the details. It gives me a feeling that the teacher want to see a story with deep messages which tells a good moral. For me there were too many restriction during the story part. The teacher would give us many keywords regarding to the right political orientation and suggest us to follow these keywords. Either a story of deep message (by using symbolism and metaphor) and spread the good moral and the right political orientation or tell a story of a chinese hero who saved something. There are too many competitions that students can join, but we all know that with a big possibilitis the judge prefer to choose a story that follow the right political orientation. Sometimes students have to join different competitions or event because they can get ETCS points for their study.

Besides the main subject, they also have sport class, culture class, english class, politic, art history etc. depends what they chose.

Sportday

On the 2.April it was their University Sportday. Before the Sport competitions start, each department has its cheering team and they will perform a drama show or mostly a dance show to warm up the atmosphere. I joined this team and it was organised by two members of the student organisation of the animation department. We practiced around 5 times after school and we dance to a mix-up music of different famous cartoon in China. (also Disney figures can be seen during the dance. (They rented the clothes of Mickey and Minnie Mouse etc and they did not force any tall guys to wearXD)

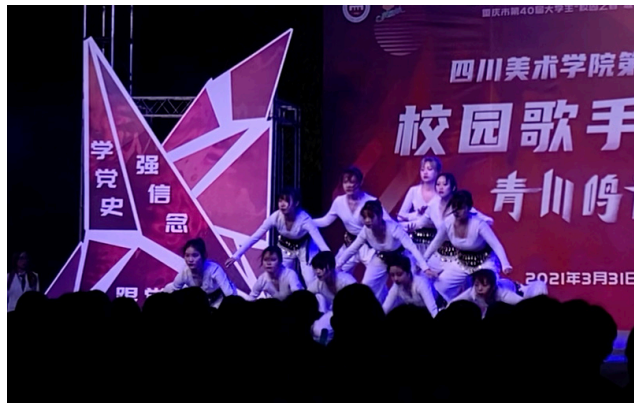


School Event

As entertainment the student organisation create different events for student to join and win. (prices are money or food coupon or something useful)

For example this "the voice of SCFAI" is a sing competition. The Two moderator are from the acting department. Here are some photos I took.

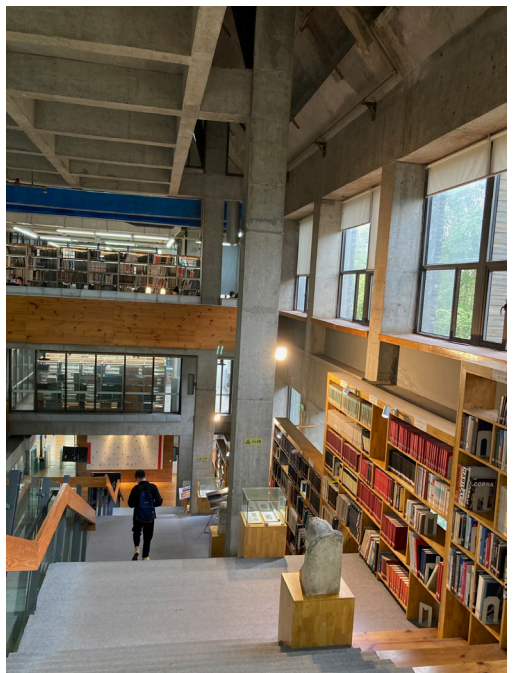






School Library is big and has 5 floors .







WILLI BAUMEISTER II
RICHARD PARRIS BONINGTON
CONCOUCE FRENCH 2004
GEORGES BRAQUE
THE ART OF FLORE
THE ART OF FLORE

СЪ ТВОЯВИ ДРАУИНГС
СЪ ТВОЯВИ ДРАУИНГС
СЪ ТВОЯВИ ДРАУИНГС
СЪ ТВОЯВИ ДРАУИНГС
СЪ ТВОЯВИ ДРАУИНГС
СЪ ТВОЯВИ ДРАУИНГС
СЪ ТВОЯВИ ДРАУИНГС

FORNASETTI
Staël
Leonardo da Vinci
Leonardo da Vinci
ИСТОРИЧЕСКАЯ КАРТИНА
РУССКАЯ ЖИВОПИСЬ
ОРГРЕТ. РУССКАЯ ЖИВОПИСЬ
Les nymphéas
Les nymphéas

HELMUT NEWTIG
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
美国《国家地理》125年
欧洲《国家地理》125年
美国《国家地理》125年
欧洲《国家地理》125年
中国《国家地理》125年
艺术创作大展作品集

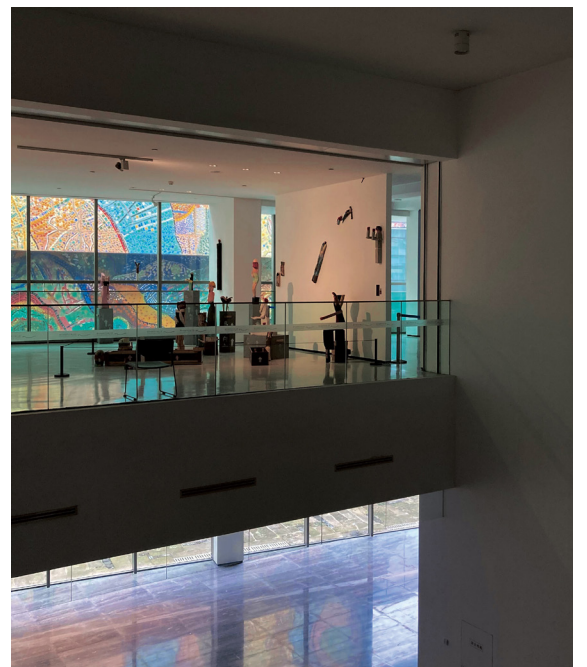
Leonardo da Vinci
LE CORBUSSIER
LE GRAND
Norman Rockwell
ROBOTS II
Leonardo da Vinci
TUSCANY
Die Berlinerlin
NIKI DE SAINT PHALE
DAVID HOCKNEY
COOP HIMMELB(LAU)
STILR
COOP HIMMELB(LAU)

MICKY
DAVID LINCH WORKS ON PAPER
DAVID LINCH WORKS ON PAPER
中国书画史图卷
山水卷
COURBET
DAVID LINCH WORKS ON PAPER

School Art Museum

It shows the history of the school and Artwork (paintings or installations) from teacher and students.









Building of the exchange students Apartment



one of the Dormitory Building of the students



The building where I live (picture left) has two floors. I have a room for my own. Most of the students lives at school as well. There are around 9 dormitory buildings for the students to live. (Each of them has 6 floors) Normally they are two to four students in a room.

How they entre the School

Since China has a huge population, a very big amount of students, coming from different cities of China, take part in the exam of this fine art university. It's too much work for the judge to interview or to read though every single person's results. So their exam is more based on the basic painting skill. The students that attends to the exams have to bring their own painting materials and easel. They have different painting tasks, one example is they get a tiny black and white photo on the task paper: a desk which is covered by a black cloth and on the top of it there are different objects such a plastic bag with different fruits inside (they have to paint and imagine the fruits with their colors) , next to this plastic bag there are also other objects, e.g. vase, spoon, flowers etc, and on the top of all these objects there is another transparent scarves or plastic wrap on it. They have to paint this in oil and paint it in either blue-tone, red-tone etc. depends on the task.

The staff will put all the paintings on the floor of a huge room(indoor stadium). The judges walk past the paintings and use a long stick to pull one of the paintings out of the role and say the marks. (full score is 100, but the student told me that actually 94 is the highest that a student can get, 94 is already almost perfect. Normally 80 something is already very good.) Those paintings that don't get a mark are out.

School Environment

The School was rebuilt from a forest/farming area, and they try to keep how it looked like and change the environment at least as possible. The school is huge and I always feel like I'm not at a school, I'm studying somewhere in a bamboo forest or natural park. The nickname that the student gave to this school is "welcome to the Sichuan forest/flower institute/zoo". (many different variations of it but same meaningXD)

Here are some random pictures of the school.









