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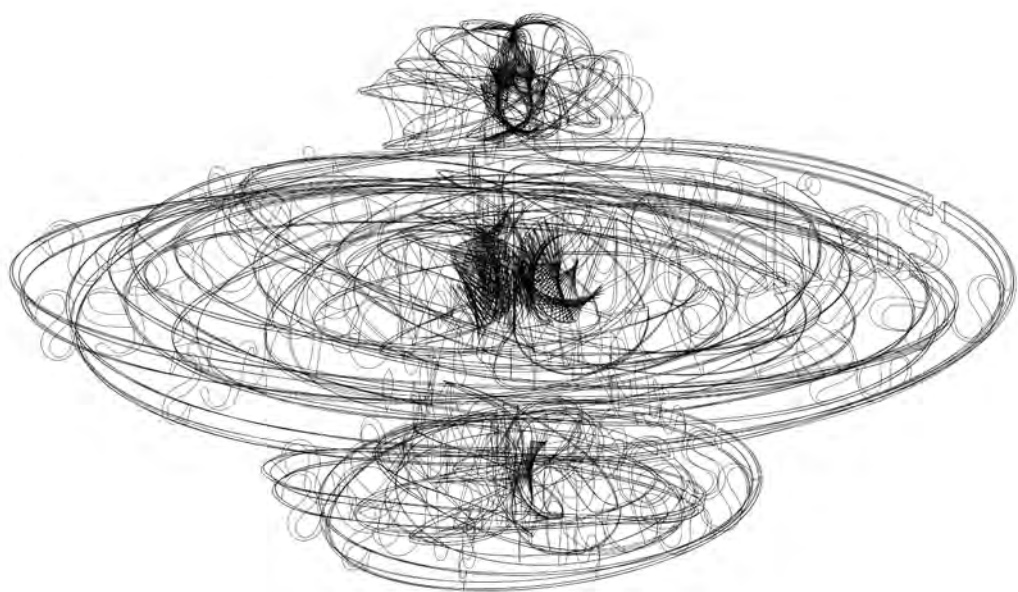












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© All my love









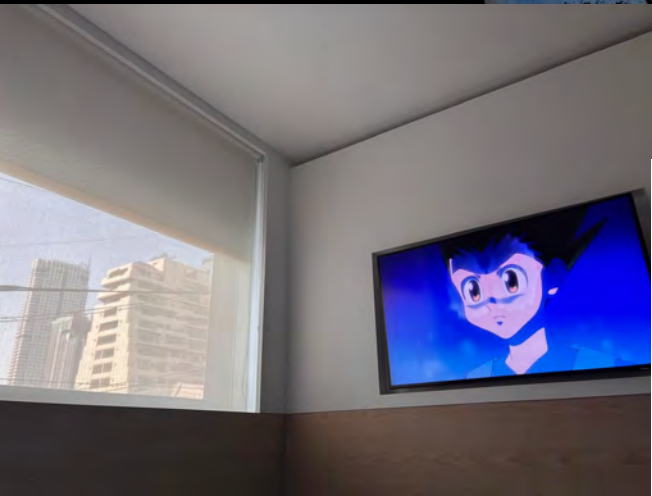
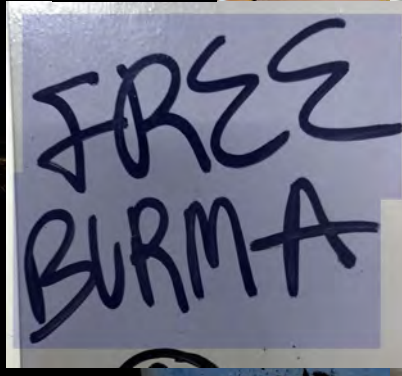
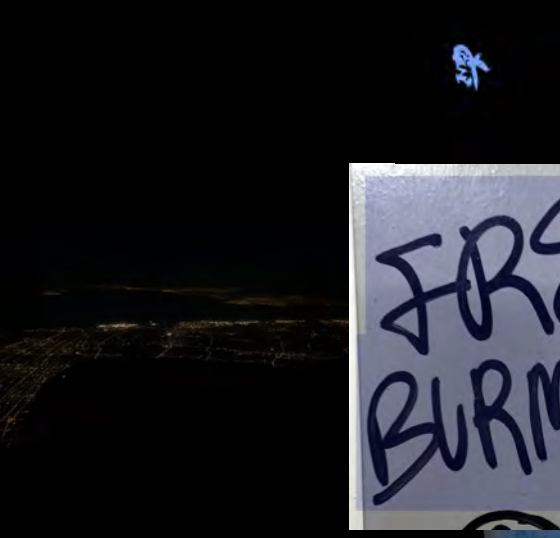












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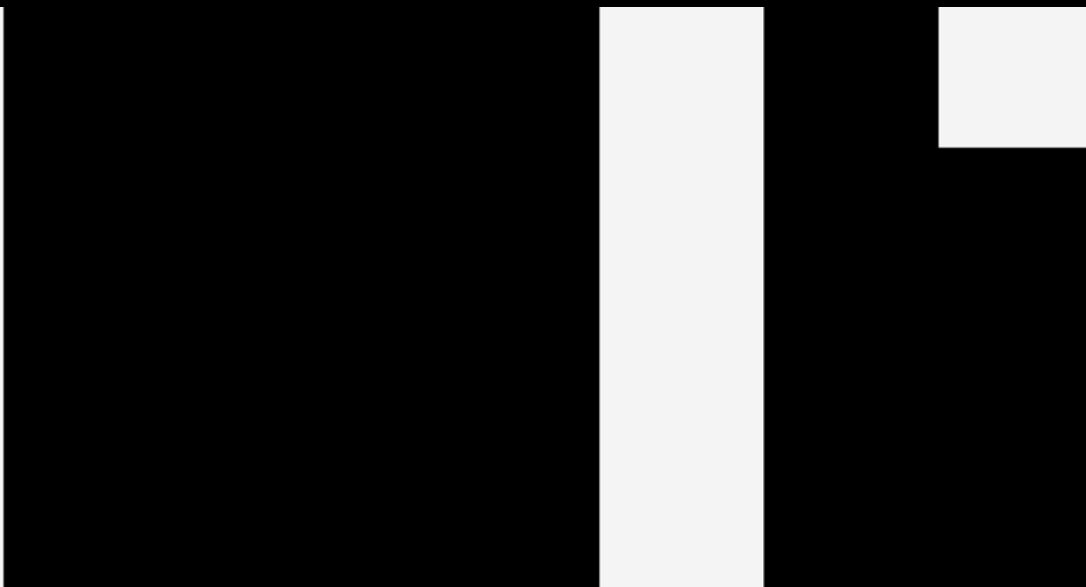




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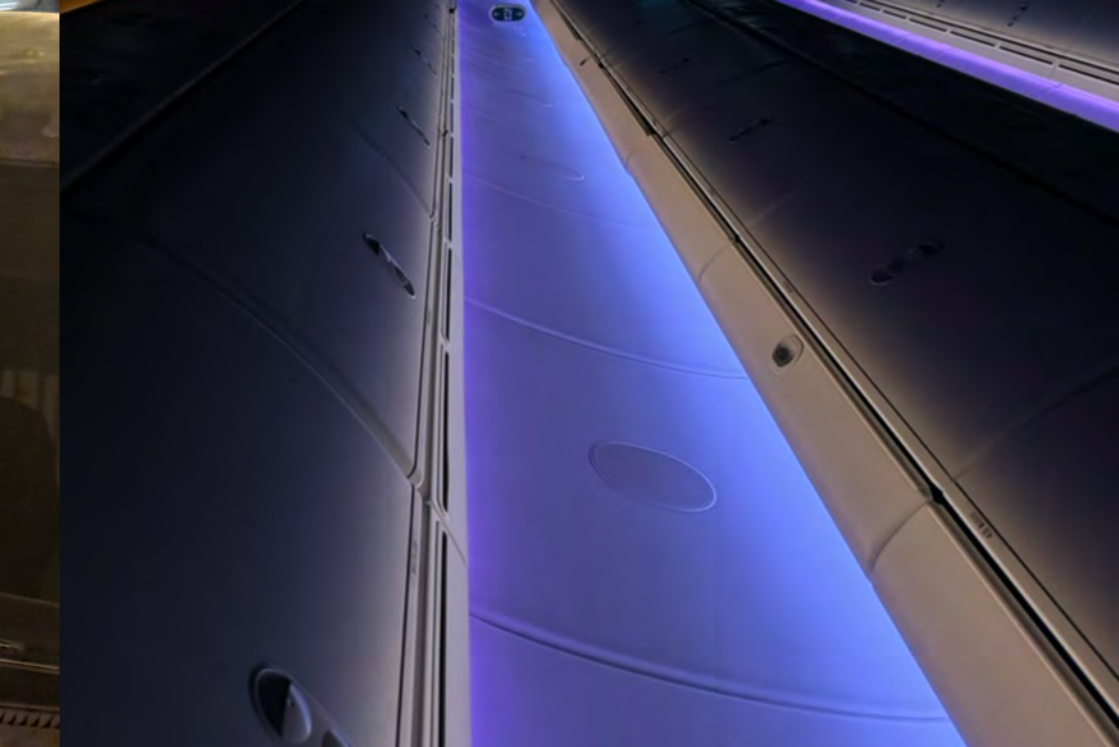




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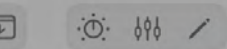


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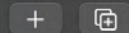
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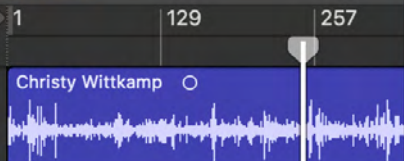
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I feel like going to Nepal, becoming friends with the people that I did, I feel good. I feel like I made a positive difference on their lives, I don't mean that in an egotistical way. They are such a positive influence in my life. We learned so much from each other, created such beautiful memories and grew together. I want to work in DRR. I want to work in community. Working with People in relation to what they need in their communities in regard to disaster management." I feel like life is about the relationships you make. Through travel you can see there are different ways of living, it can really challenge you. Even seeing different cities, one can see that some are very car centric, some are more walkable. There are other lives, other ways to live. Mine isn't the only, mine isn't the best.

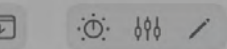
If a natural or political disaster were to happen here I feel like People wouldn't know what to do. It's insane how unprepared we are for the Cascadia mega earthquake. It's going to happen, but no one really talks about it. So many People don't have an earthquake kit, and evacuation plan, a meetup spot.

4 or 5 days before the protest on September 8 happened, the "Gen Z Protests" the government had basically shut down 27 social media platforms overnight. All gone. The next day was Friday morning, nobody had access to any social media. WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube... it was across the board. There's a huge number of Nepali People living abroad. Many young people leave Nepal because of the lack of opportunity. They were all shut off from being able to communicate with their families. Prior to the block of all the social media platforms there was this trend going on for a couple of weeks called the "Nepo Kids" which was a bunch of mainly Gen Z users that were highlighting the inequality present in Nepali society. The children of high-level politicians have massive amounts of wealth. This trend involved screenshotting all of their posts where they are flying all across the world with all this designer clothing while the rest of the country experiences extreme poverty. The question was, "where is all this money coming from?". Bribery and corruption are so deep rooted in Nepal, so a lot of this international funding that is supposed to go towards development is getting pocketed by these high-level politicians. That was what was leading up to the blockage of all these platforms. A lot of Gen Z users saw that these sites were blocked because the corruption was coming to light. The next week, on the 8th, there was a big protest planned by Gen Z. The blocking of social media was only the tip of the iceberg. It ran so much deeper than that. When I was there, the following days after the protests, I was trying to find out as much information as possible and on international news about 80% of them framed the protests like it was only about the ban of social media, as if young Gen Z can't go without their social media. The only times I saw any reference to inequality was on my local Nepali friends Instagram's (Christy was able to go on Instagram with a VPN.)

At the protest the police were given authorization to open fire on protestors. 19 people were killed that day, and more people died from their injuries from that day later on. And many people also died in the riots in the following days.

I got to see in real time how a narrative is ran with. As soon as it's called "Gen Z Social Media Protests" it seems like an over-reaction, but in reality they are protesting this huge wealth inequality, and the censorship they face when trying to shed light on the subject. That made me understand how aware I have to be when looking at news. I know I've been taught that in university but seeing that in real time was different.

The most beautiful moment I had in Nepal was in my last week. I was invited over to Helika and her sisters house to participate in the festival of Tihar. It was the 5th day when sisters honor each other. I went there in the morning and helped all the sisters cook. We all ate together, after lunch we set up a ritual cete, and I ended up being included in the ritual between brother and sister with Sabit, Helika's older sister. He asked me to do 2 blessings with him, which involved placing colors on my forehead. He hugged me and said I was now his siter. It was beautiful. That was my biggest lesson there: community and relationships, and the beauty of that. That day is engrained in my memory.



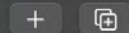
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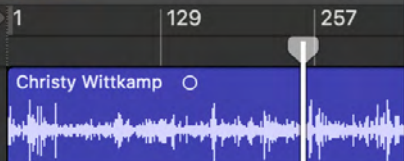
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When I was 21 I was doing work away in Japan. I did a placement helping fix up an old ryokan (Japanese guest house) in the north, in Aciu. I was staying there. It was beautiful. It was along this river, the house was kind of falling apart, but it still had its bones. We were there to fix it up. There was one other Person staying there, in the main house with his kids. The guest house portion was long, very traditional, it had shoji and tatami mats. I was in this room he had cleanup up for me. I was by myself in this wing. I stayed there for a few weeks, but I always had this feeling that I wasn't alone. I'd never experienced anything like it. I get scared super easily, but for some reason I didn't really feel scared. There were times I would get freaked out but know everything was fine. There was nothing malevolent, but I felt like I wasn't alone. At night there were no lights, just total darkness. I remember one night I woke up and heard the sliding of the shoji down the hall. I was the only one in the wing. I had heard weird sounds before or feel breezes when the doors were closed. It was just strange. When I went out of my room to check the shoji I felt this breeze. I walked down the hall and the shoji to the door at the end was open. I knew they were all closed. I thought the other Person staying there was maybe trying to freak me out, but he was sleeping. So what's yours.

Malcolm: I have two. They're way more in your face than that though. Okay, so the first time I was with my girlfriend at the time, in my backyard, and I just like saw a UFO over my house.

Cristy: No way.

Malcolm: I'm not kidding! If you were to google "UFO" that's what it looked like.

Cristy: You weren't high or anything.

Malcolm: No, I wasn't intoxicated I wasn't sleep deprived, nothing. I saw 4 lights, but they were each spaced in proportion to each other. They moved over my house, and I could see the outline of a UFO. She saw it too. She was like "yeah, that's a UFO." It faded away; it didn't fly. This was like after the height of Covid, 2021 era. It was so weird. Other People say they saw weird stuff in the sky around that time.

Cristy: Honestly, it doesn't seem improbable to me.

Malcolm: Aliens are for sure real bro.

Cristy: 100%

Malcolm: That's like a litmus test of intelligence and whimsy I think. Like really? You don't there's any? In the whole Universe? Like c'mon. Has to be.

Malcolm: The other story is a lot more insidious. I was at Thetis Lake, which by the way is for sure haunted. I'm there at night, swimming with some friends. I heard the sound of someone sprinting on sand. I looked and there was a man, about 6 foot 4. Not white like a "white person" white like *points at coffee cup lid* white. Stark white. He's sprinting towards the water, but when he hits it there is no sound at all. When he goes under the water there are no bubbles coming up. Then we all are like we have to go.

Cristy: Wait wait wait so you all saw it?

Malcolm: Yeah! Like me and 5 other People. We get out of the water and are looking at where he went in like "he's gonna come up soon, he's gonna come up soon". There's no air bubbles, and the ripples have subsided. We wait like 5 minutes, like "no one can hold their breath that long." then we leave. Makes my skin crawl. It's one of those things that I just can't reconcile with. Felt like I was watching a replay of something very bad.

Cristy: My Mom actually had a pretty significant experience shortly after her twin brother died, in her early 30s. She's convinced she had a visitation from him. She was in her room, in grief. She was talking to him, wanting some kind of closure. She said that the curtains in her room just opened by themselves. It was sunny outside. It was like "everything is okay".













Karunia Fila interview p.2

I think relationships are definitely at the centre. KSDC is a really difficult place to live, but what made it such a beautiful experience is the People that I got to know. To take the time to get to know these People, even if there's a language barrier, even if they're shy, or you're shy, is worth it. Relationships are at the centre of everything. My mom says that all the time, and I think it's really true.

When you grow up wherever you grow up, you have certain friends, certain experiences, certain things you know. When you go somewhere new that is shattered. This gives you a place to grow in new ways that would actually be impossible in the same place you know. Learning is done on so many levels. Not just learning about facts and history, but learning about how different People interact with the world and the People around them. There are different ways of thinking, different ways of understanding things.

Malcolm: I was going to put this in the magazine anyway, I feel like it's relevant. A big moment for me was when I was talking with my friend about bananas. I asked if he'd heard of the Chiquita banana war. He hadn't heard of it, but he was really confused about what a banana brand was in the first place. Rightfully so. What the fuck is a banana brand? Bananas grow from the ground, it doesn't make any sense. That blew my mind. There are places in the world where no one knows what a banana brand is, because a banana brand is a stupid concept. We have that because of Monsanto seeds.

Karunia: And when you said that you probably didn't even think that would be his response. You're like "hey, have you heard about that?" And he's like wtf are you talking about banana brand 🍌. But that gives you the ability to think of your experiences in a different way. Your perception of the world is your perception of the world. When you put yourself out there it can expand so much because you're learning and understanding things in a different way.



Malcolm: Yeah. It's so important to transcend your everyday bubble. You don't necessarily have to do it through travel, but when you do everything will be shattered. But you could go to Bangkok and stay in a hotel, talk to People who only speak English, you'd have a pretty similar experience to a hotel in Vancouver or L.A.

Karunia: And that's why People are at the centre! We've talked about this a few times but the expansion of who I am, who I want to spend time with, and what that means to me. Like, maybe if you saw Au (Hi Au!!) in one of your classes you might never think that you want to go talk to him and skateboard on the weekends, but when you meet him you realize he's cool, you want to spend time with him, and he has a different way of seeing things that you want to listen to. It can broaden your perception of how many different views and People there are. It's so valuable to connect with People who have different background, interests, passions and ways of seeing. That widens your identity. I used to struggle with that a lot. I mean, I never would have thought I would have become such good friends with my students, because we had such different backgrounds and experiences, but when I hung out with them I was like "oh, you're like me". Even though our lives have been so different, we're both young adults. We like to hang out, listen to music, draw, eat together, talk about whatever. They want to talk about their girlfriends. I'll listen to you, that's what my friends in Victoria do. You can find a connection with anyone, you just have to foster it. Hanging out there we were just spending time together. Who knows what you're talking about. It's not even that I know all the personal stuff in your life right now but yeah, let's sit, talk about motorcycles or whatever and why we like that. That's a way of connecting.

Malcolm: Or just sit. I would sit during a car ride for hours and not even say anything, just looking at trees. Like "oh look! Cows!" And that would be a deeper level of connection than knowing all of someone's history but not being able to do that.

Malcolm: Okay last question: what is your earliest happiest memory in life?

Karunia: Omg, idk... I think as kid, as an only child, how important creativity was. I would wake up at 6am and sew myself a stuffed animal, or learn craft techniques. My mom would support me in that. For my whole life that's been my biggest source of joy I think. When I go through phases when I'm not creating and I lose that connection I feel like I'm not fully me.



Karunia: Can you explain INMEDIATES to me a little more?

Malcolm: It's a literary technique. It means to start in the middle of a narrative. Like a story begins in the middle of a battle, you're like "who are these People? Why are they fighting? What's going on?" And you can piece together the context throughout the story. It doesn't start with "Once upon a time". The theme of the magazine is that everyone's life has always been like that, since the begging of time. No one is handed the proper context at the beginning of their story. There is no definable beginning to your story, or anyone else's. A lot of life is trying to understand and appreciate the context with which we reside in.

Karunia: That makes me think of like- if your whole life is a story you're trying to figure out, every single moment of your life could be the beginning of your new story. If you're not happy with the story, write a new one. Whatever that entails. You can always start a new chapter, or a whole new book. It doesn't need to be the first page. Maybe you've already written a hundred pages and you're like ugh. Start again. Now.

Malcolm: Existence can't be like "Hard stop. Restart". You just begin again.

Karunia: One day on a random Thursday you could be like, "today I'm gonna start.... I'm gonna start"

Sounds of People playing soccer in the background

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"How do you know...
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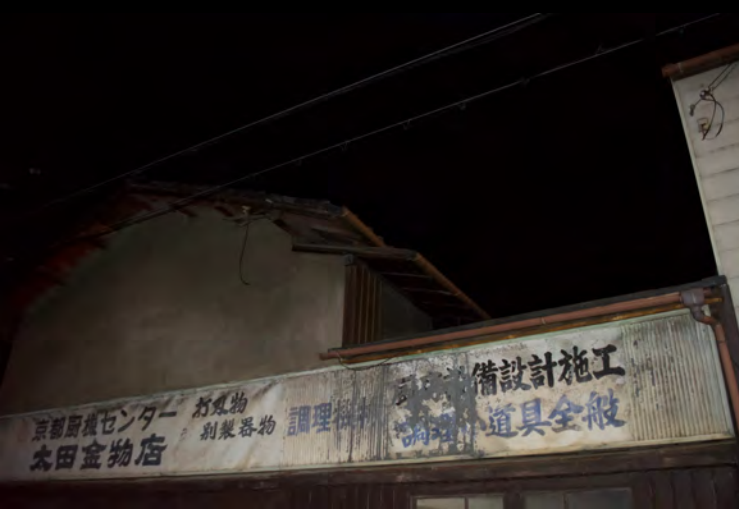
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太田金物店

灯篭物
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調理機

施工設計
道具全般



