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Mon, Jan 15, 2024 1:05PM • 13:59

**SUMMARY KEYWORDS**

people, studio, year, work, anxious, space, rooms, building, workshop, student, accommodating, struggled, painting, interesting, exhibitions, technician, opposed, carpeted floors, belonging, feeling

**SPEAKERS**

Student 1, Asuf ISHAQ, Student 2

**Asuf ISHAQ** 00:00

Nothing, I think people probably would have a similar kind of feeling, especially if the reputation is so much and, and there's a lot of workload and lots of kind of things, you know, having credits and, you know, doing things, which are. I mean, you've had credits before. But then I suppose you had you feel bad credits. I mean, it's going off topic, but

**Student 2** 00:30

I always am anxious about them, just because yeah, showing my work is quite scary. But then they're always kind of quite good experiences. I think it depends. There are there were definitely times more in first year where like, everyone was sat in silence. And it was quite awkward. But like, now it's quite I like getting feedback from people. And I usually come out of a crit with a new idea or Yeah, so I think they're good. We haven't. I think we've had as much this year

**Student 1** 00:59

when we had the little kind of pop up exhibition.

**Student 2** 01:03

Yeah, that's kind of a whereas last year, though, but yeah,

**Student 1** 01:07

we have more studio exhibitions last year. But again, I guess this year, because of the setup, it's less doable. To kind of have that.

**Asuf ISHAQ** 01:13

Yeah. And yeah, a little bit about that. Yeah. This way, you were in tech, and you've got the old part and the new part. And I was, I mean, you you liked the old part, because you know, has history, but the new part will what is the new part say to you? Oh, has that experience? Is it? It's just a building? Or is it? I mean, of course, he's literally connected. But do you have any kind of what's the experience?

**Student 1** 01:47

Is there kind of, I mean, I started the whole graphic design bit is all part of the new building. Oh, yeah. So I quite actively spent all of my time exploring the old building. Oh, really. I really enjoyed finding like staircases, and I was quite, I was quite magical when I discovered like the painting block, and could find these kind of hidden rooms that no one else was. And then we just say, like dormant. So it's, I mean, I love like to print studios and stuff. Because, again, it's this kind of beautiful, beautiful space that's been there for quite a long time. Where is it? So if you're walking around, kind of the carpeted areas, something about carpet, I'm just not a carpet person. Yeah. I agree. Yeah. So when it's just white rooms, and then carpeted floors, and then like these kind of low led kind of lighting and stuff up, I find it a lot more impersonal. It makes it feel more like you just want to see feel, yeah, you want to get from A to B, as opposed to kind of just enjoying being in this space.

**Asuf ISHAQ** 02:54

Okay, I think that's been quite good to just genuinely talk about belonging, and and start to talk about the building and what that means. And it's interesting, the things you say, actually, I think what we could do. Did you have anything else you could add? I mean, something happened asked.

**Student 1** 03:19

I mean, I'd say just in terms of the way that I use the studio, because I my practice isn't, I can't use it in the studio mic work. So I use it very much as I need a space that I can leave stuff and come back to. So it's like, I have it as my base. And then I go to other kind of workshops and stuff. And I know that I've got somewhere that I can come back to you to bring the work together. And I sculptural and you've got objects, and I've kind of got a place where it can all kind of suddenly bring it together afterwards.

**Asuf ISHAQ** 03:46

Yeah. And, and your your medium is mostly painting and that kind of work. And that's easily transportable. Yeah, you feel like you have flexibility. Yeah. Although

**Student 2** 03:59

I do want to do like bigger things. So I might draw. Well, no, just more like painting. Right? Yeah. Bringing in big canvases and stuff. Yeah.

**Asuf ISHAQ** 04:11

But yeah, then becomes an object, isn't it? Yeah.

**Student 2** 04:14

I was thinking when we were talking about how could you kind of make people feel more comfortable with each other and socialise. And we were saying how forced kind of socialisation is really awkward. And I think a lot of there have been a lot of things like people don't show up to things and I think probably from anxiety if it's like a social thing. Yeah. But I noticed something quite interesting with the British museum trip that we did. Because last year, it was like, I remember they just said like, everyone's going like, here's your time slot. And apparently like no one really cared. I mean, I went in there one. Yeah, there were a lot of people at mine and the tutors were saying it's a bit embarrassing, like no one's really showed up. And when, you know, it's an amazing opportunity. Yeah, but then this year, they were like We only got a set amount of slots first come first serve, and like it was full, because I think people were like, oh shit, like, I want to go, because so I think there must be some kind of psychology thing behind that of like, when it's just like, a lot of people, I think it's quite easy to just think, Oh, I can't be bothered. Whereas when it's like, you have to sign up for it. And if you don't, there's no room for you, then I don't know if people

**Student 1** 05:21

are choosing to do it more so than being an obligation. Yeah,

**Asuf ISHAQ** 05:26

I thought that was quite interesting. Yeah, no, definitely. And

**Student 1** 05:31

I know that I really struggled. So I was a student rep. And I dropped out now, because I was just getting so irritated, I think, because I struggled slightly to get into the mindset of being like AC and then just coming out of school. Because I was like, some of the issues being like raised in the student rep group chat with people being like, someone was too socially anxious to kind of come in, or they're like skate, their sketchbook could be moved or something. And I think from my perspective, I was a bit like, but so much of being at university is being an independent adult, and communicating and getting on with stuff. And I don't feel like it's my job to kind of accommodate necessarily for them, which I like, I think the other student reps do it like yeah, but that's not a very empathetic respect that you should be accommodating. Whereas for me, I struggle a little bit to understand why it's kind of other people or even with the studios last year. And then me and George, had quite a lot of involvement. And we were both getting annoyed being like, the fact that we're here means we're having to sort stuff out from people that aren't here, as opposed to being a bit more active. And if they want something to happen, they need to be proactive in doing it ourselves and communicator.

**Asuf ISHAQ** 06:42

Yeah. Yes. Being mature. Yeah,

**Student 1** 06:45

I think that's the kind of issue that I struggled a bit, which is a feeling a bit like sometimes you have to take on the responsibility for people that aren't doing Yeah. And you

**Student 2** 06:54

want to be accommodating. But also, there's an element of like, you have to push yourself to do these, like, yeah, because I've like, had so many times where I've been really anxious to do something. And I've always, like, pushed myself, I've never want to use like, my social anxiety as like a reason to not do something. And it is valid, but it's also like, there's a point where, if that's an excuse, then you're gonna every time you feel anxious, you're just gonna say I can't come in I'm, yeah, I think particularly within University

**Student 1** 07:22

as well, because it's like the step between being convenient and out that you're still within an environment where there's people are there to kind of support you and stuff.

**Student 2** 07:30

Also, one thing I've learned, like, every time it's it's never as bad as I like everything I've been anxious about when I come in and do it. I'm like, that was fine. But that's the whole thing of

**Student 1** 07:40

something before you even have to get. Exactly what in your head.

**Asuf ISHAQ** 07:43

Do you think you I mean, apart from the studio space where you know, you have your cohort and your peers? Do you feel part of a bigger creative community within UL?

**Student 1** 07:57

Not this year? Partly because of the segregation last year, definitely. Like I spent a lot of time walking around painting studios and stuff and getting to know them. I'm just feeling like a good very much coming down. Yeah, between all of the studios and I met a lot even on like the bridge, just I met some ma printmaking students it was working and then kind of went to their studios and stuff. Like quite nice, back and forth, because you always bumping into people and engaging and then moving to them. Because again, everyone's got a studio space. So it's very much come to my studio to see my work. Yeah, yeah. Environment.

**Asuf ISHAQ** 08:30

Yeah. And is that was that for us? Well,

**Student 2** 08:33

I guess it's different for me, because I'm not as much. But I mean, yeah, I mean, even though I'm not in as much, it's definitely when you're in this building. I think it's just the nature of the building. It's not so much because the rooms are, you know, I mean, there's not a lot of natural light, but we've got kind of decent ish lighting and I don't think it's the space as much but I think it's kind of the almost like the vibe of like, we're in this temporary building. And it felt like we were kind of put here as like, they didn't have any room for us. It's like just

**Asuf ISHAQ** 09:03

put them there and still feel temporary. Yeah,

**Student 2** 09:07

I don't know. It's just very it's not what you expect when you come to London.

09:13

Yeah, no.

**Student 2** 09:15

Standard, especially after first you kind of think you upgrade the next year and then same

**Student 1** 09:21

to the technician pete this morning, actually. Because for me, one of my main issues is in first year of university, you're kind of getting to know the place and the studios I mean, like the workshops and then second year you know, it's you can kind of get on with your work and then third year you've got specific focus, whereas because of the studio situation on the building what's going on it's like every year we're having to re settle somewhere yeah, as opposed to feel like we've got an established place that we can work and we know what's going on every

**Asuf ISHAQ** 09:49

new year moving around make this very unsettling. Yeah, and especially I mean, I'm would you commit with that with belonging? That's really the opposite, isn't it? They'll help him with the feeling of a sense of, you know, being at home. And this is my, you know, work here.

**Student 1** 10:08

Yeah, exactly. Because it's nice. Once you feel like you've got to know something, you've made it your own, you can kind of keep going backwards. This year, we've got this change, which is it's taken me kind of three, four months, we even get to the point of accepting it. Yeah. And then next year, I'm so kind of preoccupied with worrying about what's happening that, that I can't even kind of enjoy. Yeah.

**Student 2** 10:29

What's happening? And I think it's kind of, because like I said, in my uni before, where we were put in a space at the start of the year, and we were that well, we're even just like, last year, we started off in one studio, then we're in another, which was fine and everything, but it's just kind of like, I would have, I would have thought you'd have like a space. But it feels very like that always having to figure out where to put us. Like why don't we just have a space? Yeah.

**Student 1** 10:55

Yeah, yeah, it makes sense. I mean, that's kind of the issue with universities. I feel like you're treated a lot more as like just a thing that just gets moved around, as opposed to

**Asuf ISHAQ** 11:04

Yeah, yeah. No, yeah. That's, I mean, I think that's, that's a really interesting point, actually. Another question, which I forgot. So So do you feel you have access to all the building spaces, like making work socialising, exhibiting work, and study study spots? Like, you know, the library and but the space? Do you feel? You've, you have access to that? And you use that?

**Student 1** 11:37

Yeah, I mean, I quite again, even when I started on representing very actively got inducted to every single workshop. Yeah, within like, the first month, because it was very important to me that I had the freedom and the ability to just go as and when I wanted to. Yeah, so it does. I mean, I think that's the one advantage of particularly Camberwell is that, I know, like at CSM, you don't have access to certain facilities, unless you're like on a specific course, or something, it can work. It's quite nice, because we can literally go to any workshop. I mean, admittedly, sometimes they look up and like I can't get into ceramics and swords, but but at least it is there. And like the technicians always quite accommodating. If you do want to

**Asuf ISHAQ** 12:19

access the workshop, yeah, we'll talk about the workshops a bit more when we're in that building. And, and is there a social like a student? Student? Union, the student bar is the is the one

**Student 1** 12:33

is the pelican. Oh, right. A little bit down in the

**Asuf ISHAQ** 12:37

basement is not is that seen as part?

**Student 1** 12:41

It's not officially linked, but it is where I mean last year, everyone from the course kind of went off to on Fridays and stuff. It's always very busy. So yeah, it's kind of like the non affiliated and they have exhibitions in there, which people that work, especially from, from the union. So is every time I go I end up seeing people from from campus.

**Student 2** 13:05

Okay, great.

**Asuf ISHAQ** 13:06

I think I have interesting information there, which I think what we can do now what I would like walk around the studio, and just just look and see what what could be improved in a nutshell, without sharing without disturbing anybody. Like, we can just have, I mean, we could spend just 10 minutes doesn't have to be long. It's just like, you know, some observation about the lie and so on. I mean, is that you're comfortable doing that? Yeah. I mean, people will be in there but I think we can kind of look at it and we just keep it keep it down. I suppose. It doesn't mean Okay, good.