

# i think i'm feeling japanese

## wednesday, september 7, 2011

Since moving to New York City, there are a few things I miss about my home Hawaii. I especially miss the home-cooked Japanese meals. Today, I decided to make an adventure by finally seeking out “Sunrise Mart” on Broome Street. I was so excited to find many foods that I could use to make a few dishes from home. I also came across “Kiteya Soho,” a Japanese gift store a few stores down from the market. My culture is very important to me so finding stores like these, as well as “Muji” and “Uniqlo” that have the Japanese esthetics I appreciate really make me happy. With the help of “Sunrise Mart” I was able to have dinner and add some hot steamed (microwave-made) rice, furikake, natto, gyoza, and pickled cucumbers.

trash or treasure?

thursday, september 8, 2011

New York is a true city, crowded, busy, and a place where you are always on the go. Today I noticed the amount of trash found on the side of the road. It amazes me how bags and bags get piled up on trash day and take over the pedestrian sidewalk. It also gives off an unforgettable smell. Now, more than ever, I appreciate that I have been so grateful to always live in places where I can step outside and smell the fresh air. Not only was trash coming at me during my walk to school, but it was also related to our Design for This Century presentation I did with Paweena. Our readings talked about how creating new technology to replace the old leaves us with a lot of unwanted “trash” and “junk”. During class we posed the challenge to everyone to think about “junk” they had and think of ways to re-purpose the items. I took this into consideration and re-purposed a pair of broken earphones, instead of throwing them in the trash.

i got mail!

friday, september 9, 2011

Serendipity is a place I knew about, hear about, and even see when I visit Las Vegas, but I never got a chance to try their famous “Frozen Hot Chocolate.” Today, I was planning to meet up with Derek after school, so I thought this would be the perfect opportunity. I was definitely not disappointed. It was delicious and so worth the \$9. The atmosphere is also very enjoyable, and luckily it wasn’t busy, so I did not feel rushed. When I returned home I got not one, but two boxes from my mom. Just as I enjoy sending “Snail Mail” to others, I also don’t mind receiving it. Although I knew that she was sending me some things that I asked for from home, she surprised me and filled up extra space with a lot of good things! There was a card from my Aunty, nicely packaged gum, stickers from home, and a few snacks. Every new thing I found was a “serendipitous” moment.

# “worth every penny”

## saturday, september 10, 2011

Since I had nothing special planned for Saturday, I wanted to take a walk down to Chinatown. I have not had much time to just walk the streets and I thought this would be a good opportunity to get some exercise and culture into my day. I feel like Chinatowns everywhere feel the same--crowded, busy, and full of things going on. I walked by Columbus Park and there was music playing, Chinese elders playing chess, and people sitting, enjoying one another's company. I stumbled into a packed store called "K&K Discount." The small space, was filled with household items, dishes, appliance, gardening tools...everything. It was amazing what they had in there. I ended up finding something I wanted. It was a miniature version of a bowl with the same generic pattern of something my Grandma has at home. I had to buy. Only 60 cents! Later that day I met up with Marisa. We had pasta for lunch and then went walking. We found "Jack's 99 Cents Store" near Penn Station. Another three-story, packed to the max store with everything you could think of. There I found a box of crayons that I had to have because sometimes, I like feeling like a kid again. It was interesting to see a "mom and pop" version and a "mainstream" dollar store. I enjoyed Chinatown more. Even though it was cramped and I was concerned I would knock something over, it was just the right amount of overwhelming.

## remember to love

### sunday, september 11, 2011

I will never forget when I woke up that morning, watching everything that had happened a couple hours ago on over and over on the morning news. I was in the seventh grade. On this sunday ten years later, I woke up to the sound of “Amazing Grace” playing outside my window. I live in New School housing, which is just a few blocks away from Ground Zero. I didn’t want to go far this morning, but I did want to walk to see what was going on. I passed Trinity Church, where the fence was covered with white ribbons tied with messages written by people to remember their loved ones. The ribbons said “Remember to love”. It was a very weird feeling walking around New York City today. Although there were lots of people, The climate was a little cooler than it has been, and the atmosphere, very quiet.

# processing, Processing

## monday, september 12, 2011

During Bootcamp, I learned how to code for the very first time. It was very difficult and I was challenged every step of the way. A month later, I am still trying to find an easy to way to process, Processing! Although, I am getting a better idea of what it is that code can do for me, I am still struggling with some basics. Today, I worked on my code for my Pattern maker project. What it does is imports images which can be rotated to help a person create an easy pattern. My struggle came when I was asked to add a library for C&C Lab. I wanted to add in a “Color Picker” and “Toggle” option to change the color of the foreground and background. Although I was able to get the Library I downloaded to work, I was unable to the “Toggle” option to go between the background and foreground color. A couple of hours later, I was somewhat successful and still made some nice looking pattern using different colors!

woodn't you know...

tuesday, september 13, 2011

...walking is the best way to discover new things! Today, I found a bead store today! I just wanted to look inside, but I ended up buy a few glass beads from Ghana. They reminded me of Jess and Habib, and I really liked the colors, so I bought a few! Looking at the organic shapes of the beads made me realize that I have been learning so many new things digitally, that I haven't been able to much with my hands. I really wanted to do a woodcut for today's project and create something as a response to my new life in the city. I used the map as an inspiration and how it is ironic that a place with such structure is the home of so much art influences. I also find I am here, bringing my own personal background into a new culture that I know nothing about. Doing this gave me a time to reflect, pause and take time away from technology, but also do something I truly love.