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Memories of Wuhan

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MEMORIES OF WUHAN

by

Kun Zhou

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for graduation with Honors in the Art, Studio

Bradley Dicharry
Thesis Mentor

Spring 2019

All requirements for graduation with Honors in the
Art, Studio have been completed.

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With the development of globalization, more and more cultures blend together. Perhaps because of this, nowadays many foreign artists advocate their native styles. As a Chinese student, who enjoys designing projects with visual meanings, I decide to make a series of 12 postcards, illustrating famous architectures in my hometown, Wuhan. I'm looking forward to practicing the skill of transferring sketches to digital forms fluently.

I was born and raised in Wuhan, China for 20 years, and would like to share images of my home and myself. I choose to draw famous architectures in Wuhan because I enjoy the design and the symmetry of the buildings. Once I chose the topic, I needed to decide on a format to present the images. I decided to use the form of a postcard, because I would love to mail the happiness of my graduation from university to everyone I love and appreciate during my college years. After determining the form and content, I started selecting several images of travel spots in Wuhan, to use to draw. I picked both eastern and western styles of buildings in Wuhan. I was fascinated by the history presented by the crush of both British churches and Chinese traditional pagoda. Additionally, during the process of deciding how many postcards to make, Professor Dicharry suggested I do at least 12 postcards to cover the great diversity for architecture in Wuhan. After that, I needed to learn and re-learn Graphic Design programs. I used multiple tutorials when I didn't know certain features in the drawing software, Illustrator. Now I'm increasingly familiar and comfortable with using Illustrator. When I'm drawing architecture on a computer, I first sketch them on paper, then upload my drafts to Illustrator and mount the architecture. I mounted them in black and white lines to make my old memories look like classic film. After mounting all the buildings, I designed a visually interesting layout for those black and white drawings for installation, emulating the way people would lay out their photo frames at home.

During the process of making this project happen, I learned some lessons. At first, I was struggling to decide whether to do architecture or food or both for the postcard series. Both architecture and food, in Wuhan, are famous in domestic China and even in the world. I finally gave up the food part, and chose to draw the architecture for a more cohesive and concentrated theme, rather than jumping around the topics involving everything. I learned that sometimes I have to give up things to make the whole more focused. I think the ability to transform sketches to digital images is useful, especially when I need something that cannot be found online, then I could make them on computer by myself, making me more flexible when finding sources.