



ABC CLARION

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How Our Minds Evolve

by Kelli Hu

Plato once said that being truly educated means appreciating abstract ideas. The absolute truth lies not in the tangible objects that we see, but in the abstract ideas thinkers have inside their minds. At first I didn't understand what this meant, but after a day of indulging myself in different styles of artwork, I now begin to comprehend what the great philosopher was trying to say.

Taking advantage of a day off, I decided to set myself free of my practical worries. I wanted to have an adventure, or have as close to one as possible. With that in mind, I hopped on the subway train and ended up in downtown Manhattan. Having lived in NYC for almost 6 years, it hurts to say that I've never really explored the city. Taking this chance, I ambled down Fifth Avenue, still impressed by everything around me. A couple of blocks later, I came across a tall building and with-

out a second thought, I wandered inside. This was the Museum of Modern Art.

Finally being admitted in after a long wait in line, I gathered my belongings and started towards the top floor. This is where I was going to begin. The special exhibition on display was a gallery dedicated to Bruce Conner. His signature works included the black wax figures, which gave off an eerie atmosphere in the gallery. These figures reflected the violent deaths taking place in the 1950s and could be representations of historical events.

The next floor displayed artworks from the late 1800s to early 1900s. In the works of early impressionism and cubism, noticeable main subjects were still relatively obvious. In examples such as Monet's Water Lilies and Matisse's Red Studio, one could still tell at first glance what the paintings portrayed. I felt that

despite being revolutionarily unique, artists from this time still expressed themselves in the forms of tangible, recognizable objects. They were still not at the ultimate level of "truth", as Plato described.

As I advanced into the lower levels, the question of "what am I looking at?" surfaced in my head.

The question stayed with me and appeared over and over again as I passed through halls decorated with lines and dots. I noticed that compared with the ones from before, these artworks used less color, simpler shapes, and stronger brushstrokes. They depicted objects with less definite shape, and sometimes no shape at all. Instead, they included abstract marks or patches of color that require a certain amount of thinking to (or attempt to) understand. This, I believe, is what Plato meant. Abstract ideas

are ones that can be questioned, and when expressed in forms of art, can be interpreted in a variety of ways. With each individual that views the work comes a new, unique perspective.

My journey throughout the museum tells me that with time

and history our way of thinking evolves. With each step we become closer to finding the truth, or at least advance from our previous ideas. Artworks are merely records of our journey, yet there is so much we can tell from each generation of artistic expressions.

Shoes

Drawn by Angelina Li



Disrespected by Oscar Chen

Moping around with a mind clouded with a jumble of thoughts, Disrespected sits down hopelessly and only scowls at the people around him. His spirit has been crushed when his high esteem for himself as an individual crumbles into debris.

Any faith that Disrespected insisted on holding on to has been denied blatantly, wounded by others who he trusted to give another chance to him. Instead, he fumes silently, with a lightning hot rage pent up inside, trying his best to control his anger. It would be a tragedy to let those who betrayed him to understand the heartbreak he has experienced and get a hearty laugh out of it. No way, that would be unacceptable.

Although he hates their treachery, he preserves a quiet, calm expression. Disrespected's unreadable character has a smooth exterior, with the bumps and ridges of his commotion of emotion well hidden. He manages a fake smile to sympathizers who

say they commiserate with his plight, even though he knows that no one else could possibly realize what a mess he is right now.

Disrespected is found where lost opportunity and wasted time seek refuge, left to die by an army which he had sacrificed so much for...And all for what??? At this point, Disrespected avoids meeting with his annoying neighbor Humiliated. He has set the snubs aside and pushes for a chance to prove himself--and to prove his critics wrong.

The fire of Pride for Disrespected may have been extinguished, but he licks his cuts and heads out for another fight, a mercenary for his own cause. That fire will be re-ignited, not only glowing, but set ablaze. Disrespected feels the agony of defeat and the triumph of a defiant return. The pain of rejection is only temporary, and Disrespected hides away now, conspiring to bring himself the forever unattainable beauty in Respect.

Food for the Soul

by Nicole Cheng

Food is great. Food is really great. Food is seriously underrated.

Between sweet, salt, sour, bitter, and everything in between, you have an infinite range of tastes to experience. There are flavor combinations for absolutely everyone! Not only is food essential to your very being, but it is also the source of several of the pleasure centers in the brain. Even amidst this multitude of amazing food, there are a few that demand special attention:

First and foremost, there is chocolate. For those who are allergic to chocolate, I'm actually sorry. You will never understand the deep, bittersweet taste of milky, buttery cocoa. Chocolate was even treasured amongst the Mayans, who are believed to be the first to make hot chocolate. Chocolate comes in so many

forms -- chocolate milk, hot chocolate, chocolate mousse, chocolate ice cream, chocolate cake, chocolate bars, and so much more. It can be used to deepen the flavor complexity of savory dishes, it can be a blissful way to satisfy your sweet tooth at the end of a meal, and it can just be a source of indulgence at any time in the day. No wonder they used cocoa beans as tender in some ancient civilizations!

Next, we have avocados. These creamy fruits of the tropics are perfect in salads, sandwiches, tacos, sushi, and honestly, pretty much everything. Not only is it rich and delicious, but it is very health-beneficial. With several amino acids and lots of omega-3 fatty acids, the avocado is a great superfood that your brain, body, and taste buds will thank you for.

Finally, we have pizza. Pizza

is a delectable, cheesy food, with its heart in New York City. Available in all different shapes, flavors, and styles, pizza has grown to be a great American staple. How can you not fall in love with the warm, crispy dough, smothered in an herbaceous tomato sauce, covered in a bunch of scrumptious cheeses, and topped with other components of your choice. Pizza has deemed itself to be food for all types of weather, for any time of the day. Absolutely brilliant.

The next time you find yourself contemplating whether you should break that diet for that beautiful buffet of food before you, remember: food really is great. You've worked hard to get to where you are, and food needs to be appreciated for its greatness. And let's be honest -- once in a while, you need to feed your soul.

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