



Timian Voigt Henningsen
Paris College of Art
Fall 2023

Introduction

I have always been very fond of the city Paris, and it has been my favorite since the day I can remember. So when I saw that KEA offered a semester abroad in my favorite city, I knew that I had to go. I was drawn to Paris College of Art since I've always been very creative and like to experiment and create things in the form of sewing, crocheting, painting, drawing, and upcycling.

General information before choosing PCA

Paris College of Art(PCA) offers many courses, and many of them are really interesting if you are interested in creative and experimenting courses. Worth noticing and investigating before choosing PCA, it is the courses you are allowed by KEA to choose. I had hoped and expected that since the third semester, of the study Entrepreneurship and Design(ED), revolved around elective courses I would have had more freedom in choosing courses, but I ended up loving every and all the courses I attended.

KEA wants you to choose courses from the Communication Design department, as the courses in this department fits the best and are connected the most to what you learn as an ED student at KEA.

PCA calls the first week of school the "Add/Drop" week, but you will not get the insight you need to figure out which courses you would like to attend the most. So my recommendation is to choose courses before school at PCA starts. Also make sure that none of the courses interfere with each other, since there is a limited number of spots at each courses, and you have to be fast to enrol to make sure the course has a spot for you.

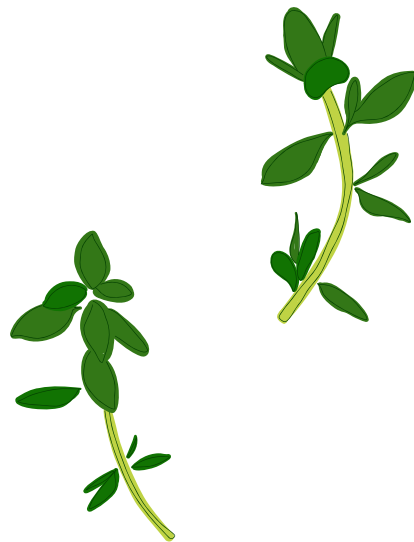


Courses

Portfolio Development and Personal

First of all this course was the most challenging, BUT the most learning course - I HIGHLY recommend this. This course will make you an expert in everything Adobe, and you will be able to master most of the Adobe programs after a semester with this course. You will be able to use the skills you learn to create CV's, Portfolios etc. like a pro in the future.

In this course we created a "Design Guide Manual" for your own real or fictive brand that is supposed to show who you are as a designer. After creating the manual I made my own portfolio showing what I have been working with at KEA and in my spare time.



PCA. OCT. 12. PORTFOLIO DEV.

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Wavy line variations

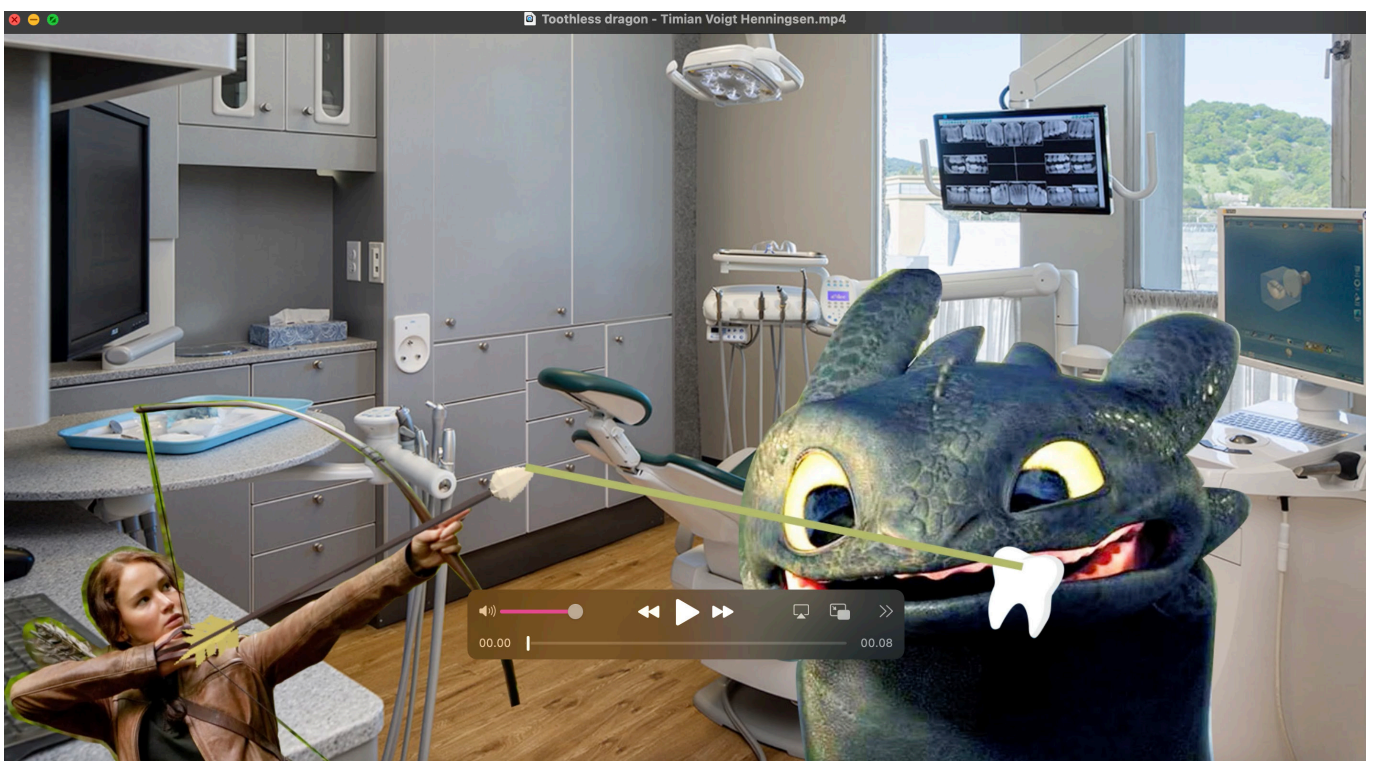
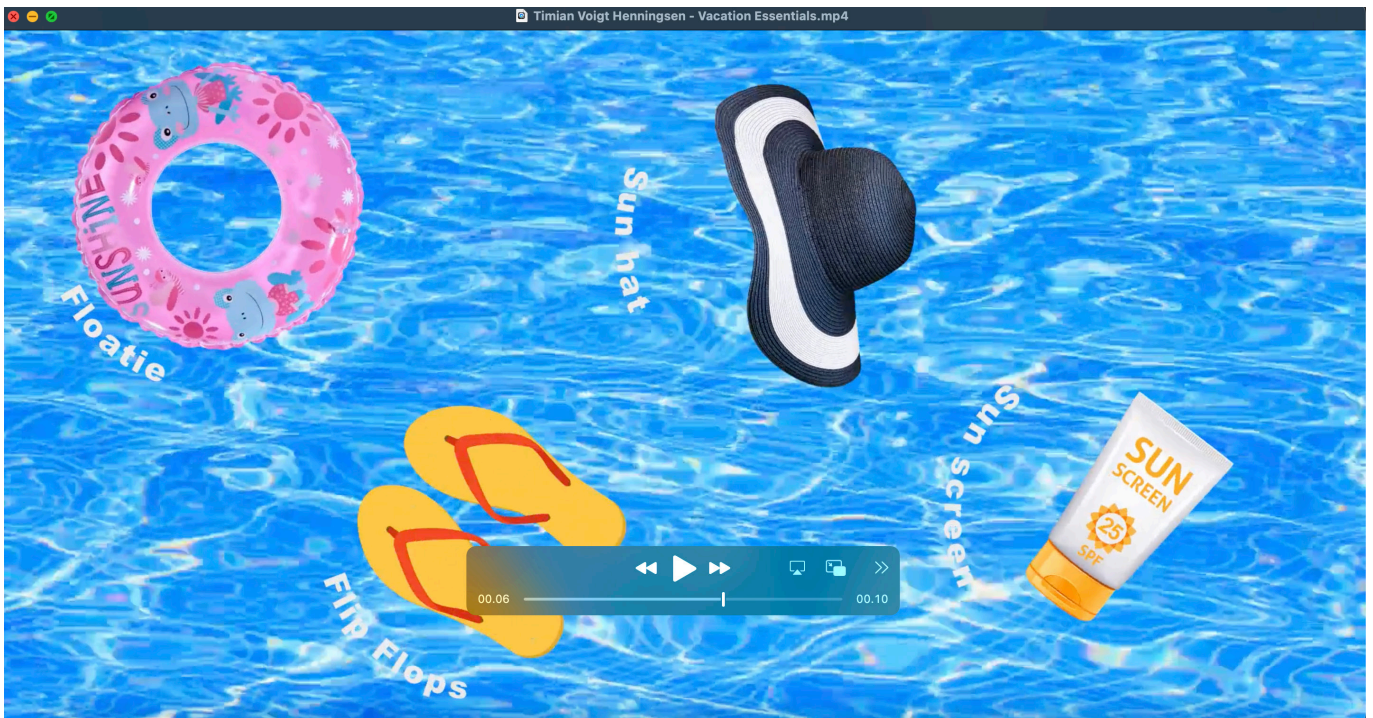
Diagonal lines

Wavy line variations



Motion Graphics

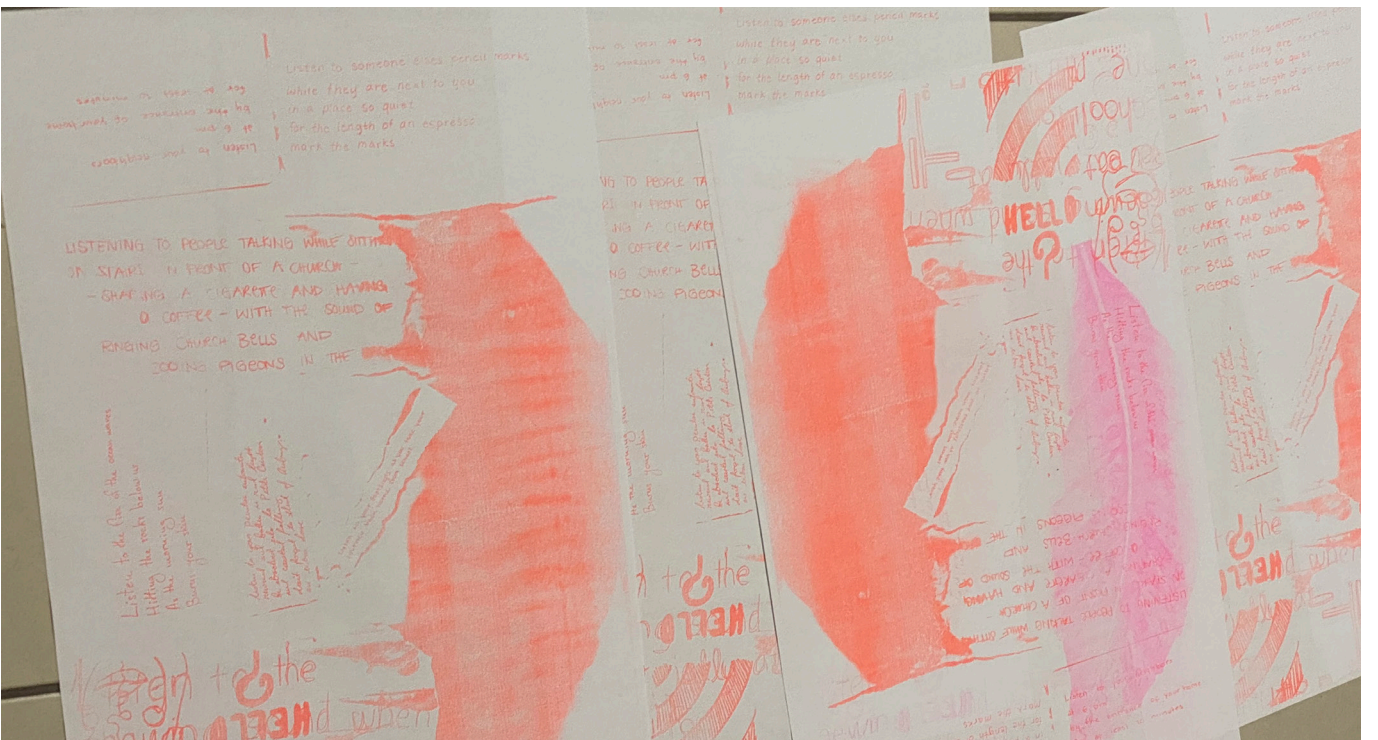
The course Motion Graphics teaches you the basics of the Adobe program After Effects. After Effects is a program where you can create and edit videos. Each class focuses on one of the 11 Principles of animation, and then in the end of the class, each student will submit a short animation that showcase the newly learned technique. Even though you have not worked with the program before, the teacher is very great at explaining and taking the time to teach how to use the program.



Graphic Design

In this course you get inspired by exploring book stores, graphic excellent books, ways of printing, and much more. This is a great social class where my fellow classmates and I explored Paris with our teacher and discussed how graphic components were used to create a book.





Print Matters: Introduction

Print Matters teaches you all the basics of printing. It is a really interesting class, where you learn about monotypes, drypoint, lino prints, etc. It is a really great course and you learn a ton that KEA does not offer. But it is expected that you spend 3 hours in the studio each week besides class, which you have to have in mind when planning your week.





Graphics in Silkscreen

In this course, you work on two projects on silkscreens. The first one is quiet easy with simple abstract motives. The second project is a personal project where you work with much more delicate, fine, detailed and sensitive motives as a bitmap on the screen. The course is great but have in mind that you are not allowed to print on t-shirts or other fabrics, and there is not many opportunities to experiment, by creating several screens for example.



Design for Social Responsibility

Sadly I do not recommend this course. We learn about sustainable solutions and how to design with a socially responsible mindset, but everything that was taught at this course I already knew from back home. The classes was not interesting, and I was most of all bored during this class. That being said, it is an easy class where you do not have to work hard to make a good impression, especially if you are an ED student.

Social and Cultural experiences

I was the only Danish student at PCA but luckily, I made a really good friend at the uni. She lived 5 minutes away from my apartment, and was from the fashion department, so we had many fun nights out with the fashion department and communication design department. It is exhausting to make new friends especially if your mother language is Danish, so I consider myself very lucky to immediately connect with another student that also lived near me.

Going out in Paris is the BEST, you get really good drinks for cheap and the same applies for food. You need to be cautious when you are going out and do not wear expensive jewelry and bags - it will get stolen. And be aware to always have your phone and keys in a closed inner pocket or bag that hangs from your shoulder or crossbody in the front - unfortunately there are a lot of thieves in Paris and many people get stolen from everyday...

School consumed a lot of my time in Paris, and I would recommend to be great at eating late and sleeping very little if you want to get good grades and be social. I really recommend to focus on school as they have a lot to offer that Denmark do not!

But Paris is a great city to explore by yourself, and those late summer evenings are the best! I can only recommend taking an evening stroll by the Seine <3

Practical

I rented an apartment in the 3rd arr. It was 25sqm and costed 1600€ each month. I really recommend living alone, sometimes you are done with school at 10 in the evening and I personally like to have calm and silent place to be when I've been at school for 12+ hours. I know other people who lived with roommates, and they also had a great time, so it is really about preferences. I would say it costs about the same. PCA provides you with trusted websites where you can look for apartments to rent, many sites cannot be trusted, so i would recommend using one of the sites PCA recommends.

It is expensive being a student and living in Paris, you have to buy many arts and crafts things for school and I really got tempted by all the delicious food options on Paris.

I think it really depends on how you distribute your money, i chose to live a bit more loose and go out to eat many times a week, where other might stay in and cook by themselves. But I would recommend using the few months you have in Paris, out and about, because the city really has a lot to offer - even though i might be a bit more expensive.

And then dont get too drunk and always be aware of thieves everywhere.

Conclusion

I LOVED everything about my stay in Paris, I had a great time, learned a lot, and made a lot of great friends. The school is amazing and I fell in love with the city even more. It was a great experience, that taught me a lot. Be open, work hard, and remember that Denmark is only two hours away if you miss your friends or family, then you will have a great semester abroad at Paris College of Art.

