

# KEA EXCHANGE REPORT

Maja Chapelle

Paris College of Art

Megan Tierry

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# WHY PARIS COLLEGE OF ART:

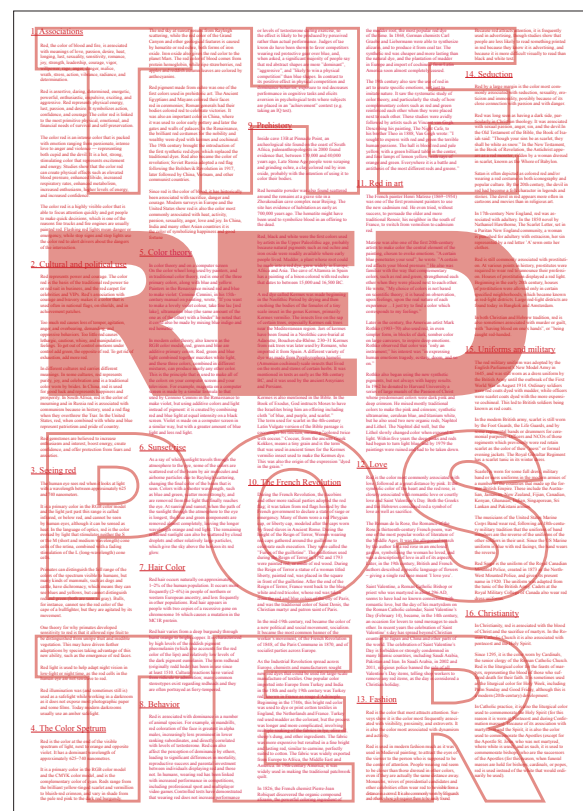
I chose to study abroad at my sixth semester because a lot of my friends from other educations have done so, and dearly recommended me to grab the opportunity and do it. At my first two years at KEA, I studied Sustainable Fashion Design, at our third semester we where on a school trip to Paris, visiting Paris College of Art. That was where I got to know the school, and thought to myself that I really wanted at some point to study in Paris.

Because of my interest in fashion, design and trend was living in Paris always a fascination of mine and when we got introduced to the exchange study program at the Top Up (Digital Concept Development), there wasn't any doubt. Paris College of Art, PCA is a partner school to KEA, so the admission was a bit different then when one normally applies to a one-semester study abroad program. But the process was still time demanding and it is expected to strive to do your best possible. There is a mandatory Skype interview with the school, a written application and you are to do a PDF portfolio of your work. When all of this is done, you are accepted, and then come the bureaucracy.

France is not an easy country to understand and there can be a lot of lack on communication—so what I did was to contact earlier students of PCA and other friends who I knew have lived in Paris, and asked for their help with finding apartment, transport, bank situation, phone and whatever comes up when you are to live in another country for half a year. I was lucky to get a small studio apartment in the 18th arrondissementt, which is walking distance to PCA. To be able to walk to school is probably the thing that I've been most exited for deciding

when I had to find an apartment. In Paris they strike a lot, and it is often the public transport that is affected by it.

The last month of my stay (December) there was no transportation at all. The strike was caused because big parts of the publication in France don't agree with a new pension law and general political actions.



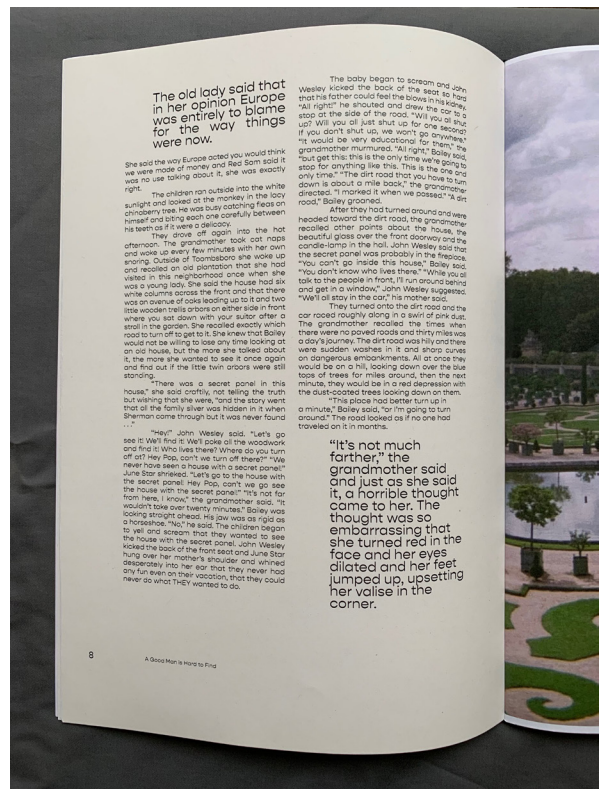
Glossary poster made in Graphic design, PCA

# EXPERIENCES AT THE HOST UNIVERSITY:

Paris College of Art is an American school so the first challenge for me when I had to chose which program was most suitable for my education, was to understand how the system even works. Every thing is different compared to KEA, there are lots of different classes and each class has different learning goals.

Being an American school means that the majority of students on the school are from America and not local Parisians. All classes are taught in English and the level of English is pretty varying. Some of the teachers has English as their mother langue and speaks is fluent, other has a more primitive English, but all in all it was no problem because most of the classes that we, as expand students were to take, was creative and hands on classes. In the beginning of the semester there is an "add and drop" week, which is a week where you are to choose which classes you will continue to study for the rest of the semester. That means that for the two first weeks of the semester you can take all the classes you want, and then "try them out" for a little while, to sort of understand what they are all about. Most likely there will be some classes that are mandatory to the semester you are studying at KEA in Denmark, but that will be something that is decided before hand with your advisor in Denmark.

In the beginning of the semester every class the student are handed a syllabus which is a detailed description over the coming 14 weeks, and what is expected of every class and which learning goals the school has for the studentas. The syllabus can be changed and adjustments can emerge, but the overall learning goals are settled from the beginning.



Book-project, editorial design, typesetting and binding, Junior Studio 1, PCA.

## THE TEACHERS:

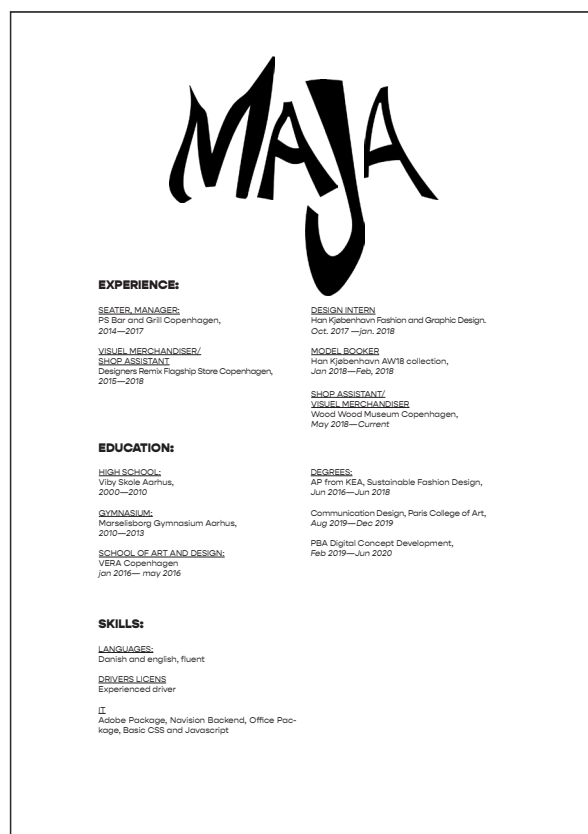
The teachers are competent and have real business experience, which is very much like KEA. The expectations to the student are high and we have had a lot of home work, but it was expected of us to allocate our time, so we would quickly learn that the smartest way to keep up was to do home work every day and as soon as possible. The classes at PCA can be held on very different times of the day, which means that some time there is a gap between classes on more than three hours. It is obviously a good time to do home work and catch up on the next class assignments.

## OVERBOOKING, CRITIQUE:

A big problem for PCA though is that the school is very small and the facilities are pretty dilapidated. There are too many students on the school and therefore they don't get the best possible out of the different classrooms and workshops. When we had our lunch break there was nowhere to sit, when we had gap hours we had to book a room, and there were only one room possible to book and most likely it was already reserved. The rooms were hot and moisty and it was far from good learning conditions. But the conditions in Denmark are better than almost anywhere in the world, so maybe it is just a question of adapting. But still it seemed like miscommunication when the teachers expected a lot of creative hand made and printed stuff which we were suppose to do on school (in house for free) but it was just not possible to make it in time because the overbooking, the lack of information about the workshops and the rundown facilities.

## WHAT I'VE LEARNED:

I really learned a lot on PCA, because I wanted to. It is very much on your own to get the most out of it. The assignments are very free and it is up to yourself how you want to interpret them. There is only one midterm in each class and only one final in each class, and this is based on those presentations how the teacher grade you. The classes are different, but most classes that I chose was very creative both in digital design but also the hands on creative stuff, where I had to learn whole new handcrafts. I made my own website and online portfolio with my own domain and I screen printed on 8 screens, and made my own book, printing and binding and I made a few movies and posters. All things that is really useful in a design portfolio.



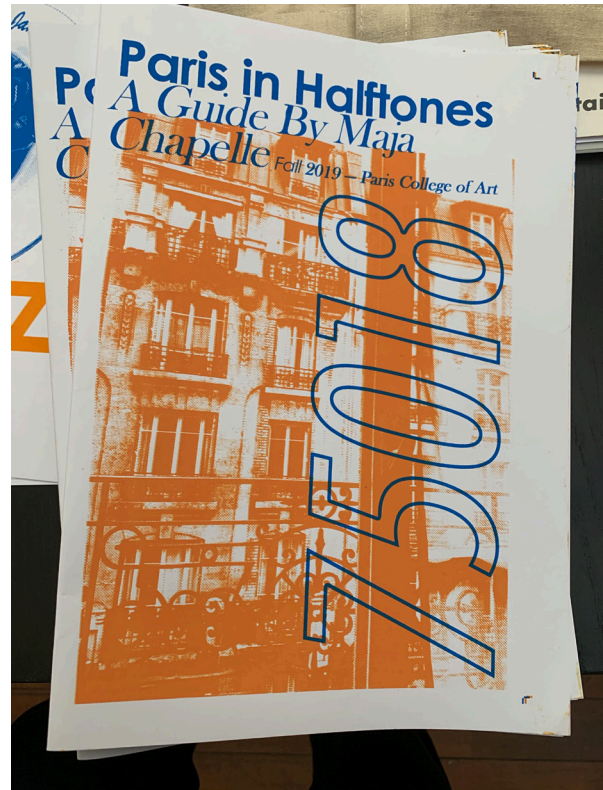
CV made in Professional Identity, PCA



## SOCIAL AND CULTURAL EXPERIENCES

Paris is the most cultural, interesting and beautiful city. I chose to move into my studio one month before the school began, so that I would have plenty of time to visit all the museums, go for long walks, shop, eat and drink. The city in the summer is very hot, so it was almost too warm to do anything in the daytime in August. In the beginning of September the 'intro-week' of PCA took place. At first I was really surprised with the young age of my fellow student, but it soon turned out to be foundation year students, which means student that just started college and for that reason is much younger than I am myself. When the school really began, was my level of education off course matched with student who were as far at their education as I was, and thereby the same age as me.

The students on PCA is primary American which means that the language is no barrier, but it also meant that the local French/Parisian authentic feeling was not to be found on the school. Luckily I knew a few Danish people living in Paris, so for me it was no problem to get out of school and do a lot of fun things all the time. Paris is amazing and I would recommend exchange in Paris any time.



Screen print project, booklet with eight screens, Graphics and Printmaking, PCA