

Arts and Music : After

As a child, I have always had an active imagination that led me to draw upon my cross-cultural roots in Japan and Taiwan to create characters for stories in exaggerated crinolines and picture books. My creativity was not limited to the abstract – instead, I was influenced by my grandmother, a kimono weaver in Kyoto, who applied her imagination and vision to create traditional Japanese art that was rich in tradition. Combined with my mother’s career in jewelry design and as a make-up artist, I began to channel my interests into the exciting world of fashion.

My parents and teachers recognized my talents, and nurtured my interests in visual arts by encouraging me to attend a high school that focused on the arts. I was invigorated by this environment which inspired me to become a costume designer in the Drama Club, and study all facets of fine arts. My high school experience motivated me to pursue a Bachelor’s of Arts Management from the ***** University of Education, which helped me refine my interests further into an identifiable career by giving me the opportunity to explore a diversity of art disciplines.

However, the single most important event in college occurred during my Art Commodity class, when I visited an exhibition at the ***** Fine Arts Museum titled: *Le Défilé: Jean-Paul Gaultier / Régine Chopinot*. It gave me the direction that I needed --- a goal to combine my outgoing personality with my artistic passion to become a fashion curator. Soon, I enrolled in *Fashion Design Industry, History of Fashion and Culture in Taiwan, Curatorial Studies, and Musicology: Theories, Exhibition and Performance Planning and Practice*, among other courses. My visit to this exhibition proved to be a watershed event in my artistic career.

My mother once told me she would support any career choice, as long as I have the passion for the field. While my passion gives me “emotional fuel” to overcome boundaries, I understand pragmatically that I lack the technical skills that are critical for a fashion curator. I need to expand my understanding of contemporary museums, gallery administration, the role of art organizations, and how technology is changing the artistic landscape. I also need to understand the challenges of being an independent curator.

Unfortunately, the fashion industry is a relatively new industry in Taiwan, and therefore, our nation’s graduate programs are ill-suited for my educational needs and professional development. Although I know I will have to overcome cultural barriers, linguistic challenges, and general “culture shock” – I am excited about the possibility of studying in the United States. The ***** School of Design located in New York City will not only offer me the necessary educational opportunities, but also give me the professional network and industry access required to expand my understanding of the international fashion industry.

I am confident that I can succeed in the rigorous academic environment of the ***** School of Design, and provide unique insights to help my classmates understand how Western fashion intersects with Asian culture in an increasingly global society. The ***** School will not only help me achieve my career objectives, but also help me return to Taiwan to help the emerging fashion industry in my native country capture the world’s attention with ideas that are truly exceptional.