

## Student Voices transcripts: Elise & Katie

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### Katie & Elise – Interview 2020

Elise 0:00

Hi, I'm Elise Walbridge. I'm a... well I just graduated from Wimbledon College of Art studying Fine Art painting. I do a lot of painting in acrylic and I draw a lot in coloured pencil and it's mostly portraiture and figurative art. Kate?

Katie 0:16

My name is Katie Granville. I mostly make.. I'm on the same course as Elise, which is BA Fine Art painting at Wimbledon. Well, we've just finished but I mostly make film and video and performance work.

Elise 0:33

So it's been obviously very strange past few months. With the lockdown...we live in a house of five painters. Well, five people on the painting course. And so it's been nice to be able to finish up the degree with other people on the degree but obviously, it's been so different from, you know, our second year or even the beginning of our third year. When the lockdown began, we were just finishing up some really big fundraising events. And we'd just been on a painting trip to Lisbon. Just working.. at home, which has been very, very different.

Katie 1:13

Yeah, it's been it's been hard to finish our degree from our houses because we're, I mean, we never expected we'd ever have to do that. And, like the importance of the studio can't be stressed enough. Yeah, luckily, we're living in a house together. And I know it must be so much harder for people who are living on their own and like, yeah.. Certain people in our courses have not only finished a degree from their house, but they've done it with completely ...like solitary lifestyles at the moment and like, yeah, I think we've done really well bearing in mind.

Academic Support 1:49

Can you talk a bit about that? Has it been what's it like working online, doing and explaining communicating online?

Katie 1:58

I mean, I just don't like it...whatsoever, really. We've only done it out of necessity. I don't think that this is some kind of new fantastic way that we can work. This is a last resort of how we can possibly continue to, like, maintain our community in the only way we can right now which is online.

Elise 2:18

Yeah, I totally agree. I feel like the online teaching as a way of preserving the community when it kind of feels like the last couple of months should be a kind of really intense and celebratory time, where now it's, it's a little bit difficult to try and preserve that specialness of that time. Wow, you know, you can't hug anybody or, or see anybody really, face to face. So that's been really tough, but I do appreciate the online teaching for you know... I feel like if university had just stopped, I think that would have been really, really difficult for me. So I'm glad that we are doing the online teaching, even if it is sad to not have those last couple of really special months.

Katie 3:05

Yeah, I really appreciate how resourceful our teachers have been in making sure that we still have the personal relationship that we've built up over the last three years. And they've really tried to maintain that, but it isn't the same and we all know that. And they know that we missed them. And we know that we missed them like a lot. Yeah, it's very sad. Oh, I feel emotional.

Elise 3:30

I will say, to try to try and bring it back to a maybe slightly more happy note. Like there's been communities popping up online that have been super helpful and understanding of the situation and want to help us, you know, gain exposure for our work. Yeah, like Sad Grads, 2020 on Instagram or the social distance project on Instagram. I got to be interviewed on the Art Prof YouTube channel stuff like that, where they're like, 'oh, we understand you're missing out on so much would you like to come in, you know, do an alternative or like a different kind of exposure for your work?' Because, you know, we're missing a lot of that since we don't have a degree show.

Katie 4:12

For the last few years, me and two fellow painters have been putting on performance events, they happen in our, in our lecture theatre. And like we had one booked, it was very sad that obviously it wasn't going to go ahead because, you know, uni had closed. But we did it online through Instagram Live instead. And lots of people still were able to come and all the artists that we had invited to like in the open call to show their work, got to show their work through there.

Elise 4:41

The nice thing about those variety nights as well, is that like, we live with the two other organisers as well. So, it became almost like a site of curation for them and like the tutors get involved and it's like a super fun environment for everyone. I think... I think I know the tutors were quite emotional. Yeah. Which was really sweet and lovely.

Katie 5:06

The live stream has been posted into parts on the WCA Instagram page so people can go and watch it there. Yeah @ WCA painting.

Academic Support 5:17

Could you then argue that although clearly it's not the same and clearly you feel strongly about what you've missed, things have come out of it that perhaps wouldn't have done in the same way had this not have happened.

Elsie 5:31

I do feel like there's like those alternatives that have popped up that have created like almost a different kind of community. I've never met a lot of the people who are now like I'm chatting with online or on Instagram. It's a different kind of community. And I think there is like a certain sense of like, 'we want to help you because you've missed out on this stuff'. I will say that... but it is like ...obviously it's not....it's an alternative. It's not a replacement,

Katie 5:57 Like this the sort of Dean of students at Wimbledon has really ... and all our course leaders have really stressed that we are going to have an online showcase for that for our degree show. They're also going to give us a physical show so there's that we are going to have that and they have continued to, like, reassure us that we're going to have time in the workshops to make the work that's going to go in there. It has... all of it comes with this, like where we're aiming for we are trying to get you four weeks in the studio. I am concerned that it's going to be like, Oh, we did try our best but this is what we've come up with...and maybe it's two weeks or even two and a half weeks. I'm going to find it very hard to be like, 'thank you so much for fighting for that for us' because I really think that we... I feel very entitled to my time and very, like, robbed of it at this point. It's ...it's quite, it's quite an emotional thing.

Academic Support 6:58

How was it at the beginning when suddenly lockdown was there and you realise that for the foreseeable future you wouldn't be able to go to London? How did you as a group cope, what happened?

Elise 7:09

I remember the beginning of lockdown I was like, oh this will last like a month yeah, and then like oh start reading fiction again. Oh, go running and learn Spanish, skateboarding. Yeah it was very much like... to begin with it was really nice to have obviously you guys around me like all the housemates and it to be a kind of...you know, there was bad days but you, you were able to like, talk about it and just be like, feel really uncertain, but know that you had like people around you who were supporting you.

Katie 7:46

At that point during the four weeks of Easter holidays that we had where we were in lockdown. I mean, that's at a point where we all still had one more lot of student loan to come, as well. So that was very comforting. That four weeks really felt like some kind of anti-capitalist artists' commune where we weren't so ...like now I'm concerned about money in those four weeks. I definitely wasn't.

Elise 8:17

We had a private view for the second year's work. And I know, some of the students there were... we were all talking in the little chat. And it was saying like, 'Oh, it's like 1.30am here', like everyone had kind of come together to see their work. And I think they were really grateful. And it was just, yeah, it was a really nice moment, even though it was kind of bittersweet.

Katie 8:41

It was the middle of the night for Henri who's in Indonesia. So he had to attend his PV at like some wee hour...

Elsie 8:54

I went to a ...well I went to a zoom lecture, from a course leader who is at the Royal College of Art and she was talking about online teachings and how it can be kind of risky because if you're listening to recorded lectures, then there's no, like...lecturers are worried about losing their job because they can be recorded. And it was just really... and obviously, there's the value in a lot of lectures as well comes from like the student, other students asking questions and you hearing that. And it's just... or the discussion afterwards that you have with your peers. And so that's kind of a difficult one to navigate. Obviously, there's no like right answer at the moment.

Katie 9:40

I would not be surprised if they sort of had a substitute online lecture that they then used again and again for years to come which I don't think is beneficial to the lecturers or the students but I would in a cynical way argue that that is not the priority of UAL, in many cases anyway, so.. yeah. So maybe that's the way that they will go. I would be like, I'd be very happy and surprised if they didn't?

Academic Support 10:15

So what would you say to somebody... I mean, assuming that this is an issue for universities around the world, and assuming that there are real benefits for students to travel abroad, particularly to London, to be in a different environment and an environment which is a lot of different opportunities to be involved in art projects. What would you say to somebody thinking of applying to UAL in the knowledge that there might be a combination of online and offline units within one course?

Elsie 10:40

I would say if you're applying for UAL, do consider what college you want to apply for because I feel really lucky that I went to Wimbledon that has this great sense of community and this kind of closeness and familiarity with each other.

Katie 10:57

I really wouldn't know what I would do right now. I have a friend whose younger sister is ...well was planning to go to uni as of September and like all the whole course that she was planning to do in Manchester has now moved online, at least for the first ...well, the majority of the first year...I just don't know, I feel like I would hold off. But that's just me. And I know, that is not an option for everyone. People's parents can't necessarily have them living in the house, you know, I would probably hold off because I do prioritise, face to face contact...And I mean, I would be in my parents' house, doing my lectures online would just I'd feel very lonely, I think.

Elise 11:45

One of the great things about UAL is it's in London. Like, I know, I wouldn't want to stay at my parents' house and be doing lectures online. Like the sense of community here is super important to you. Like if I'd gone home, it would have been...it would have been awful, as much as I love being home.

Academic Support 12:14

I think the idea isn't for students to be where they are for the whole course. But it might be, because of social distancing, that certain units are online, which allows other units to be in the college. You'd be in London, but you wouldn't necessarily be at the university all the time.

Katie 12:27

You're paying the same amount of money for less access. How does that make sense? Like even if some units still happen in the uni and some happen at home. Right now, what we experienced was the freedom to walk in and out of the... in and out of those workshops when we pretty much when we wanted. Like they're not going to have that so why should they pay the same as what we paid?

Elsie 12:48

It is, ...I think the value of being able to, to discuss and for people to get close to your work is really, really important. And so obviously, for safety, some courses might need to be online. Yeah, like, for me, I know I've always kind of been in like a rush to get to the next stage, like coming straight out of high school to come to university and I don't think I would change that. Because I have loved my three years here, even if they were like, tough like ... it's been a challenge...each year has been a challenge and more interesting for me, I think because I've been kind of in a rush to do everything.

Academic Support 13:25

And do you think, how do you think you've changed as a result of this experience?

Katie 14:10

We've started running. Elise and I have both started running. We started doing the couch to 5k, which we completed quite a few weeks ago. And now Elise ran 10k the other day and I'm like catching up. I took a ...I took a break approaching the hand-in because it was just a bit much but where we're aiming to do maybe a half marathon at some point. So, that's definitely a change. We're both reading fiction for the first time in ages, which is really... I just I feel like the pace of life has changed. I'm reading the Left Hand of Darkness by Ursula Le Guinn which I recommend to everyone. It's a really cool feminist sci-fi book.

Elsie 14:15

I read Stoner by John Williams. Very sad, classic...Yeah, I think there's a certain amount of resilience coming out of this like, I feel like maybe I'll empathise with people a little more,

Academic Support 14:27

Is there, anything else that you think would be important for potential students or potential recruits, for them to think about.

Katie 14:35

My applications to university... I applied to a lot of universities I then decided I didn't want to go to. And that led to me taking a year out. And it wasn't actually ideal but I think it was really important to me. And then, after that, I had a lot of time to think about exactly what I wanted to do and really start to look forward to it ,a lot. So I understand the route of like you want to get ...you want to get into uni and get out quickly. But there is there is sometimes good in holding off especially if you think you're holding off for something that's going to be it's like superior quality. Like I wasn't majorly rushed and I also understand that it's a different situation... Where during that year out, I worked as a waitress and saved money and travelled, that is not necessarily going to be an option, seeing as we're heading for a pretty massive recession and record unemployment. So... the unis aren't like, well practised in handling this. So you're going to be a sort of test group of them figuring out how it works.

Elsie 15:47

It's a learning experience for everyone. So that's kind of something you need to think about ...that you will be..there'll be moments of like...they don't know what to do, just as much as you don't know what to do, which is just something to think about.

Katie 16:00

So we...instead of being able to leave our research journals on our desks for our assessment, like our final hand ...that wasn't, that obviously can't happen because we're not in the studios. So we had to present them over video call. And during that final presentation, that was like the last thing to hand in for the degree, both of the tutors who I was presenting to, both of their wifi's went down.

So, for an hour and a half... I had already like kind of started my presentation... then their wifi went down... then I had to wait an hour and a half for them to get back online. And that was like a really tense period of time, obviously because I'm heading towards doing the final... final hurdle of my degree and then you end up waiting. Anyway, their wifi went down and it was really stressful. So, there's definitely going to be teething problems for the year to come. But you can be...yeah, you can be creative with ways around it.

Academic Support 17:02

What about your futures? What do you how do you feel about things

Elsie 17:46

There's... I mean, leaving University is already such an like... such an uncertain time for most people. And on top of that, it's all just like very, very up in the air, which is very scary. And I think like being asked, what's next? is kind of ... the best thing I can say is like, I don't really know...so what's next is, I would love to, you know, like, be a full time artist and be able to live in London and have all my supplies and not worry about it. But that is just feasibly not an option at the moment. And I'm gonna have to figure out a way to see if I can stay in London and see if I can keep my practice up. My goal is to make sure my practice keeps going, no matter what happens. Yeah. What's next for you?

Katie 18:00

So I had plans. I was going to work on a boat in France, like a sort of luxury tour boat and save a lot of money and it's something I've wanted to do for a long time. I have like family that have done it and then having saved that money, I was going to buy a car and move to Manchester. But like all of that has kind of not happened. So we're having to redraw the year plan ahead... which is okay, because I can still do it whenever this is over. But yeah, things have definitely been on pause and been rearranged. And since we've just literally handed in, I mean, Elise handed in two days ago, I handed in three days ago for our final part of our degree. We've only had that much time to sort of sleep and watch Real Housewives of Beverly Hills to sort of recuperate. And now it is, yeah, probably time to start applying to jobs that we don't really want.

Elsie 18:53

We got our first council tax bill, which was ...

Katie 19:00

Yeah! We're not students anymore. So we're paying Council Tax.

Elise 19:03

...but we can't get a job. Help!

Academic Support 19:10

You know what, I'd love to do, in fact I'm going to do it and that is I'm going to interview you two in a year's time.

Elise 19:16

Yeah. That would be so exciting. I'd love to see how much changes within a year again because when you said it was a year ago since we were last be, it like its a year ago? But that just seemed like such a long, like, my priorities were just totally different as well. And like, yeah, that's, it's crazy that that was a year ago. And now ...I would love to do it in a year, they'll be so excited.

Academic Support 19:38

OK let's make a commitment that we will speak again in a year.

Katie 19:43

Hopefully by that point, like we have caught up on the things that have been delayed. And we are less cynical. You know, actually, no one ...no one in the house that we live in is actually lost anyone close to them, which I just I think is amazing.

Elise 20:41

Yeah, no one in our house has lost anybody really close to them. So we're very we're very, very lucky.

Academic Support 20:49

Brilliant.

## **Katie and Elise – Interview 2019**

Katie 0:00

I'm Katie. I'm a second year BA painting student at Wimbledon. I've always wanted to study art. And I wanted to do like a specific painting course because that what I was really interested in.

Elise 0:14

Hi, I'm Elise. I'm Canadian British originally, but I grew up in Switzerland. And I got this crazy idea in my head that I wanted to go to art school. And so I decided the UK would be the best place for that. And I had only one interview and it was at Wimbledon College of Art on the fine art painting course. And I'm happy there.

Katie 0:35

Yeah, it was my top choice, it was where I wanted to go. It was the best interview.

Elise 0:39

It was a funny interview.

Katie 0:40 Yeah.

Academic Support 0:43

How did you feel when you first heard that you got in? What things were you perhaps nervous about and what things were you really excited about?

Katie 0:52

I was just really excited when I found out I got into Wimbledon. I was nervous about leaving home a little bit, but I was just really excited to get back into education. I did a foundation and then took a year out. And I just wanted to get back into it. I rented a studio in my year out but it was very solitary. I missed the studio environment, like being surrounded by other artists is really important. And I was excited to get back into that.

Elise 1:17

Yeah, I was... I was so excited when I got in but I was so nervous because I realised I was moving to another country and I barely knew how to cook or clean. I wasn't that nervous. People say you should be nervous about making friends. But in all honesty that wasn't much of a worry for me, I was just excited that I was finally going to go do something that I loved, full time.

Academic Support 1:38

So what were the first few weeks like?

Elise 1:42

I specifically remember in the first week or so I was like, I hate it.

Katie 1:46

Yeah, they made us do these workshops which were... just like... awkward, like getting to know the rest of the class. And I went there because I wanted to do my own self-directed work and I get that they couldn't let us do that straight away, but they gave us these like, kind of day tasks. And um, yeah, it was it was awkward. But yeah, it's, it's good now.

Elise 2:09

Yeah, for about for the first week I was like, I think I'm gonna drop out. This is awful.

Katie 2:13

Really? I knew I couldn't.

Elise 2:15

Yeah, right after the first week

Katie 2:17

I'm here, I'm here for the long one, for better or worse. Yeah, it's always awkward.

Elise 2:25

Yeah, there's not gonna be an easier way of doing it, I don't think, to introduce yourself to a bunch of people, you've never met ....a bunch of people. Yeah, it was.... I was really. Basically moving into halls and meeting all the other art students, that was amazing. And then it was just the first week of college. That was the one dip, the dip in the I was like, oh, no, maybe this isn't as good as I thought it was going to be. But after the first week, it was so good. And we got really good lectures and interesting stuff and just talking to people around the studios would have who'd had different life experiences, it was. it was really, really good.

Academic Support 3:00

What would you recommend to someone what tips would you give to somebody thinking about coming and preparing to come? What would you suggest to them?

Katie 3:10

Dump your boyfriend. He's a loser.

Elise 3:17

In fairness, yeah, everyone was dating someone when we got to halls and they all broke up within two months.

Katie 3:22

You're going to suddenly find yourself surrounded by people who are interested in the same things as you, they're attractive. And, it's really it's like the excitement, I went through fancying like five different people in the first week.

Elise 3:42

Don't not go to things, go to everything. Go to like, when people are having fun in their rooms, go and join that kind of a party. Don't join the huge like, there's all those like foam parties and stuff. I didn't go to any of those and I don't regret it one bit.

Katie 3:58

Yeah. We are cynical. Academic

Support 4:01

It seems like you two are really good friends.

Katie 4:03

Yeah, we live together.

Elise 4:05

And we're on the same course.

Katie 4:07

Yeah, on the same course, and we hang out.

Academic Support 4:10

Okay, so let's move on, I want to talk more about the differences in the education, working, studying, and how you responded to that.

Elise 4:22

I had never been in a space where I was so self-directed. Where, basically, you get out what you put in, in a sense, you have to really push yourself to do the best you can do. Whereas there's no one telling you have to come into college on these... well, there's a couple of compulsory lectures a week, but I think you just really need to be on top of it from the very beginning where you say, I'm going to go to college from 10 till 5 every day at least. And once you get into the swing of that, then you start enjoying it more and you're getting more out of it. And so you will keep doing that.

Katie 4:58

Yeah, there are people that you only see, when it comes to the like, assessments, they're there because you have to present your work. But other than that they're just not in the studios. And I think that's a real shame because I'm sure they are doing work at home, but they're missing out on like, really key like community aspect of the studios where you can just talk to loads of different kinds of artists, it's really important.

Elise 5:20

I think that's one of the biggest, like benefits, to going to university and doing art is, it's just the community and the studios and talking to people. I know that made like a huge ... like that made the biggest difference in my artwork, I think, since coming here. Like the lectures are brilliant and the tutors are good, but ultimately, it's the people around you in the studios.

Academic Support 5:40

And how important is that for you as artists?

Elise 5:43

I think there's a really diverse mix, at least in our course. I mean, we've got people doing like poetry and spoken word and painting whereas... and some people doing sculpture and painting and some people just doing like old masters type painting and... getting really nice mix of it. It's really lovely in the studios.

Katie 6:04

Yeah, I remember them saying in the first week of lectures, they said, um, lots of people find that art school is a place where they feel like they finally fit in. It's quite cheesy, but, you know, you're like just being surrounded by all these people who just seem to have come from a similar place. It is a kind of hub for people who might ...not might not have fit in, in other places. It's really nice in that way.

Elise 6:32

I know definitely, when I ...when I came to art school, I realised like how little I'd had in common with all those people from high school.

Katie 6:39 Yeah.

Elise 6:40

And that was like quite a big shock for me that I finally found people where I could just chat with them about what I was interested in. We had a lot in common, even though we had totally different upbringings and different childhoods. Yeah, that was a really, really lovely thing. And you have things in common with like... there's a lot of mature students on the course. And there's like no... there doesn't need to be any difference there. It's all just total open and you have stuff to talk about.

Elise 7:03

I feel very sentimental about of course. I know I'm gonna miss it a lot when we leave. Yeah, that's something I'm not looking forward to just yet.

Elise 7:11 Yeah.

Academic Support 7:13

Can we talk about diversity? And about the fact that you're talking about people coming from all over the world. What does that have for you personally, but also in terms of your study in your work and your research and everything?

Elise 7:27

There is a lot of diversity, but, yeah, art school's got its own niche in the same way that Cambridge would have its bubble, I think art school has a little bit of a bubble. I'm not gonna lie to you.

Katie 7:37

Yeah, I don't think there's an overwhelming amount of diversity, at Wimbledon. It's very Anglo.

Elise 7:45 Yeah,  
that's true.

Katie 7:46

You know, we have a lot of Asian students, we have a lot of like Chinese students.

Elise 7:52

We have the European... we have like a group of friends called the European students.

Katie 7:58

Oh, the cool Europeans?

Elise 7:59

The cool Europeans, who I've always wanted to be part of it because I grew up in Switzerland, but I can only be part of some of the time. But everyone's friendly and everyone will talk to you. It's not like a clique. It's just like a... they're cool and they're European and they hang out.

Academic Support 8:17

How do you deal with stress?

Elise 8:19 Poorly

Academic Support 8:20

Because presumably that is part of being a student?

Elise 8:24

I think, as we've mentioned, it's super self-directed and self-motivational. So, it's the pressure you're putting on yourself most of the time...

Katie 8:33

Yeah. I constantly feel like I'm not doing enough

Elise 8:34 Exactly, yeah

Katie 8:35

And yet, out of our year, I see us as two people who do some of the most.

Elise 8:41

We do ... we do take part in a lot of things. But you get out we put in so if you're putting like a lot of pressure on yourself, you will feel stressed and I think the only way to deal with that is to have a day occasionally to sort out the rest of the stuff in your life that isn't college stuff. So doing your laundry and cooking and making sure you have enough money to get through the month and making sure your budget's okay. Occasionally taking a day like that it's really important, so that you don't... your life doesn't become going to college from 8 until 8. And just letting the rest of your life fall into ruin.

Katie 9:16

There's something about like a vocational career. I see like being an artist is a vocation like, you're not guaranteed the kind of steady income... like I do it because I love it. And that's difficult because... because I love it, I feel like I'm never not working. And I think about it all the time. And I don't switch off from it that much because it's something I love doing.

Elise 9:40

It can get to you though. I know like if a painting is going poorly for me, the rest of my day is ruined and I have to just take a minute to be like, Elise, it's gonna be okay. It's painting isn't everything to you. You can start another one. Yeah, stress is just something you have to live with. And find your own way to cope with I think, especially as a student, you... that's when you start figuring out how you're going to cope with it.

Katie 10:05

Yeah, stress is good, though. Stress is productive. If you're not stressed...

Elise 10:10

you're doing it wrong

Katie 10:11

You're probably not doing enough.

Elise 10:15

I agree with you there, actually, you need a little bit of pressure to get going.

Academic Support 10:20

Risk taking, let's talk about that. Are you somebody who tries to achieve perfection, are you prepared to push and make mistakes? What's you're thinking about that?

Elise 10:30

I have a kind of answer to that. I'm not much of a risk taker to be honest ... not in like my practice, at least. A lot of my practice revolves around representing stuff, instead of trying to push the boundaries of painting. But we had a unit called the collaborative unit, where they put you with other people around the college, especially within the fine art department. And the project we ended up doing, I was in a group of four. We made a cult to worship UAL because of the changes that are happening at Wimbledon. Yeah, it was a way to criticise that. I was a bit scared because we were criticising the university that we're in. And it's a university that I love. But it is you have to acknowledge the issues that are happening there. And so I guess there's risk taking in that the college will let you fail a little bit and it will let you push. I think we college received it really well actually. Yeah, we ... we ended up really enjoying it and all the tutors came along and listened to our sermon. It was a way for us to communicate to the college our dissatisfaction with some of the changes that were happening, and it was taken pretty well I think. So they will... the college lets you take risks and criticise and, you know, but it doesn't have to be your entire practice.

Katie 11:57

I think wanting to be an artist is a bit of a risk in itself.

Elise 12:01

It's a very... I think it's another get out what you put kind of risk.

Katie 12:05 Yeah, yeah.

Academic Support 12:07

Can we talk about assessment now? Because that's something that students often worry about before they come here. Are they going to be assessed and judged? And what's your view on assessment?

Elise 12:22

We do have to be assessed in some way. Because it's important for you to grow as an artist and see where people think you're lacking.

Katie 12:30

Yeah, criticism is really important.

Elise 12:32

The way we're assessed, at least, is you set up your studio with what you've done that term. You can't be there, which is good, I think, because people are going to judge your art work like that in the real world. And they just come and give you a view. It's a holistic assessment, which is a really... it's it's difficult because they don't always have to justify the grades they're giving you. It's just what their impression is. And I think that's actually quite good as well, because then they're, they're being honest, they're just saying, I just felt your presentation wasn't up to scratch, or something like that. And that's what the real world is like, I guess. It pushes you as well.

Elise 12:32

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Academic Support 13:08

But you do have marking criteria, don't you?

Elise 13:11 Oh,  
yeah.

Katie 13:12

Like they do explain to you a lot that it's not marked on taste like personal tastes of the tutors is marked, as much as you can mark something as subjective as art, you're almost marked on effort, as much as you are output. They're going to assess the journey that you've been on with that piece and like whether the outcome represents how hard you work.

Elise 13:36

We have really important lectures as well. They really stress me out, I'm not gonna lie, but they're called the assessment briefs. And so before each assessment, they give you...

Katie 13:43

They read you every single word of the brief.

Elise 13:46

Yeah, they read your every single word of this brief... that's like, these are your assessment criteria. Like they give you full outline of what's going to happen. And although it is so stressful, it's really helpful. And I think it's important that you go to

those lectures and that you take in what they're saying, even if you want to cry afterwards, have your cry and then set up for assessment, I think that's the solution.

Academic Support 14:09

And research? Tell me about what you consider to be research, why it's a value, if it is a value and how that's informed your work?

Katie 14:18

Because I loved it because I'm doing something I love... I'm pursuing an art career. and I think about it, like, pretty constantly. I think I'm somewhat always doing research. I will take maybe like 50 photos a day, sometimes, just for references. I know it's like, borderline obsessive.

Elise 14:36

I do agree with you that research happens all the time. The thing that like lets me down in research is you do have to present it in a way that is understandable for them. But if you find a way to communicate to them, and it's still useful for you, that's, that's the best that it can be. And, yeah, you have to write like, what works, what doesn't for you, and you have to do all that. So, what you're doing, going to exhibitions, which is probably my main form of research, except for painting myself, I guess, would be going to exhibitions and just seeing what inspires me. And then artists research and theorists research and we have like one essay a year. And I try and pack as many, as many artists and theorists into that as I possibly can.

Academic Support 15:20

How would you suggest someone prepared for coming to university?

Katie 15:24 Learn to cook.

Elise 15:25

Learn to cook. Be prepared to not stay in contact with your friends from home.

Katie 15:33

Yeah...

Elise 15:34

That's really horrible, but I found a group of people that I absolutely adore here. I found a huge community of people that I can talk to here and, sadly, a lot of my friends from home, I do like seeing them but you just don't see them that often you don't have as much in common then...

Katie 15:48

It's more difficult for you because ... you're like they're in another country as well. Like, I still have friends because I'm local, from southeast London, from Greenwich, like I still see a lot my like Greenwich friends, and Sixth Form friends and stuff.

Elise 16:00

Yeah, I get a little bit jealous, I'm not going to lie.

Katie 16:02

Ah, that's nice.

Elise 16:02

Like you've brought your friends over and we all interact in that...

Katie 16:03

Yeah, they come to our... like exhibitions and stuff I always invited them.

Elise 16:14

Learn to cook and look after yourself, do your laundry.

Katie 16:16

Yeah, don't underestimate how important is look after yourself. Because if you're not doing that, then there's no way that you're going to be enjoying yourself as much as you can be. And doing the best work at uni that you can be.

Elise 16:28

I think, also be prepared to...you know, you have to lean on people, sometimes you have to...

Katie 16:35

Yeah, you can ask for help.

Elise 16:37

Yeah, you need to be prepared to ask for help, which is difficult at times, but like making a solid group of friends or people you can rely on who are there. So...

Katie 16:46 Yeah,  
be nice,

Elise 16:46

Be nice to everyone

Katie 16:47 nice  
people

Elise 16:50

Talk to as many people as you can in the college, because different viewpoints are always useful even if they come from some strange people. We have a couple of those, but you know, they enrich the community.

Katie 17:06

Yeah, and if you see someone struggling, if you see someone who's having a harder time than you, then there's so many things that you can do to maybe tell them that you're there. Like you could cook for them or ...or, I don't know, spend one on one time with people who you see what may be struggling in a group ... in a group context where they can't... maybe there's quiet people. Like when quiet people get mistaken for being boring and like, they got nothing to say. It's like very much not the case. I used to be one.

Elise 17:40

Yeah, same. Yeah, I think it really helps if you just go and talk to people about their own work because people love talking about their work.

Elise 17:49

And it helps them open up, and basically all the time, your artwork is to do with you.

Katie 17:55

Oh, it's such a compliment when someone genuinely wants to know like what your practice is because it is so personal.

Elise 18:02

It makes you feel so warm inside when someone wants to know about your practice and then you end up talking about their practice. And you have a lovely conversation. You find things in common and you have a new friend and..... Just be really open, be prepared for some weird stuff though. Be prepared for a conversation where someone tells you your work is about they think your work is about something that it isn't.

Academic Support 18:24

Thank you for your time and your thoughts.

Elise 18:29

I hope it was helpful.

Katie 18:30

Yeah, I hope we helped.