

Linda Black



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Today is my sister-in-law Julie's bday - so happy birthday!!!

I started my day at HBO as per usual. It ran a little over since lunch arrived early and i had a really long VO to finish. But that afternoon i was going to an art session with the lovely people at WOWArt.

Now i LOVE art - i love looking at it, enjoying it, and creating it. and thanks to my lovely high school art teacher (that would be a shout out to Mrs. Wanda Salyer) who opened my mind to the reality of art and broke down all the misconceptions i had about it, i have an appreciation for it that i feel is a bit more evolved and open now, and has only grown over the years.

At WOWArt, a quaint little shop on Upper Thomson Road, i was brought into a bright and cheery place. The walls were yellow, and there of course was art work on the walls. there was a lovely receptionist, and the people responsible for my introduction to the establishment - Farena and Ethan of The RightSpin. I was then taken past a room of children already in the midst of enjoying arts and crafts hour, to a second room that was identical to the first, but populated by adults - presumably the parents of the children.

I am a parent, but my child is still too young and only drawing squiggles on paper, so he was left home for the afternoon. Today was all me! I sat down at the full table. There was a list of 8 things on the whiteboard that we were instructed to take a piece of paper and draw: a flower, a butterfly, mountain, house, tree, a person, grass, and a bicycle. now i have spent many hours doodling in algebra class to be able to knock alot of these out in a couple of minutes.

That was easy. We were then told to put our names and place of origin on the back. Then the children's pieces were brought in and placed side by side with the adults. This was amazing to see, b/c the adults and children's differed very little in basic representation. I was the only person not from Singapore, so some of my representations were different, and that amazed me as well.

Art, drawing, and recognizing representations of certain objects can bypass language barriers, and generation gaps. This was the lesson learned from the day - and under the careful tutelage of our instructor, a patient and vivacious lady named Nancy, and Daniel Yew - the executive director, we finished up our drawing experiment with a bit of arts and crafts in which we created a representation of a tree in molding clay, and we got to paint it. I have to say that I was sooo impressed with the level of creativity I saw in all the trees, and the paintings were just beautiful.

I had the best day! and once it was over, I got to take photos with everyone and have a chat before a MONSTER storm rolled in and made the afternoon drippy and gray.

I must say, the objective at WOWArt came across loud and clear to me: that art can be a universal language, as well as developed and nurtured from a young age. They do have adult sessions, but the focus is on children's art appreciation and exposure to different mediums and ideas about what is and can be art. I really encourage the instructor to consider the parallel class - like the one we did - b/c it was so eye opening for me. and I can't wait to take my son there so we can take the same class, and I can have a tiny glimpse into my child's mind so I can see what he sees. :)

Thanks again to the good folks at WOWArt, Daniel and Nancy, and of course The RightSpin, Ethan and Farena, for letting me take part in such an eye opening and enjoyable afternoon. I have my tree in clay momento, and some art supplies so I can keep exploring the world of art.