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went to the art
institute of
chicago



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Submitted

Oliver Kaminsky (12) went to the Art Institute of Chicago to study. Living in a dorm room with a roommate for the semester, he made friends in his various art classes where he has assigned art projects throughout to help him refine his art skills:

Bellapianta

Can you describe your creative process?

Kaminsky

My ideas come mostly from the way I process my experiences in life, not just the experiences themselves, since my art tends to be abstract or surreal and less of a picture of a moment. It's more of the feelings surrounding that moment or a representation of how I felt throughout all those moments. Most of my art is also, in a very liberal sense, a self portrait. And I tend to have kind of a spark or an idea that

I'm not sure where it comes from, which evolves and grows much like a living thing until I finish it on a canvas.

Bellapianta

How did your time in Chicago affect your creative process?

Kaminsky

There's a lot of different practices here in Colorado. There's a lot of different artists, but you end up seeing the same thing over and over, and going to Chicago opened my eyes to far more perspectives– not just of the city of Chicago but also of the people that traveled from across the state and out of country to come to SAIC. It confirmed and cemented me in my own style and my own creative process with going to a real art school surrounded by people that were truly, honestly pursuing a career in art.

“life's short. express yourself. just be happy. don't be ashamed of who you are or what you are or what you grew up as.”

Bellapianta

What lessons did you gain?

Kaminsky

Life's short. Express yourself. Just be happy. Don't be ashamed of who you are or what you are or what you grew up as. Because if you're with people that don't like that then you're surrounded by the wrong kind of people. And there's no point in keeping yourself around them. So get out and meet people that are like you or that accept you. Life is so much more fun and easy, uncomfortable and fulfilling that way and I think that's far beyond art.

Bellapianta

Could you describe your most memorable experience in Chicago?

Kaminsky

I mean, besides the time spent in the studio with my friends, just laughing and making art and having like a hell of a time, I remember we went to one gallery.

It was by an artist called "Kung Fu," and his work was called the "Warring States Cyberpunk." It was a three part anime and each part was 20 minutes, but it was avant garde and creepy. It had a lot of bright colors and I strayed from very bright colors. If I used them, it would usually only be one. I tend to prefer neutral colors just in general life or earth tones.

I walked out of there in a daze and I was like, "I need to make or break things." I stopped being afraid of very bright saturated colors and now I try to invite them more into my work because it's fun. Why not?