

## Personal Statement

The beauty of language is not simply its ability to convey meaning, but that it is able to express copious shades of connotations – so much so that it can call to the mind an image, one that is not bound by conventions but rather the limitations of an individual's mind. I am so drawn to the mystifying signifiers that I pursued an undergrad degree in English Literature, years spent in melancholic ecstasy. Melancholy only because it is the tendency of many literary greats to highlight and criticize the flaws of humanity; ecstatic because I was impassioned all the same.

And as literature has produced relics and endured through many histories past, so has art. My interest began since childhood, because I had a mother who loved to draw. She liked to produce pencil portraits of people, and as a child I was so proud of her talent that I would showcase them to anyone who paid me any attention. Gradually, I also took to imitating her abilities. I excelled at art in school. I took additional art courses that extended to my high school years, where I studied various mediums from charcoal to acrylic. Even after graduating from college, I occasionally signed up for short-term classes just so I could reawaken my creative sensibilities.

Most of all, I loved to see the works of the giants. I consider museums the portals where I could transcend into another world. It cannot be denied that there is something completely awe-inducing the minute one walks into such a space; it commands solemnity, a mood of peaceful tranquility that borders on holiness. Whether art is imitation, an impression, a mood or a dialogue is debatable, but it makes the audience bask in it. I can never in my life forget the sun-lit rooms at the Louvre in the Hall of Sculptures, what it felt like to swim through the pale figures that seemed at once so delicate, ephemeral – yet also eternally set in stone. Nor the Uffizi Gallery in Florence, an architectural work of art in its own right, a timeless capture of the heart of Renaissance art.

Upon graduation I worked at a test prep center (Boston Preparatory) as a TOEFL

instructor. I had the additional task of being a college consultant, and I would edit the application essays of high-school hopefuls, as well as help them build their extracurricular profiles. I was able to get particular students interested in art to engage in internships at local galleries, establishing contacts with owners and various people in the industry. I also assisted at Art Taipei in 2013, for VG Taipei Gallery, which houses the works of artists like Zao Wou-ki, Walasse Ting, and Yayoi Kusama. It was an eye-opening experience in terms of recognizing the strength of the Taiwanese collector's market. I was thoroughly impressed by the keen eye of specific local collectors with specific and select tastes. The variety of art of over a hundred galleries from all over the world, ranging from installation, to sculpture, to photography, really demonstrated an increasingly voracious interest in the art world in Taiwan.

When there is harmony between a work of art and the audience's understanding, that's when the essence of art has reached its zenith. Some pieces are personally interesting to myself, for as I look upon it, it calls forth a spirit I can identify in literature, whether it be something general as in belonging to a specific 'movement', or rather something infinitely more precise, as in a line of poetry or prose. Perhaps it is for this reason that art has inspired poets to produce writings, such as Auden's "Musée des Beaux Arts" or Wallace Stevens' "The Man with the Blue Guitar". The same could be stated vice versa, that literature/mythology has provided artists with fuel for inspiration throughout our grand history. Therefore it seems to me that art is irrevocably tied with language and language with art, a binary relationship that cannot be denied.

As my avid interest in literature and art is equivalent, I believe I can offer unique insight into the art world with my cultural background and knowledge I have acquired through personal and academic pursuits. I aim to work in an auction house as a Fine Art specialist. I am aware that I have much to learn, but I believe the education I will receive at Sotheby's will equip me with the necessary tools to achieve my career goals. Art is an adamant, critical, and striking gateway to the narratives of mankind. It invites the world to engage in an incessant discourse upon

all manners of subjects, and is so all-encompassing and complex a matter that it is impossible not to be drawn to it. It is for this reason that I wish to pursue an MA in Modern Art at Sotheby's.