

Interview 12 - Ranti - 15 minutes (1.5 hr. transcription)

(In all transcripts I have edited out ums, likes, ahhs and stutters from both the interviewer and interviewee unless it was deemed they added to the context of the response.)

Unlike the other interviews which happened in other quite or private spaces this interview took place in the gallery early one morning.

Alex: How did you come to know about the exhibit?

Ranti: Mara. So word of mouth basically. Mara kind of told me so Mara knows you so that's how I came to know about it.

Alex: Can you explain to me how you viewed the exhibit?

Ranti: Well I viewed it quite systematically. Because, well number one I was trying to fill out the trivia game things so I thought okay I should go quite systematically. Also, I come from an engineering background so I do like some kind of order to things. And I did start off with this one over here cause I was going in a kind of circle, right to left. Yeah, anything else...that's how I viewed the, the method I viewed it in.

Alex: How long did you view it for do you think?

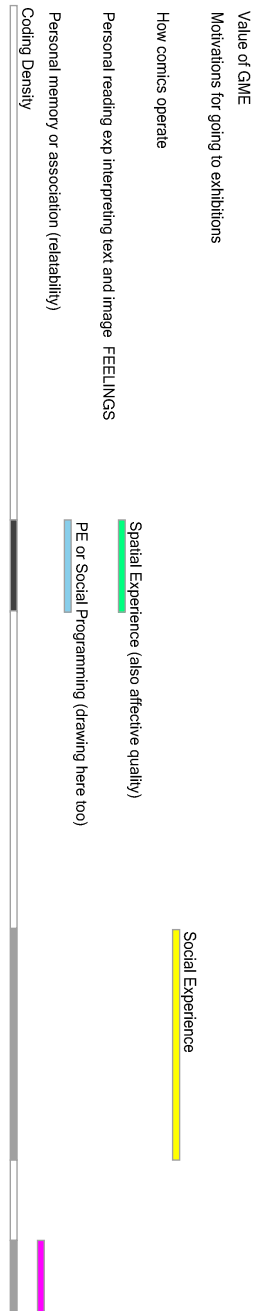
Ranti: maybe 15 minutes. It was kinda with a group as well so we were discussing aspects of it and I tried not to explain my views to kinda keep their views more, like personal to them, but yeah, I did, I was proud of rotating the picture to match the, for the trivia game, that was quite good (laugh).

Alex: And what type of discussions did you have with the group?

Ranti: I think it was more like, yeah, where is, how do we answer these questions basically. I think one discussion we had was the xray images down there because both me and Mara we are doing medical related PhDs. So we were quite impressed by the effects of those and those were, and the medium they were made with so that was glass, stained glass, or some kind of glass, then a print of that , so I thought that was quite cool. Yeah and yeah that's kind of the discussions we had. We didn't discuss it for very long. I think I was more personally viewing things.

Alex: Was there any personal stuff that you are willing to share that you thought of when viewing the exhibit?

Ranti: I definitely, the exhibit with the picture of the brain, I thought that really, yeah, (laugh) I definitely relate to that one, I think most PhD students do so yeah I felt like



that was exactly the process I am going through right now, second guessing myself all the time. I am feeling a like better now because I've had almost all, I have been doing it now about five-six months and all that time I have been second guessing, second guessing yet having to present as if I am confident about things. But as of yest...as of Wednesday I had my final presentation of pretending to be confident and now the feedback from that actually has given me a little more real confidence and kinda, now I am a bit more relaxed it think. So I definitely relate to a lot of the, yeah the high strung environment. That's on the other exhibit. That side. Yeah... [inaudible 4m30s]

Alex: I noticed, did you fill out one of the post-its [drawing your experience activity]?

Ranti: Yes, oh yeahyeahyeah.

Alex: Could you describe to me that and where that came from?

Ranti: Okay, so, the exhibit over there. The one, what's it called, the multiple...

Alex: the face one in the corner?

Ranti: Yeah the face one (Inner Voices) in the corner, so actually from afar, what it looked like to me was an evolution of almost like historic evolution, historic representation because the shading under their neck actually reminded me of Tutankhamun, you know that thing (hand motion under chin), so what I saw immediately was almost like, you know, the past out of this historic evolution kinda thing and that you know that all past mistakes others have made have gotten us here and yeah and that, Ah, I loved that, I resonated with that, I was like, I love that but then I read the description and then I realised its actually a shadow, what I assume is a shadow, but that immediately what I saw at first. Yeah I thought it was nice, at least my interpretation of it (laugh). Yeah so I think that was one of my post-its that I wrote. Different, Inner Voices that was it, Inner Voices or something, that I thought it was past voices that people from the past guiding us into what we are now. So, yeah.

Alex: So, when did you view the exhibit?

Ranti: Ah, time of day or...it was yesterday. That was Thursday, fourth...in the evening, yes. And I think I was in a very good mood as well because, like I said, I'd just done the presentation. I was feeling a bit more relaxed. I was, yeah, definitely on a high note compared to the past five months I would say.

Alex: Did...so, one of the main topics of the exhibition is spatial anxieties, and you have made comments on anxiety in general, was there anything about the space it was in or that it created?

Ranti: I did like that fact that it was quite, I don't know...oh, I am not very good with words...but I did like that fact that it was kind of just out of the way, like we were, like

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it was our own little part or viewing, and I loved how people just walking in sometimes to just be curious and to kind of look in and wonder what we are doing, so yeah. It was kind of, it was like our own little world away from the rest of Poole House. I like that.

Yeah, I liked that fact that it was panelised, so like for me as an engineer it's like building blocks, so I do actually like the fact that if you wanted you could change, cause it is quite individual these panels, so you could change the structure. How they really want to be, kinda like lego, but for, yeah, panels, so again that is coming from construction, engineering side. Yeah...

And of course it is very nice and clean. It's almost how I always picture art galleries, very not busy, but very clean, minimalist, ya I think that's a word isn't it, yeah there we go. Yeah...yeah.

Alex: What was the group dynamic that you were in when you came and viewed the exhibit?

Ranti: I think at first it was confusion because I did say "oh my friend said that there's some art gallery downstairs, do you want come see?" so the two PhD students that work in my studio, they, one of them doesn't speak very fluent English so I did have to explain it a couple times but then they really got into it when the trivia sheet was introduced because then it was like a competition, so I think that was kind of the dynamic, it was first confusion and then it was like okay enjoyment and fun in a good environment stress relief for them, so yeah.

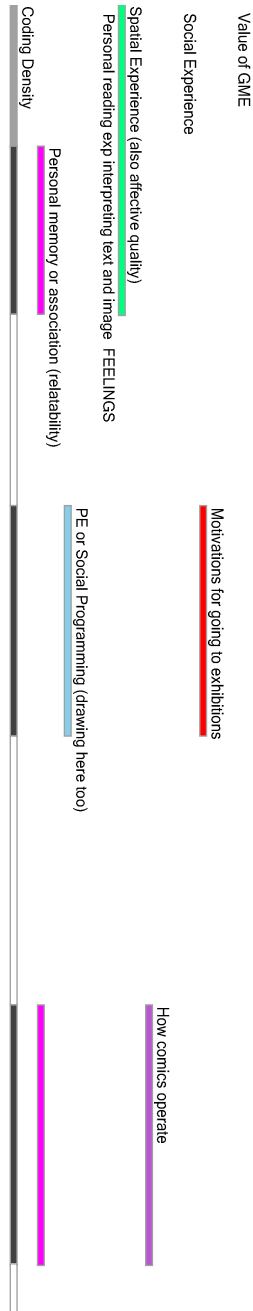
Alex: And is that stress relief because...

Ranti: Because I feel they do work quite a bit in that lab even though, cause I am not actually based here most of the time, I am based in Lansdowne, but I do have a desk here so when I do come here. Everyone does discuss things and talk a little but I get the feeling that of course when I am away they are hard working. Stuck down to their desks so.

Alex: What was your experience of the comics medium being used?

Ranti: My experience is I loved it. because the idea of story boarding like is really something that resonates with me because even what I am doing now in surgical simulation is which is the creation and undertaking one of the ways I really needed to understand and breakdown what they were doing was by story boarding the process. Storyboarding each of the steps and trying to assign requirements for each of those and its almost like my thing storyboarded as well. And at each stage, yeah, comments about those. I think...I love it. I absolutely love it. That's my experience of the comcics medium.

Alex: Did you know about Graphic Medicine before the exhibit?



Ranti: No I didn't. Not at all. I didn't realise that there was this entire field of graphic medicine, no. so that's, ah, yeah added to my knowledge.

Alex: So, I just have one last question and then I am going to open it up to your comments if my questions didn't get at but you would like to share, but overall what impression were you left with?

Ranti: Overall, I felt that, no, I was actually relieved that there are other people that, that feel what I feel, especially on the other side (gm wall) of the wall. That was a relief to me, cause then its not just me being [naughty? 13m02s]. its somebody else. I am not alone. I think. I think that's the overall impression.

Alex: And do you think, to follow up on that, that the exhibition or the comics themselves had any particular with helping you come to that conclusion or giving you that impression?

Ranti: um, anything in particular, I would say, I don't think it is any one thing I think all of them, especially when I look at the picture, look at the artwork first and decide myself what I think it is and then when I look at the description and when it does match the description that's when I feel like oh actually I have just understood what they've painted and they themselves have written it down confirmation. I think that is what really, yeah, I don't know, I guess that's what really made me feel that way, so I don't think there is anything else in particular.

Alex: was there anything else that you can think of that after we talked that came to mind when experiencing it or anything else you would like to say that was relevant?

Ranti: I would say there are some images I couldn't relate to, some artwork that I couldn't relate to, partially because maybe I didn't understand it, maybe, because I am a very literal person, I do, I do see something and, yeah, it is very literal, I can't interpret outside of what I don't see sometimes. So yes there was some artwork which I, perhaps if the artist explained it to me perhaps maybe I ll have that 'ah, ha' moment but on my own, unfortunately, I couldn't quite relate to it. I think apart from that then I have said everything.

[End]

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