

Final Reflection on my Summer 2023 Enrichment Experience at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago

By Yahri Edmond

I am delighted to present this final report detailing my enriching experience during the two-week oil painting class at the prestigious School of the Art Institute of Chicago. As a participant in the course, I had the opportunity to explore the world of oil painting under the guidance of the instructor. This journey, growth, and the wonderful moments I experienced during this artistic time changed my life.

The oil painting foundation course aimed to introduce participants to the fundamental techniques, principles, and styles of oil painting. The objectives included developing a solid understanding of color theory, composition, brushwork, and various application techniques. We learned how there was “No wrong way to paint” and how art was subjective. By the end of the course, participants were expected to complete a series of paintings that demonstrated their grasp of these essential concepts. Under the guidance of Woojin Shin, I was fortunate to learn from a seasoned professional who not only shared their expertise but also fostered an environment of creativity and exploration. The course structure emphasized hands-on learning, allowing me to experiment with various techniques firsthand. From layering to texture, I had the chance to apply what I learned immediately and witness the effects on canvas. Interacting with fellow participants was both inspiring and rewarding. Sharing ideas, and learning how to give proper criticism, giving and receiving constructive feedback,

and witnessing the diverse approaches to painting improved my own artistic journey. The School of the Art Institute of Chicago provided an inspiring and conducive studio environment. Surrounded by art supplies, fellow artists, and the vibrant energy of the city, I found myself truly immersed in the creative process.

Participating in this oil painting class was an immensely transformative experience. I witnessed significant growth in my technical skills, particularly in brushwork, color application, and texture. Moreover, I developed a deeper appreciation for the thought and intention behind each stroke, as well as the ability to communicate emotions and ideas through my artwork. Some of my most favorite moments were staying up late in the dormitory art studio with fellow art students. Then one night me, my roommate, and some of her girl-friends sat together and ate ice cream while I explained Afrofuturism and skin bleaching in Ghana. I also really liked having free access to the art museum whenever we wanted and the food trucks outside the main building. I loved walking to school each day and seeing all the diversity in people and cultures. I remember every other day after my class, this street band came out to play music, which I would stand and listen to for a while.

In conclusion, my two weeks at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago for the oil painting course were nothing short of enlightening. I am extremely grateful for the guidance of Woojin Shin, the support of my peers, the Garwin Family Foundation, and mostly my family. This experience has not only refined my technical skills but has also enriched my artistic perspective and instilled in me a deeper love

for the world of contemporary art. I look forward to applying the knowledge gained in this course to my future artistic endeavors, carrying the lessons and memories with me throughout my creative journey.