

DVCAI JOURNAL

2023



BRIHEDA HAYOCK

08/06/23

Drifting from my pond into a new ecosystem, I engaged in the conversation on struggles artists have when it comes to art activism has provided a comfort that I am not alone in my efforts of being misunderstood. I've gained the comfort and validation of my feelings when it comes to specific interactions and the corruption of the creative industry. For the first time, I feel seen and appreciated for the creative contribution I bring to the creative industry by the DVCAI community. This was the first time standing out did not feel like shame, the imposition of an attention seeker or crazy bitch was attached to it. I was seen as an artist working hard and getting where I wanted to go and being encouraged to pursue more endeavors and with tips From Rosa on how to handle the rejection with grace.



08/16/2023

In this present moment, I have so much gratitude for the DVCIA artists, they have made me feel so welcome and put in the effort to ensure that I am having a wonderful Miami experience or making the effort to reconnect again even if it is just for an hour. Thom and Carol-Ann are putting in overtime outside their responsibilities and I am not sure how to convey my gratitude. I appreciate everything they are doing, and because of them, I have a schedule to look forward to. I was given the expectation to be on my own and now I don't know what that means anymore.

My conversations with the artist have brought light to my narrative when I use the word support. While I may not have the support I am seeking, I have a much greater support system back home that I do not fully appreciate but only view as transactional. Another thing I am realizing is how detached I am when it comes to some of my accomplishments. I note them on an accomplishment list called my CV and just move on to another thing or continue to go about my day. I am starting to question what these accomplishments mean and what is their true value outside my ecosystem. I am not attached to anything so the recognition and the accomplishment outside Belize is hard to place what I qualify for outside of Belize.

Jenny made a blunt statement when we saw each other, she was like. You are being noticed and accomplishing things in the middle of 'nowhere' and echo the same phase everyone has been singing. You must be doing something right to get these recognitions. While at home I feel like I am failing, being here makes me see I've been making the right decisions. Being a loner and not having a very strong or consistent support system is hard to guess if I am on the right path or not. All I know is I must keep pushing and trying.

I also appreciate my new friend Irvin, who I met getting lost on the first day I tried doing something on my own. His unexpected presence helps balance out my social needs. Some days I don't want to be seen as Briheda Haylock the Belizean artist. I just want to be Bre, and our interaction does that, I am myself without the title, and that brings relief. I don't want to always be seen as an artist.





08/25/2

Being in Miami has been quite an adventure. I would never imagine that I would have a spiritual experience being here. I have visited a few museums catering to the contemporary art scene, but it was the European display that moved me to the Norton Museum. At that moment I had to stop to catch my breath. In that moment I had an unspoken spiritual awakening I would also classify as a paranormal experience. I have not rationalized what happened, but the moment changed me in a way, a weight was lifted off my shoulders. I no longer feel like I need to hold my breath anymore. I thought seeing names like Diane Arbus, Cindy Sherman, Picasso, Jean-Michelle Baptist, Barba Kruger, and Andy Warhol would be the creative enlightenment but I was not as moved. I am still reflecting on it due to my detected personality.

At MOCA the artist on display was Lonnie Holley. He really resonated with me. I was guided to put on the song I Do Not Want to Do This Anymore by PVRIS and really connected with the work. You felt the cry of the continued search for hope. The silent scream when you have had enough but continue to push forward. The desire to give up, but you don't. It's like we spoke the same language of hopeful torture.

At the Institute of Contemporary, the artist I kept going back to was Hudinilson Jr. He was daring to play with his sexuality. Looking at his work felt like edging. The risk he took for his time to be that bold with his images was admirable.

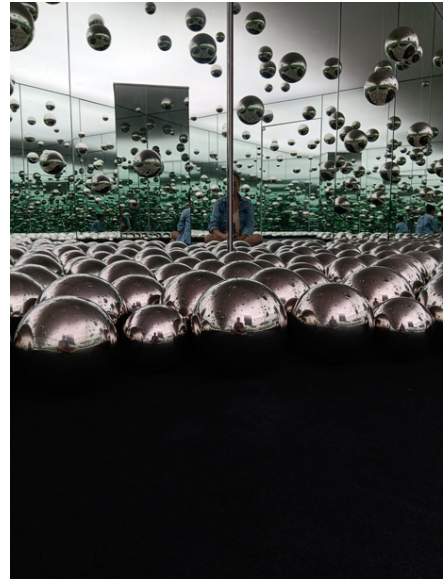
Yayoi Kusama

When I found out I could experience Kusama's work my first reaction was excitement and the second I questioned what I had done in this lifetime to have this blessing. I can relate to Kusama when it comes to the narrative of being misunderstood and the fight to be taken seriously as a female artist. You felt the humor, calmness, and purity of her creative intentions with the work. Being in her energy made me reflect on the conversation about balance now transforming into harmony between Shawna Moulton and I are having. Being in Kusama energy I felt harmony, I felt balanced and of course, my breath was taken away by this other dimension of creativity she created. But honestly, her work made my mind stop, for two minutes and my anxiety shut up and I could focus on being present, that was a new experience for my brain.

Miriam King

Her work left me speechless because I thought it to be genius. It was the first time I experienced how I use my creativity, but she did it in a theatric way. I enjoyed the layers of history about the oppression of the voice and the emancipation of it. I loved how she incorporated the audience to use their voice to heal the throat chakra and to liberate everyone in the audience.







27/08/2023

The wrap-up.

The DVCAI experience took me out of my niche and allowed me to explore the lingering questions. Am I on the right path when it comes to reshaping my career moves? The answer is yes. I am good enough? The answer is yes. The DVCAI community has offered an abundant amount of feedback to help me build a better foundation for myself as I embark on my new creative cycle. They have all contributed to a new dialogue I must have with myself when it comes to goal setting, and for that I am grateful.

The experience made me realize that creative struggle is the same no matter where you are. I reflected on my time in Indonesia and what I learned about their creative struggles, it is the same dialogue. As artists, we have the same growing pains of not having enough hours. The desire for an assistant but we cannot afford it. The struggle of balance and not being too hard on oneself. The reality one must face if one chooses to be a full-time artist. It is all a gamble in the name of passion. Our borders only separate us, but we are all unified by our passion to create, struggles, and desire to keep going in a world that barely sees us. No country is better than the other, but it is how we get creative and the initiative we take to put ourselves out there in our authentic right. How we choose to change the narrative for ourselves and embody the power within us to shine.

01/29/2023

I am back home. I took away or learned the phrase, "Take a chill pill". I don't feel guilty for not heading straight to my office/studio. I want to focus on keeping calm and trust that everything I do is on time. The experience DVCAI provided me was a self-evaluation sheet that made me realize that I am worthy of going after what I want. To see Antiona Wright look at my work be impressed by my performance, and respect me on her level was a life-changing moment. To reconnect and meet new artists to discuss my work and see their reactions gave me the validation I needed to stop questioning myself. I know what I am doing. I feel so much lighter. It is unreal. I no longer see myself as trying to do stuff. I know that I am doing it. I feel like a whole new person. This experience gave me healing I did not realize I needed.

