

# Unit 2

Major Project On Progress

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People

Cups

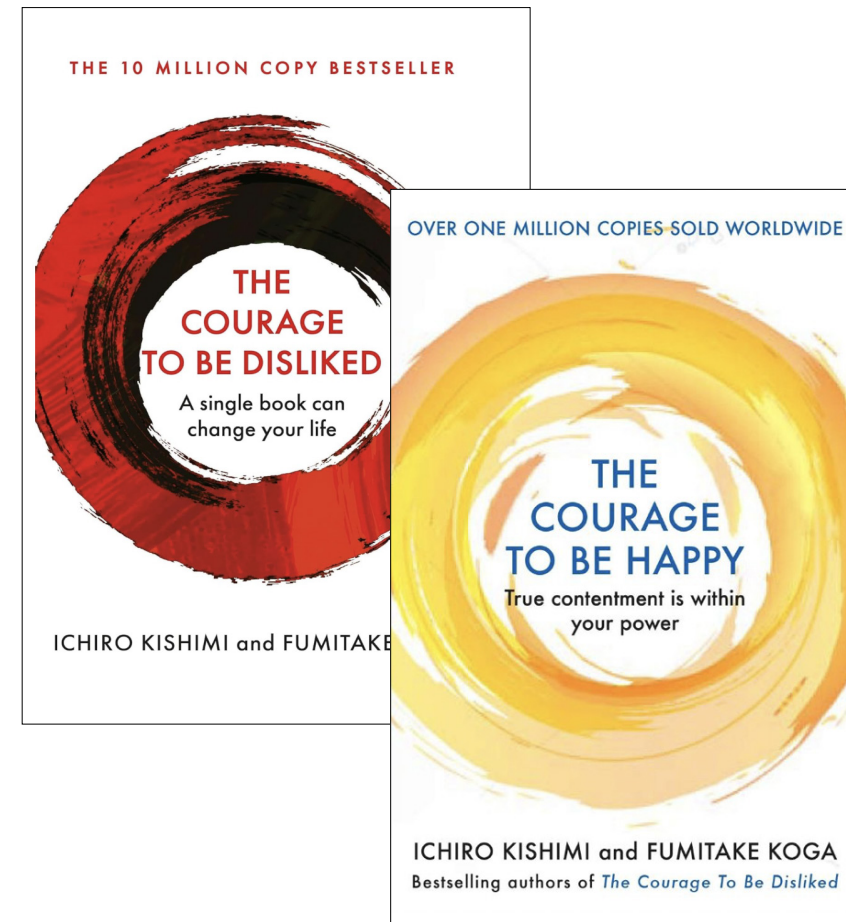
Connection

Privilege

Coffee Shop

Outcome

## Change the site



Initially, driven by my interest in human nature and my role as an educational activist, I decided to make a project focused on the inner world. I intended to assist individuals in understanding the relationship between the ego and others.

So, I chose a book called The Courage to be Dislike as a site, which talks about some common scenarios people may face in daily life and gives some solutions to them.

However, during my research, I found that I am more passionate about engaging with real people rather than dealing with abstract concepts.



In Ono Yoko's exhibition

## Researches

I did some sketches about strangers on the bus.



Real life sketches on the bus.

Simultaneously, I also researched social networks and discovered the concept of the "third place."

*Third places are where we socialize (e.g., cafes, churches, bars, beauty salons, and nightclubs).*

According to the research of Barcus and Brunn, one of the most effective ways in which people develop a strong attachment to a place is through the interaction they have with others in that place.

### Starting Point

Starting Point: **Human Connections in the Cafe**



Site: **Dalyston Eastern Curve Garden**



### Sketching

Using the concept of human interaction as a foundation, I created numerous sketches centered around the theme of coffee and the café environment. The individuals depicted are strangers, each engaged in their own daily activities.



## Sketching



## Positioning

Although I am present on site, I perceive myself as an outsider, observing and sketching people to study how they connect and relate to one another. In my imagination, there could be numerous types of relationships occurring, such as those among families, friends, couples, and classmates, as well as new connections, small talks, and stories developing between strangers. At this point, my aim is to depict the dynamic relationships between people and encourage the audience to reflect on their own interactions with strangers.

I formulated a keyword for the outcome.

*"Immerse"*

## AR Interaction



## Overlaid Projection

I printed my sketches of people and created a video for projection. When the viewers approach to view the sketches more closely, they must enter the projection area, thereby becoming part of this environment.

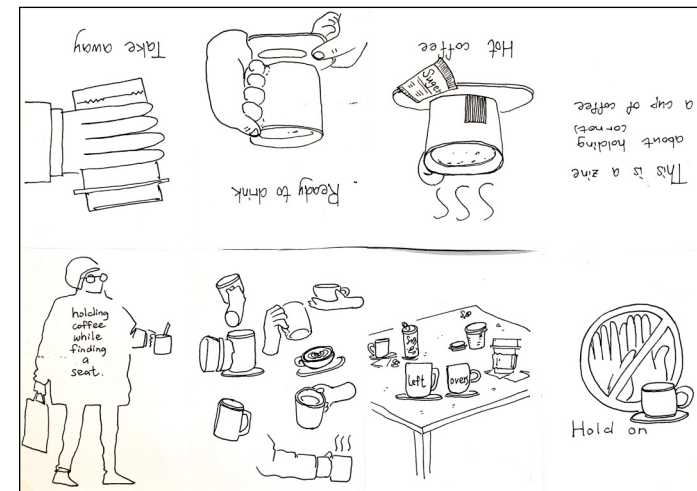
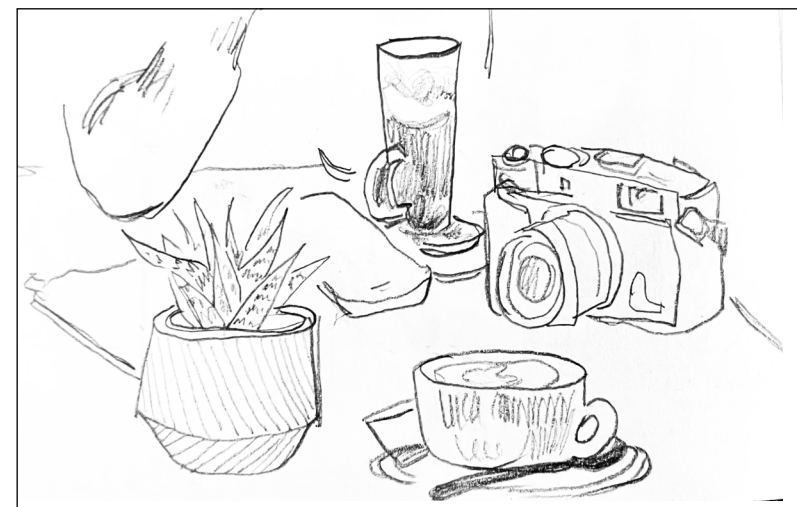
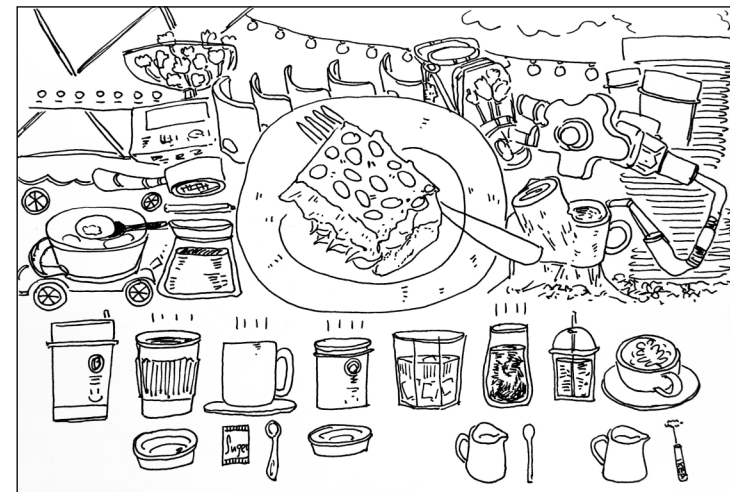


Afterwards, I was trying to form some stories or a more specific theme.

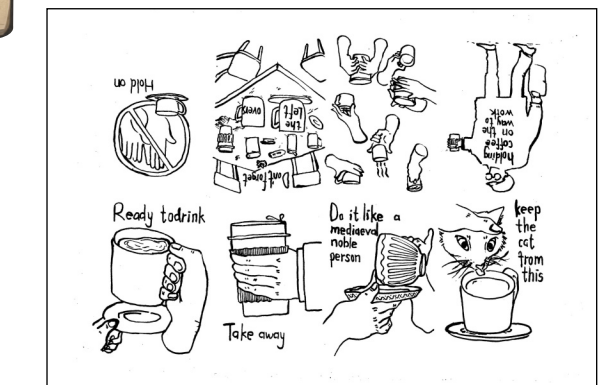
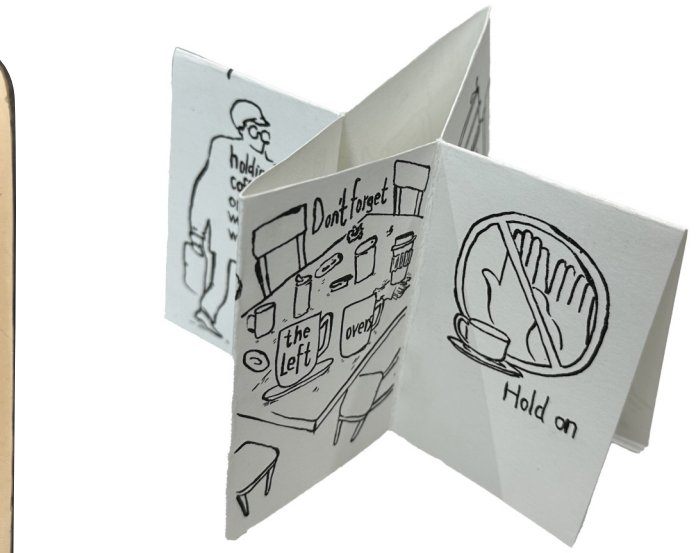
## Zines

I continued sketching and observing people in the scene. I noticed that different individuals have distinct ways of holding their cups, and the cups themselves vary. Some people order takeaways, while others drink coffee on-site while chatting with friends. So, I created a zine focusing on people holding coffee.

Additionally, I experimented with lithography to enrich the lines and add variation.



During the sketching and recording process, I turned my attention to what people were holding and their gestures. Some sketching notes were made. On the other hand, I made random combinations using objects within sight within the site.



After utilizing lithographs for the zine, I felt that the overall conveyance of the piece was not strong. Without explanation, it was difficult to understand the context.

## A Homeless Man

As the cafe was in Dalyston Eastern Curve garden, people could easily enter. That day, a homeless man begged people in the cafe, but no one responded. Later, a man sent him away.

Inspired by the tutorial, I began to think why people resort to begging: is it a matter of choice, or do they have no other option?

*Is every cup of coffee a privilege?*

Reflecting on the earlier discussion about gestures and holding cups, some people enjoy their coffee in a cosy café while chatting with friends, whereas others must order takeaway and rush to their workplace.

*Is time also a privilege?*



## “What does people do in weekdays”

I remember a series of interviews done in Shanghai called "What Did People Do on Weekdays". In one episode, the reporter asked people in a café about their weekday activities.



From what did people do in the weekdays?\_coffee shop by "HaoJiaoHaoFa"

Most young people were either self-employed or in a position of authority, despite the job loss and financial crisis at the time. It makes them look more like the privileged ones.

## Repositioning

At this point, I began to reconsider my position. Am I still an outsider, or have I, in some way, become an insider since I am sitting here and drinking a cup of coffee?

Through this project, I aim to uncover the privileges associated with the café experience. I want my audience to recognise the privileges we often take for granted, whether it's the time to chat with friends, the right to enter a café, or simply the act of drinking a cup of coffee.



## CONTENT: Explicit?

This then leads to another question: how can I express this story? Perhaps I could use doors or windows as metaphors to divide the space and highlight the differences. However, as I delve into this concept, it becomes apparent that identifying the differences between people with and without privilege might inadvertently cause harm to those without privilege. And that is not what I want to say.



I believe the gestures and figures I sketched could serve as a valuable database. I experimented with various compositions by collaging these figures and placing them within different contexts. Creating a large composition that depicts all the people in the same place and all the events happening simultaneously could be an option.

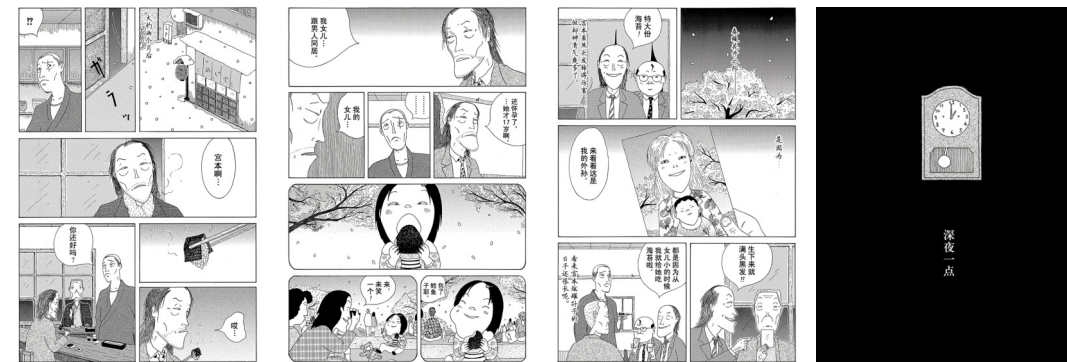


## Midnight Diner



From Midnight Diner (TV series).

In "Midnight Diner," the author crafts separate narratives within a distinctive — a diner exclusively open at midnight.



From Midnight Diner (Manga).

In the manga, the author employs a distinctive style and intricate panelling to vividly convey each story. Since the Midnight Diner operates exclusively during the night, it attracts a diverse array of characters and narratives. This setting allows for the portrayal of a myriad of stories involving a wide range of individuals.

## Coffee and cigarette

In "Coffee and Cigarettes," the director presents separate stories and narratives set in everyday life, focusing on moments when people drink coffee and smoke. These stories explore a range of topics, including addiction, family relationships, friendships, and life.

In this context, coffee and cigarettes serve as carriers or threads that connect various relationships and mundane events.



From Coffee and Cigarettes.

I greatly appreciate the film's editing, composition, and narrative style. Despite the brevity of each story, they manage to clearly articulate the intended content and concepts, imbuing the depicted relationships with a natural sense of life.



Following the approach taken in the film, having a central location to house all the stories would streamline the narrative and enhance connections with the audience. Ideally, I envision creating an imaginative coffee shop that serves as a repository for the stories and observations I've gathered around coffee. This approach would allow me to leverage the work I've already done and weave together a more comprehensive narrative.

**Then, I started to think about what could be held in an coffee shop.**

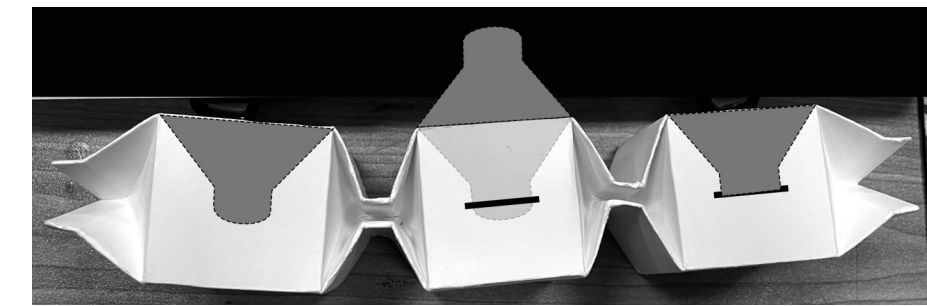
## Cups

I captured numerous stories and snippets of conversations I overheard. I then created ceramic works to represent the remnants of coffee, symbolizing the moments we often take for granted after enjoying ourselves. To preserve these moments, I illustrated figures on the cups and crafted narratives, aiming to remind people to live in the present.



## Coffee box

Boxes are suitable for the information on both sides which fix the idea of shifting positions. So I came up with a kind of box I read in a book before.

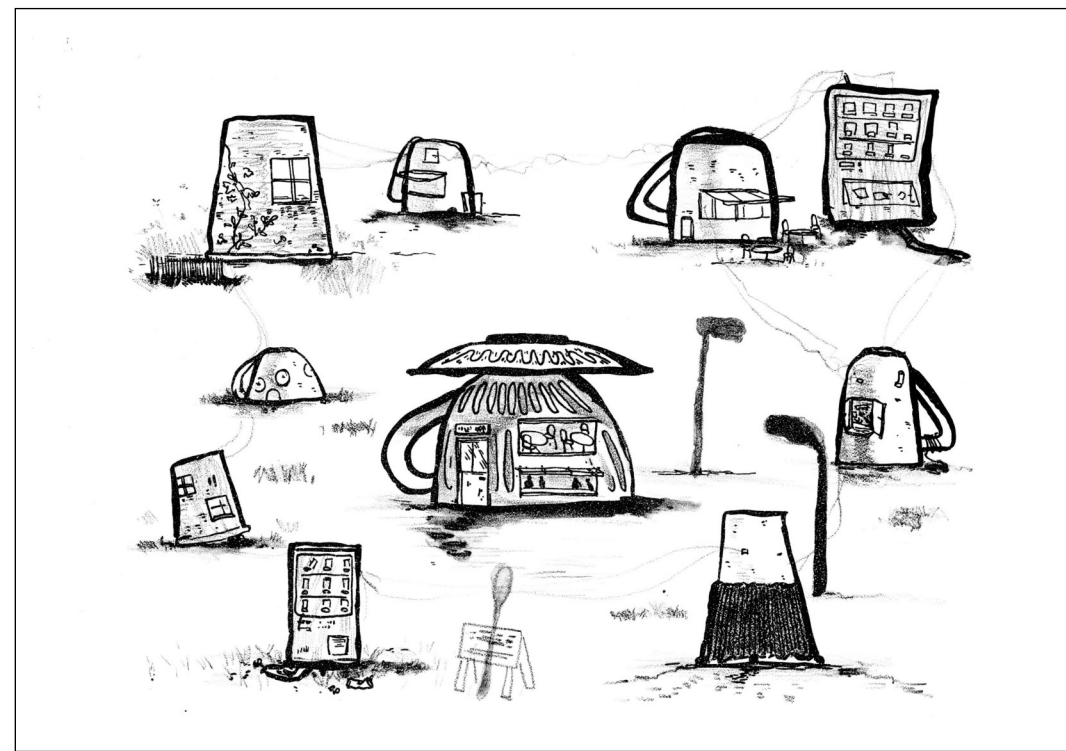
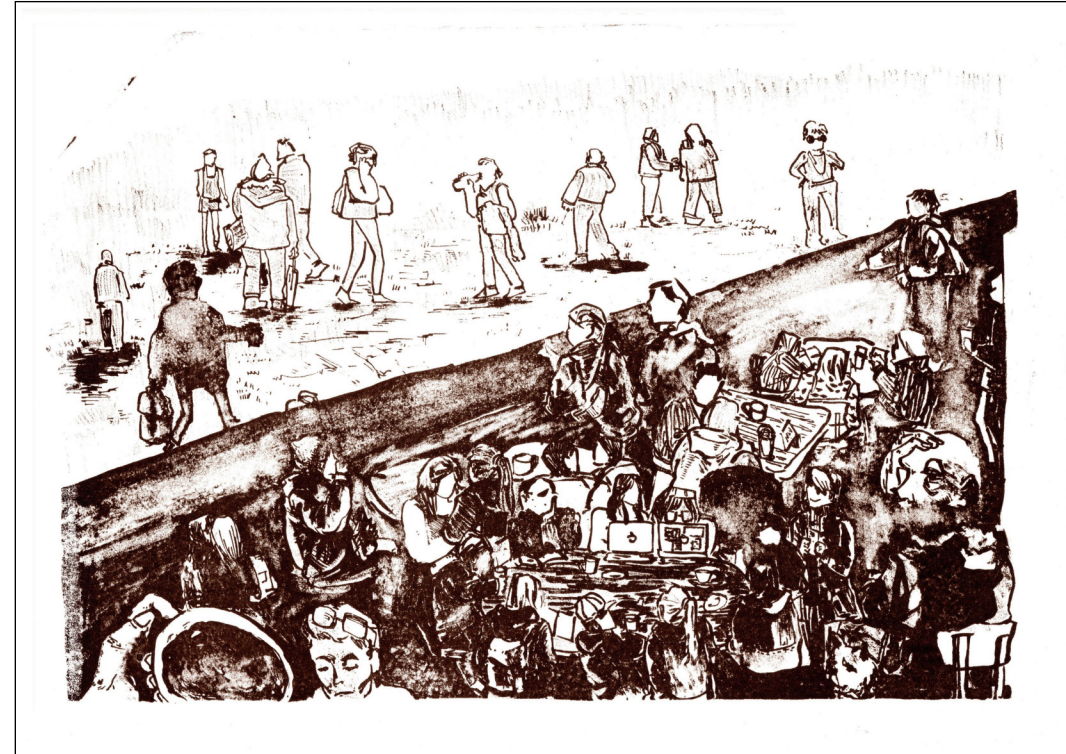


This box is made in one piece of paper but the special structure allows it to hold some sequence stories.



I conducted experiments with screen printing and thermochromic ink. This type of ink will be transparent when it hits 27 C. When holding it and playing with the box, the stories and some figures will gradually disappear. This mirrors the process by which people gradually take all their privileges for granted.

## Prints



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