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辍学追求艺术梦

李恬颖出国留学时对艺术产生热忱，于是决定辍学回国。她刚开始对自己的能力没信心，不敢直接转换科系，而是上网自修。她去年报读了拉萨尔艺术学院，主修时尚设计与面料荣誉学位。

出国留学让李恬颖大开眼界，也令她放弃商科主修，勇敢追逐艺术梦。

李恬颖（30岁，学生）原本对艺术没有太大兴趣，只记得中学时期学校曾安排学生到博物馆参观，休闲时也会与朋友画些漫画人物的素描等。但她A水准毕业后，到新西兰留学主修商科时，对艺术有了全新认识。

“那里有很多艺术馆，还有丰富的街头艺术和独立艺术等，我就像踏入了全新的世界。我当时会和志同道合的朋友到咖啡座画画或讨论一些艺术课题，还参加了一些网上艺术社群。”

接触越多，李恬颖对艺术的热忱就越浓烈，学士学位修读到一半时，她决定辍学，打包行李回家。她说：“我考虑了很久，但最终还是踏出了那一步。我当时对自己的能力没有什么信心，因此不敢直接转换科系，而是选择自修及上一些艺术相关的网上课程……父母当然有些失望，但还是尊重我的决定。”

渐渐的，李恬颖凭着努力成为了一名绘画家，并参与了多个数码项目。由于希望参与更多实体作品的创作，加上对服装设计产生了兴趣，她去年报读了拉萨尔艺术学院，主修时尚设计与面



（受访者提供）

料荣誉学位。

李恬颖的服装设计日前在一场以现代女性为题材的比赛中获奖，作品目前配合孙中山南洋纪念馆的“一袭华裳：现代女性与服饰变迁”特展，在馆中展出。

她说：“回头看这些年，最大的遗憾就是因为害怕，没有更早转换跑道，追逐艺术的理想。现在当然还是有些忐忑，担心自己做得不够好，但我对未来充满期待。”

Dropping out of school to pursue her artistic dreams

Studying abroad was an eye-opening experience for 30-year-old Lee Tianying. It eventually led to her giving up her business major and courageously pursuing her artistic dreams.

Tianying did not have much interest in the arts initially. She recalled how she would only visit museums if her school arranged it as a field trip and sketched cartoons with her friends only when she had leisure time. However, after completing her A-levels and venturing to New Zealand to further her studies in business, she developed a new understanding of the arts.

"There are many art galleries in New Zealand, as well as a wealth of street art and independent artists. It was a whole new world. I remember visiting cafés to paint or discussing art with like-minded friends in online communities," she shared.

Tianying's enthusiasm for the arts grew and it developed to a point where she eventually decided to drop out of business school, even though she was already halfway through her bachelor's degree, and head back to Singapore.

"Initially, I didn't have much confidence in my artistic abilities so I chose to study art by myself by taking online classes. This went on for a while and after thinking things through, I decided to take the plunge and switch my educational path. My parents were definitely disappointed at first but they still respected my decision," she said.

With sheer determination and hard work, Tianying became a painter and participated in multiple digital projects. Her desire to create more physical works and newfound interest in fashion design also led her to enrol into LASALLE College of the Arts' BA(Hons) Fashion Design and Textiles programme.

A recent creation of hers won first prize in a competition. The work, which is a fashion illustration of a modern women, is currently on display at the Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall as part of their exhibition *Modern Women of the Republic: Fashion and Change in China and Singapore*.

"Looking back, my biggest regret was not pursuing my artistic dreams sooner due to fear. Of course, I still worry about doing well but I'm also full of expectations for the future," Tianying shared.