Kaunas

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The trip to Kaunas, the second largest city in Lithuania, was made possible for us through the Erasmus+ project in partnership with the School of Applied Arts and Design. After the announcement of the competition results, we eagerly awaited the day when we would embark on an unforgettable adventure. Our journey began at Franjo Tuđman Airport in Zagreb, where we boarded the first flight and, after a layover in Warsaw, arrived in Vilnius. After a short bus ride, we reached our destination where we spent the next two weeks. We had dinner at the canteen of the guesthouse called Domus Pacis upon our arrival and then proceeded to our rooms.

Sunday

The first day after arrival was free for us to explore the city and engage in various activities of our choice. I shared a room with two colleagues from school, and after waking up, we went to the kitchen for breakfast and planned our day. The weather outside was slightly colder than what we were accustomed to, but that didn't stop us from thoroughly exploring the city.

Monday

On our first working day, after a quick breakfast in the kitchen, we headed to the hall where we met our mentors, Peeter Krosmann and Mindaugas Juodis. After a brief conversation, we were divided into two groups to facilitate organization, and we were given our first task. We started with exercises to relax our hands and minds, abstract drawing of a given theme on white paper with ink. After the exercise, we had to draw our favorite monster from a movie or from our imagination. Throughout our work, we discussed our creations with the mentor. After a successful first day, we had dinner and decided to go out in the city before returning to our rooms to rest for the next day.

Tuesday

After the morning lecture by Peeter Krosmann, we went to his studio, where he presented his works and briefly explained the sale and exhibition of artworks. After visiting our mentor's workspace, we went to the M.K. Čiurlionis Museum, where we saw fascinating works by an exceptionally interesting artist. We had free time after visiting the museum, so we decided to take another walk in the city and later socialize in our rooms.

Wednesday

Our day started with work. We were given a new theme for which we had to create a psychological portrait or a self-portrait using a technique of our choice. The second task of the day was to create a model from sponge boards on a free topic. After some time, we visited a young artist from Kaunas who guided us through his workspace, explaining the process of hiring artists for specific projects and executing them. After returning from the visit, we went to lunch and continued working on our projects. Then we decided to visit the city again, where we indulged in donuts at a nearby pastry shop.

Thursday

Due to the clear weather that surprised us from the beginning of the day, we were assigned the task of photographing details around the city that we could later use as inspiration for our future works. I found the task interesting because we could use our photos to create compositions that didn't necessarily include the original subject of the photograph. We had lunch and then headed to the primary art school, where the school principal greeted us and gave us a tour of almost all the classrooms and facilities where students work with clay, screen printing, painting techniques, etc.

Friday

We started the morning with a lecture by Remigijus Venckus, who thoroughly explained modern photography to us. After the presentation, we had lunch and then continued working on our projects, where we had complete freedom of creativity. The rest of the day passed quickly due to fatigue.

Saturday

We had a planned trip for a visit to the capital of Lithuania, Vilnius, for the day. On the way, we learned various interesting facts about the country we were visiting. First, we visited the national gallery, which gave us a better insight into the development of Lithuania as an independent country after years of occupation. Then we headed towards Trakai, where we tasted the specialties of the region we visited. We returned to Kaunas, and later had some socializing.

Sunday

Another free day was well welcomed for a rest from the busy week. After a slightly longer sleep, we decided to take a walk around the city and visit various shops. After returning from the outing, we were moved to another room. Dinner followed, and finally, a peaceful sleep.

Monday

We started the second workweek with another lecture led by Rimanntas Plunge, who talked about art in new media. After the presentation and lunch, we stayed in the hall to work on our creations.

Tuesday

The first part of the day quickly passed with work, and after lunch, we headed to Mindaugas Juodis' studio, who made every effort to create the atmosphere of his work, from relaxing music to scented sticks burning in the room.

Wednesday

After the morning routine and lunch, we made our way to the Pažaislis Monastery. We explored the exterior and interior architecture and read about various interesting facts. Before returning, we stopped for coffee at a nearby café with a view of the lake. We ended the day with another social gathering in the room.

Thursday

On the last day before the final exhibition, we used the time to finish our work. Since there were many students from the sculpture department in the group, mentor Mindaugas decided to take us to the studio of an excellent sculptor located nearby. After visiting the private exhibition, we were free from other activities, so we continued with another walk, making a few stops at small shops.

Friday

The long-awaited day of our exhibition finally arrived. We started with cleaning the space and planning the exhibition. I believe that the experience of organizing an exhibition was very beneficial if we plan to exhibit our own works in our artistic careers later on. The exhibition of the works we had been working on for almost two weeks was successfully done, and after the exhibition, the concert at the Lemmy Club was one of the better experiences of the trip.

Saturday

The last day in Kaunas was also a free day for us. Another last walk around the city, a tasty sushi meal, and of course, a visit to souvenir shops were just some of the things we decided to do to fill our last day. After dinner, we had a final gathering with the team.

Sunday

The day of departure always starts with an early wake-up and final preparations for the journey. We had breakfast and headed to the bus that took us to Vilnius Airport. The last two flights passed faster than expected, and soon we found ourselves back home in Zagreb.