

Synthesis

My background research affected my experience in the field. While it gave me context for the history of art in America, it was different from what I saw in the field. In my background research, it preached how art is simple, clean, and natural. In the field, I saw how there is so much different types of art, that it can look however the creator wants it to, and that most people have their own philosophies, even though some part of their philosophy may be similar to the one I heard about. I learned some of how a little bit of the style can derive from nature and people. I realized that different places are all really contrasting and that can inspire people in varying ways. I noticed a lot how, though some of the people we met were traditionally craftsmen, they all shared the idea that they are makers and they make something that could be art, which was similar to what I learned in my background knowledge; that if someone makes something aesthetically pleasing and usable, they are an artisan or craftsmen.

After having talked to craftsmen and artisans and experiencing their art and the island and the way the two interact, I have a new understanding. I realize that the island and people greatly affect each other. I can now see how a certain place and the people in it can affect a craftsmen and their work differently. Whether the craftsman is taking commissions and their client has to help them, or they learn from other craftsmen and artisans, or someone/someplace's spirit, people can often inspire them. Sometimes it's nature that affects their work. It can be that they enjoy the place and it makes them happy, which is reflected in their work or that they take inspiration directly from the area and base their work off of something or add something from nature into their work. Anything can be inspiration if you try hard enough. It can be in nature, something man made, someone else's work, a person, history, fantasy, or anything really. Artisans and craftsmen can

sometimes have the same source of inspiration. Like a certain part of nature or history. Their work always differs in some way because every artisan and craftsman have their own style.

Since I talked to so many artisans and craftsmen and saw their work and how they did it, I learned something that can apply to me. I realized that not everything creative is traditional art, like painting or drawing or sculpture. I always like to be creative and this showed me that a lot of different crafts and other things that aren't what we think of when we hear "art" can be an outlet for creativity. I saw that you can really take inspiration from anything. Before, it seemed like some of the only real sources for inspiration were nature, people, and a couple of other things; and that when you took inspiration from something, it meant you just drew it like it looked, whether it was abstract or not. Now I am able to see that you can use your inspiration in many different ways. It can be the color, the shape, the texture, the idea, the atmosphere, feel or character of it. You can even combine many different sources of inspiration, including your own imagination. Anyone can do art or crafts, you just have to find the way that you like doing it.