I know what I like

Lovely mug Ugly mug

This is the one- my preferred mug in house

It was a present - obviously because i'm in uni accommodation everyone's kind of got their own mugs and brings them each year. And we haven't been here that long. So you know it's not like i'm used to all of them. But this is actually mine, it was a birthday present. Not this year, maybe the year before It's because one of my old housemates had one a different color and I just I quite like the fact that it's a block colour - its all one thing. My two most used mugs (were presents) which is maybe why I'm a bit more.wary, or like careful with them.

It's a cappuccino mug -so it's a bit wider and shorter than you know, like a normal mug. It just fits nicely in my hand. It's quite nice to hold as well, because (it's) wider.

I think, also - in a practical sense, because i'm usually rushing around for uni and stuff , when I have a cup of tea in the morning I don't always have a lot of time for it to cool down for ages, but because this is quite wide - my drink cools down a bit faster, so it kind of accommodates for me always being in a rush, which is quite nice .

I do quite like it it's a nice shade of grey like it's not to sort of dark and sort of depressing .

I'm not a huge fan of white mugs for like tea and stuff because they always seem to get stained after awhile, especially in the houses (when) no one really clean things up properly half of the time. I don't know i'm just just sort of drawn to it. It's just my favourite I guess

In previous years - everyone just put their stuff in the cupboard and everyone just used whatever. But the house that I'm in now i've been living with a few of them for.. a couple of years. So everyone kind of knows - who has their preferred mugs. I can easily distinguish what is mine amongs others peoples stuff.

Also because one of my housemates last year was very clumsy. He would just end up smashing loads of people' things and now I think going on from that - if you've got your mug it kind of stays in your room.

If I went into the cupboard I wouldn't grab someone else's favourite because I know that they might want to use it at some point.

I quite like block colours

I've been buying a lot of Le Creuset mugs from TKMax because they are always on sale. Bright distinctive colours that are all one shade, I quite like. I think I only have maybe five mugs that are actually mine. Two of them are little espresso mugs like this.

I'm slowly accumulating my own house items - like mugs and kitchenware and stuff, it's kind of allowed me to ... build up my own personal sort of preferences, as opposed to just the mugs that were always at home. All my mugs are block colours - I'm not sure why. It just sort of appeals to me a bit more. I am quite an ordered person, so when things are sort of - they look different, but they're also sort of uniform if that makes sense? As opposed to like a mug that's got like a picture on it. Completely different mugs is not what I would like to have in my house when I am older.

It just makes cooking and stuff a whole lot more enjoyable. There's definitely an aesthetic I've been leaning towards: block colours, big block colours. I don't know why, I just think it looks visually appealing. (There is) a nice sense of ownership. It's nice to - finally after -19/20 years of living at home to sort of have my own stuff and be able to choose it. That's what I sort of really like about this. It is sort of accumulating slowly.

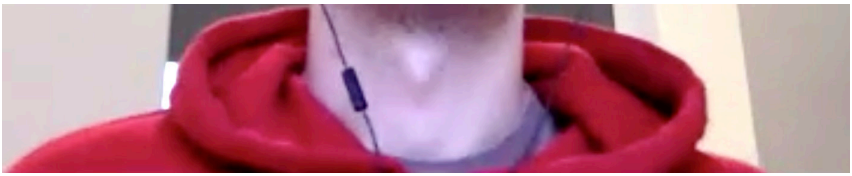
YouTube Pre

Is there one you really dont like?

Basically this one was free, it got given out at a fair at uni. It's like a camping mug so it's not actually ceramic - its made out of metal. It's just quite small. I think purely practically I don't really like having a metal cup because it can get quite hot and it's not very nice. It is also chipping.

It doesn't look very nice, I don't really like the feel of of it .I would never really drink a hot drink out of this. It would be If I was cooking and I needed to make like a sauce in a cup, or something.

I just don't like this one. Just because of the way it feels really. But I guess it's just one of those things that was free (so) why would I throw it away? Because I' m only sort of starting to accumulate stuff at this point I don't have enough to start throwing things away just because I don't like them. I haven't really got like excessive amounts of money as a student to just buy entire sets of things. I'mm just not really a fan of that one. All the mugs at my dad's house- have got sort of random images on He's obviously just picked them up., along the years. I don't really like any of them like- there's one with anatomy, (and)- pictures and stuff like that. I guess it's the complete polar opposite of what I like- because - it doesn't ever really look like they're all there in unison, if that makes sense.



I definitely do think that i'm quite a particular sort of person

I quite like things to be ordered and neat, so I think having block colors in particulars is easier for things to look uniform.

It definitely ties a lot into a sort ofway of thinking, and my mood. When I was younger I usually only wore darker clothes like greys and blacks or dark blues. But my girlfriend X she is very colourful with everything that she wears, and we've been going on for two years now. So I've definitely been influenced by that. Again, slowly accumulating more and more colourful things. She actually said that (when we started going I was still very much wearing quite dark clothes) her mum said she thought it was because - it was like almost, I didn't want to be noticed, if that makes sense?

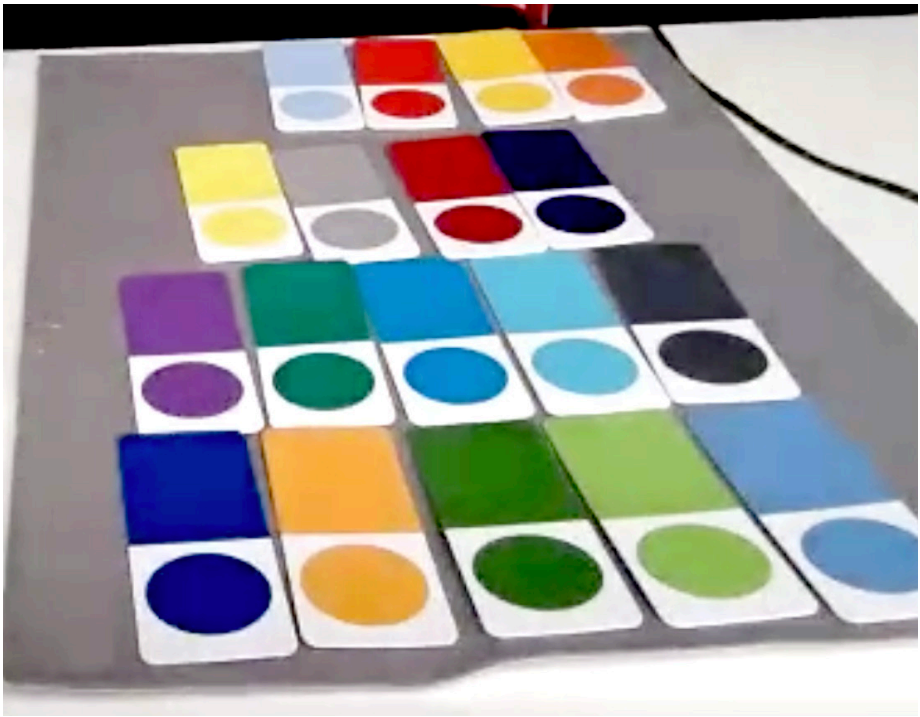
And now it's sort of like you know - not like I want people to see me, it's just that i'm not trying to hide away as I was when I was like a teenager. (With) bright colours again, it's kind of more easy to form an identity- as opposed to just black and grey. I think that coming out of that sort of angsty teenager type phase that's definitely changed, I think.

Sometime, I'll sort of catch myself wearing things - if I go out - literally nothing that I'm wearing is is black or grey, and that still feels quite like a new sort of idea, and it still feels a bit weird. Recently - I bought a new bag- my old rucksack was just a black one. It feels weird but it's also quite nice to sort of have a bit of differentiation between, like you were saying, it's the sort of growth for like is as a person it's definitely influenced my sort of style I guess.

I've definitely have got a lot more confident and outgoing in the past few year. When I was younger I was just very quiet and sort of angsty I feel like as time as gone on, it's definitely changed. I feel like a bright colours make people more sort of approachable as well it's sort of more inviting and friendly, in a sense.

My old housemate used to joke joke that if I was in a bad mood, I would just come in wearing all black. It wasn't a conscious thing, it was a completely subconscious act. Until he pointed out, I had no idea that I did it, but it's definitely true. The whole idea of being noticed, I think of being more approachable.. if you're not in the mood to talk to someone you know, you don't want people to be noticing you if you dont feel like interacting someone that day.

Colour

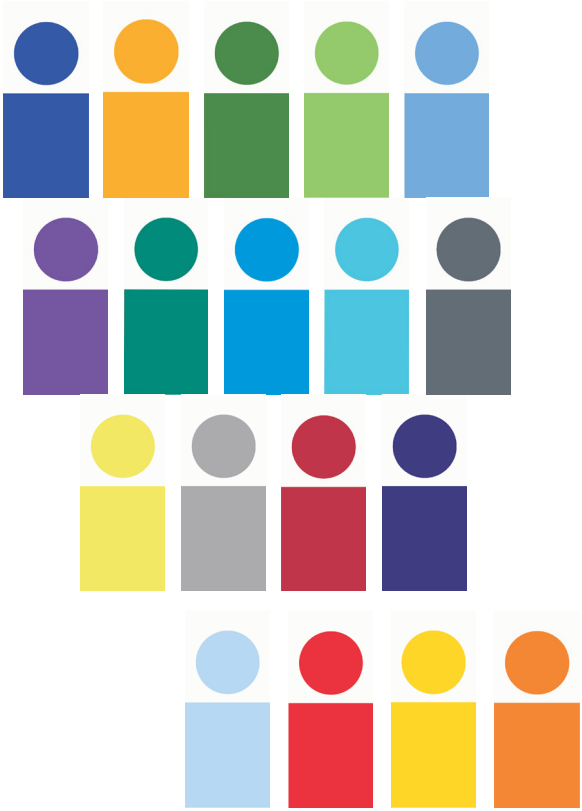


These are the colours that I did like

There was a lot more that I did like I than I didn't like.. But generally they were a lot of brighter. A lot more yeah - exciting is not really the right word - but - sort of wamer, generally happier. What I associate with in nature, as generally a bit more nice. Also, I guess, in England, it's a bit of a rarity to - see a sky that is this blue which is quite nice in that sense, as well. (The natural environment is) definitely a big part - I did zoology for my undergrad degree so I've always been interested in the natural world. I guess a lot of these more bright tones as well, probably, I would associate with - animals, I would find interesting. as well.

Actually in one of my essays I spoke about - preferences. Why people prefer a particular species over others for conservation and stuff. There's - these lists of sort of charismatic traits. I guess bright colours - - I think it might be ecological charisma, but it's basically how easily you can spot something in its natural environment.

I think it's green - we have the most amount of receptors in our eyes, so we can detect the most shades of green out of any colour. - I think that was because we were evolving in forest regions. So it's quite hard to tell depth in green environments, unless you have that acute sort of sense for the different shades of green.

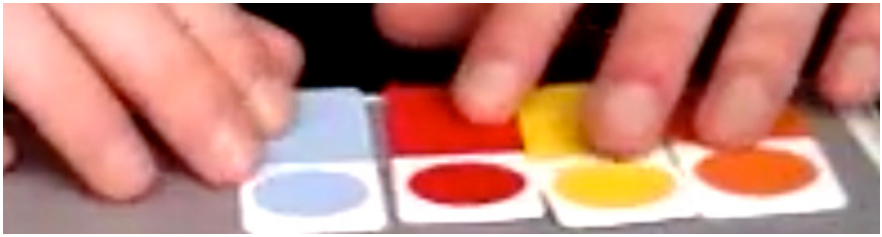


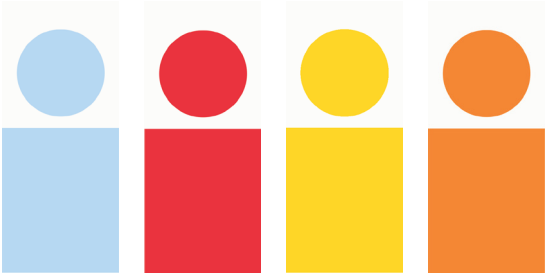
Charisma

There's three types of charisma that - people are naturally drawn to: - corporeal , ecological, (aesthetic) - My whole essay was based on why people have natural tendencies to be drawn towards particular species over others. But that sort of rings true in every aspect. So there's more scientific research and there's more funding for all of these species which people can relate to more or have more charisma. So things that typically look mammalian or can express emotions or are easily spotted: larger bright coloured things like elephants or tigers.

There' also a psychological paper that linked it to animals that have hands and eyes, because it's just easier to relate to, and have an emotional connection to species that have those traits as opposed to like a fish that doesn't really have any facial muscles or something like that,

I guess, a lot of species, brightly coloured species, are definitely just more interesting and eye catching like tree frogs or butterflies. The bright tones I think are --- I think a lot of it - does actually relate back to the natural world (and) --- a sort of almost biology of how easily we can spot things in the in the world . I guess all the bright colous - are really kind of linked to some of the more dangerous or hazardous venomous creatures.





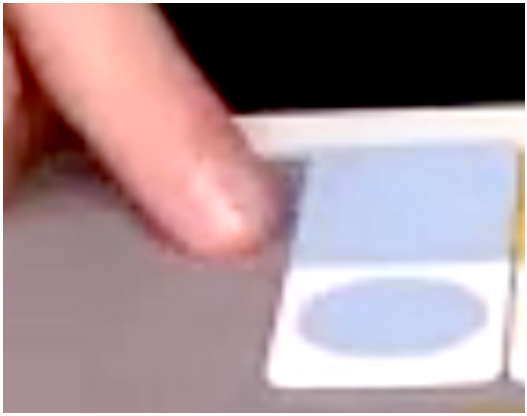
My favourite ones

Probably these top four - big, bright, bold. Because I read in the (lovely mug - ugly mug) booklet about my preferences... These four were definitely the ones that I sort of found favor with - So it's the sky blue and then yellow, red and orange.

Again they're all quite sort of natural tones. It's like a nice sky blue and then almost like a sunset or a fire. All bright warm tones and sort of engender feelings of sort of warmth and sort of more positive emotions, as opposed to sort of darker...

These are the four that I prefer the most - they're the sort of brightest tones. So they're kind of - the primary sort of versions of each of their colours. It's not so washed out or anything like that. But I probably wouldn't wear them, apart from maybe the red, just because they are *very bright*, and *very bold.*

But I guess probably something different for home decor maybe? In general, probably the toned down versions are easier to pair with things and they're less in your face.. But yeah, I think as aesthetically, the colours themselves, - the brighter versions, I do prefer.



This blue: me and my Mum both typically like this blue. I remember when I was a kid she always used to talk about her dream cars was like a duck egg blue. LIke a Mini Cooper or something like that,

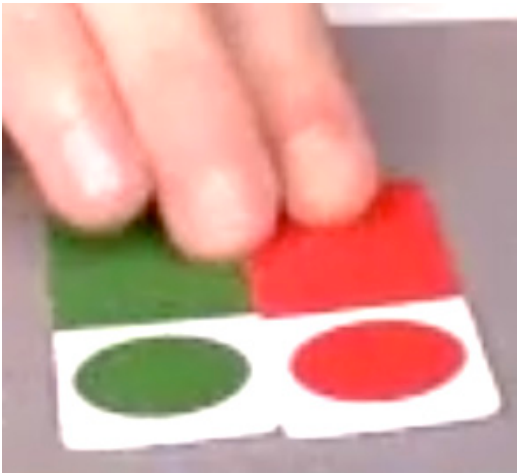
I have a few sort of light blue (mugs) There's a grey mug yes, - like this. I guess that's kind of almost the same as that blue.

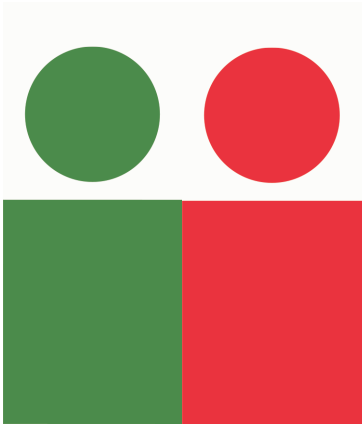
Are there any particular combinations you like?

Blue and yellow definitely. It's quite difficult to say because when I think about it - .it's very rarely that you have - this much colour. So I guess in more natural environments usually you have like a black or white or tones of grey or different textures,. But I guess when it's just the colours, it's a bit more difficult to say.

These two colours I would definitely associate with my house when I was growing up. I think there might have even - a wall in our house somewhere. I can't remember whether it was in my room, or in the kitchen, that was painted yellow. I think my room might have been painted yellow at some point. - I can't remember exactly because this was when I was like - under 10.

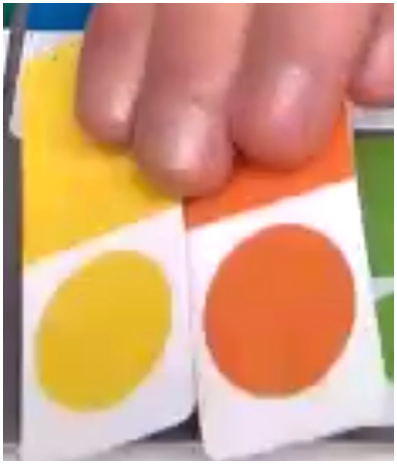
I definitely have a vague connection - I can't remember specifics but there is definitely something from how our house was decorated.

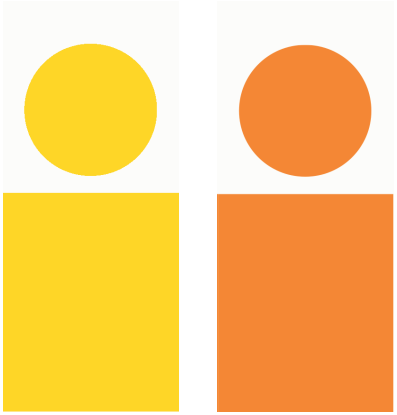




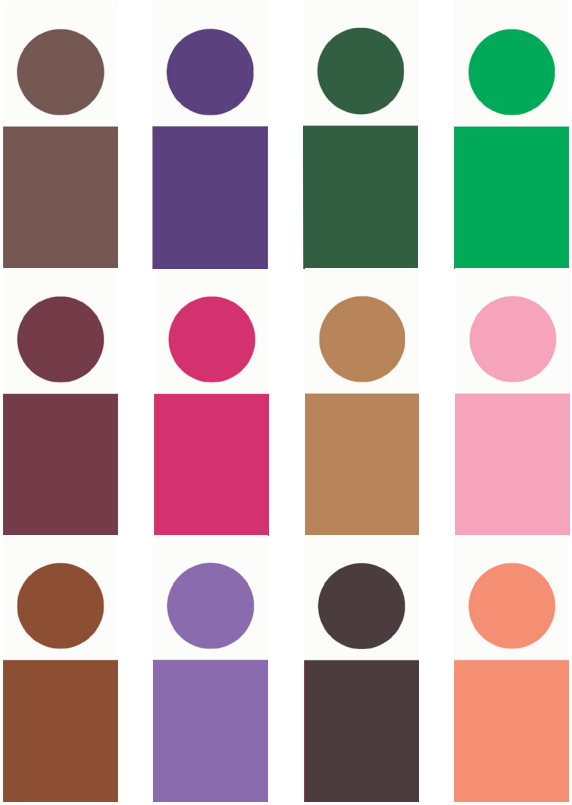
The green and the red

Very christmasy. Reminds me of a christmas tree or almost like a traffic light. Maybe I wouldn't wear it, but I think you know if there's stuff around the house these colours. I mean it's bringing it back to sort of nature, but it does just look like berries on a tree. . You can see that combination everywhere - in nature.





Even just these two, because they go naturally together, are nice.



These ones are my - dislikes

But looking at the sets as a whole, this set was generally sort of darker-tones. - It's all sort of browns and like dark purples.

These are more earthy tones which are I guess it a bit more like mud , as opposed to a bright sky.

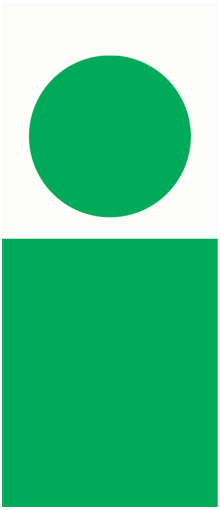
These three

I wasn't sure why, but I'm just really, really not a big fan of these colours. They're obviously a bit brighter. I was trying to think of reasons to why I didn't like them,

But I'm just not really a fan of this sort of 'salmony' tone ? I guess it's probably just because of my -skin tone - I would never wear clothes (that colour) because it's like - not too dissimilar?

And the pink - I guess probably social conditioning because I'm a boy. So I never liked pink things as a kid or whatever. Again, I'm just not a huge fan of pink.

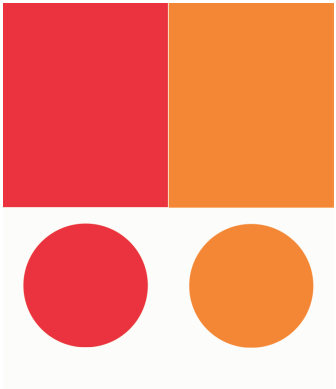
The green. I don't know. I can't really think of why I don't like it. - It was something about this tone, in particular, because - on the pile that I did like, I sort of liked the sort of forest green and the light green. But the one that's a sort of standard bright green, I just - wasn't a big fan of it. Again, I can't really think of a reason why, or if there was a memory associated to it?



It kind of reminds me of in primary school, we always used to get these sort of stickers on like an essay or a piece of work that we did well. It kind of reminds me of that. I guess it's probably because it was associated with - schoolwork? So I wouldn't wear something that particularly reminded me of my primary school.

Actually my primary school uniform was this shade of green. I did just - remember- It completely slipped my mind. But yeah it was this shade of green as well, which might potentially be why I don't really fancy it too much. I guess school uniforms, in particular sort of strip you of your sense of individuality. So - even if it's like a bright green colour like this, it's still very restrictive and it's not really expressing yourself if everyone else around is wearing it.

My secondary school uniform - was a black jumper and just the white polo shirt so that was quite neutral really. Primary school and junior school was this the shade of green - jumpers.



My snake colours

Just looking at these colours now - these tones, in particular the reds and oranges, I used to have a pet snake, that was red and orange like these tones so - that's probably why I like them. Or maybe it's the other way around, maybe I chose this snake because I liked the colours ?

It was a corn snake. So it's like a sort of non-venomous one. It's kind of like one of the most common snakes (that is) not venomous or huge - like pythons or something. So they're relatively low maintenance. I had her from, I must have been about 8 until I was about 21. I had her for a long long time.

My Mum and my Dad - neither of them ever lived in a house, so I couldn't have - a pet dog or something like that. She lived at my Dad's. My Mum is terrified of snakes: she hates them.

Interesting pets. I always get very mixed reactions when I tell people I had a pet snake.

It was interesting how - these things do just come to mind slowly, as you sort of speak them out loud. I wouldn't have remembered some of this stuff until I spoke

Personal Space

Do you have a favourite space or place in your home?

It would have to just be my bedroom, to be honest. Purely because it's shared living. - I think we spoke about this in the first session but, like similarly with the mugs, it's like something I can identify with myself as opposed to everyone else in the house. Like it's not a shared space. It's mine and it's mine only.

So yeah, it would have to be my bedroom. You know, it's the one thing that I have sort of total control over - I can put it how I want, and I can keep it tidy how I want, and I don't have to worry about other people's mess or, you know stuff like that.

.. especially in like a student household it's just easier to regulate,you know. It's the only place that you can really get away from other people. Because you know, you're surrounded by people at uni all day. You go out, or if you cook in the living room or... there is always people. I'm more of an introvert so - I kind of need my own space.

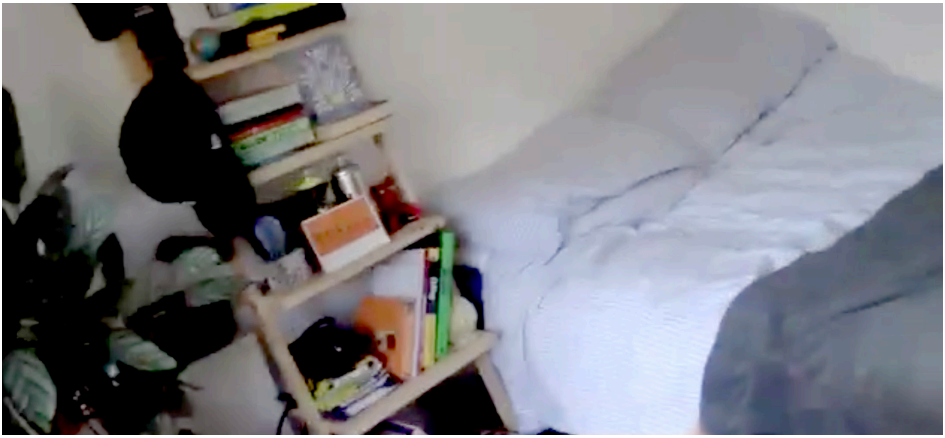
There's those days when - I just want to relax and just not have to talk to anyone. And so I think my room is definitely a good form of escapism from you know, being surrounded by people a lot of the time. But yeah it's just my own personal sort of area to do with as I please, which is quite nice.

It's just my own personal sort of area to do with as I please, which is quite nice. I do like blackout blinds in a bedroom but I wouldnt have them in any other room in the house. I quite like venetian blinds because you can sort of adjust the light quite nicely.

I think my room's probably one of the nicer ones in the house. It's much bigger than the rest of them. I think I just got kind of lucky, to be honest. It is on the ground floor though, which I'm not - (and it's at the very front of the house) so - the windows that I'm sat in front of are like sort of three windows. You would imagine, it probably would have been the living room at some point but it's just been converted into – a bedroom. - I mean it's not really my choice, but yeah I would have preferred to have been in a different part of the house -

When you're on the ground floor, .. if you have the curtains open, people (are) just walking past and looking in your windows. It's not so bad here because I've got a bush in front of the sort of front garden. That used to really bother me when I lived in the (other) flat because ... a sense of privacy is just completely diminished. There was no sort of like - just leave me alone kind of – there was no possibility for that.

So one of my curtains here because it's the only one that - faces the road area - so it's just always shut- it's that one (blind on the left).



It's not too bad. I don't have too much to complain about with this room really. It's just a bit noisy. It's in a student area - I think my neighbours - their living room is parallel with my bedroom wall and they're just the most irritating bunch of boys ever. They're always singing Karaoke like at four in the morning . But I think that just kind of comes with where we live, to be honest. It's a student area (so you) kind of have to expect it to some degree.

- For the first sort of five months we were in this house, my shelves were up against my bed. And it was really annoying but – and they were drilled into the wall and because the gas meter was there - there was nowhere else to put them. But now they have taken the gas meter out my room and they put the shelves there instead. But again they are drilled into the wall, so in terms of the arrangement, I don't really have that much choice. . So I can't really change stuff around.

I bought these shelves here - at the beginning of the year

And this is an old table of mine from when I was a kid.
That was just because you know, I had the table and I didn't have anywhere to put my books, so I bought the shelves. But other than that everything is supplied.

So yeah, I think in terms of the arrangement and stuff like that it's more about how I decorated the room, or like the things, the small sort of additions that I've kind of been able to make it my own.

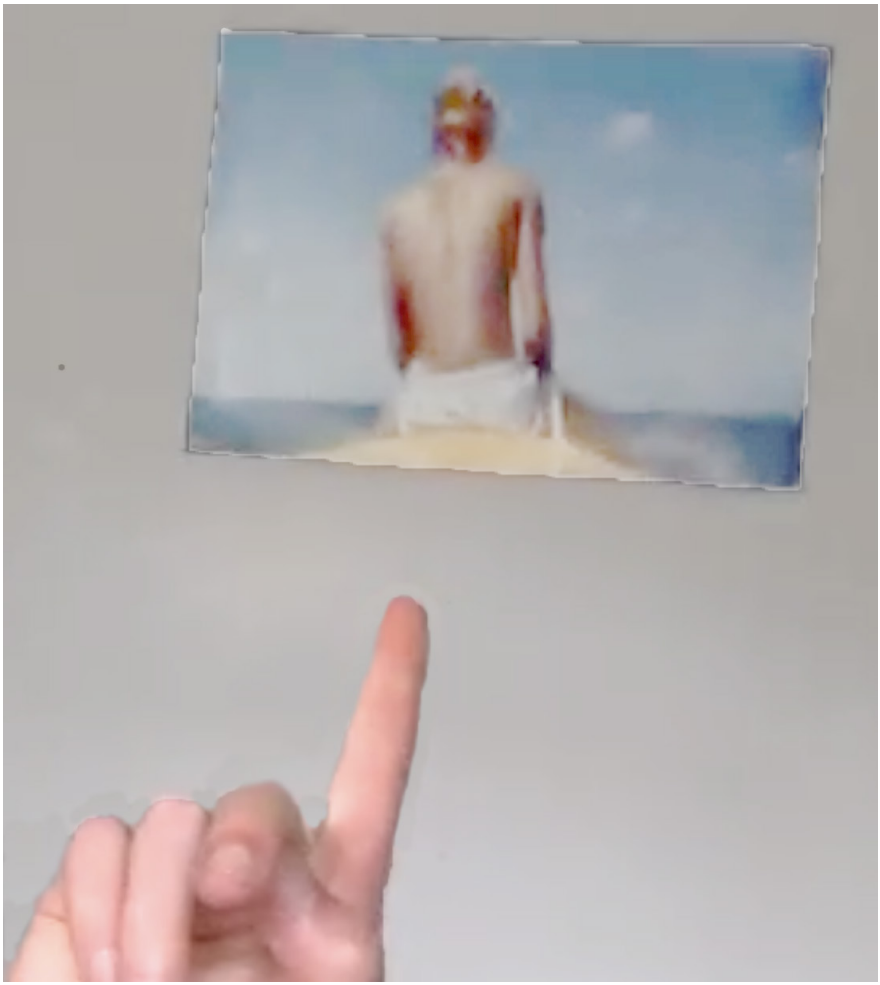
So I've got a lot of plants because I'm on the ground floor and where I live, it's not - the nicest area, people will get burgled quite a lot, so I always have my windows shut.

But because of that, I think having a lot of plants, it just makes it good for the air, you know and a lot nicer in here - and it just kind of brightens up a room.

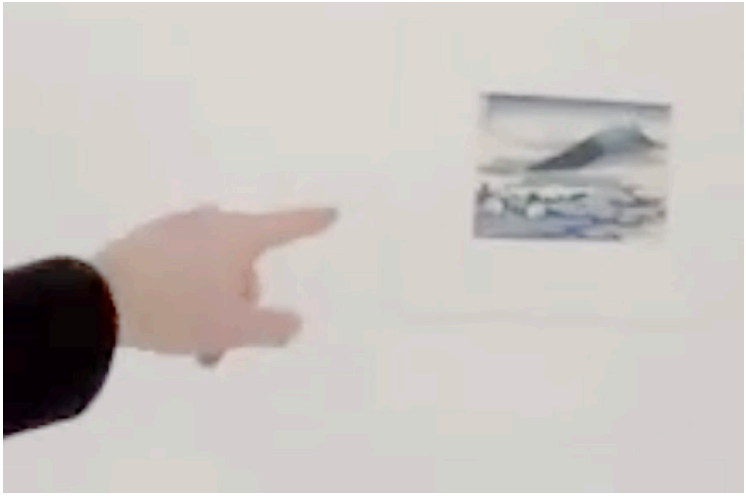
Typically in my sort of first few years at Uni I would have the walls like - plastered in posters and stuff like that.

And I just thought it was a bit much. - They weren't posters that I really liked, it would be like I saw a flyer for an event or - they were giving out free posters at Uni. They were just sort of decorative things to cover the wall, as opposed to like something that I really liked.

But this year I've been a bit more choosy with my things. So that it's all just like artwork that my friends have done. The things that I like, if I had house of my own, they would be framed.

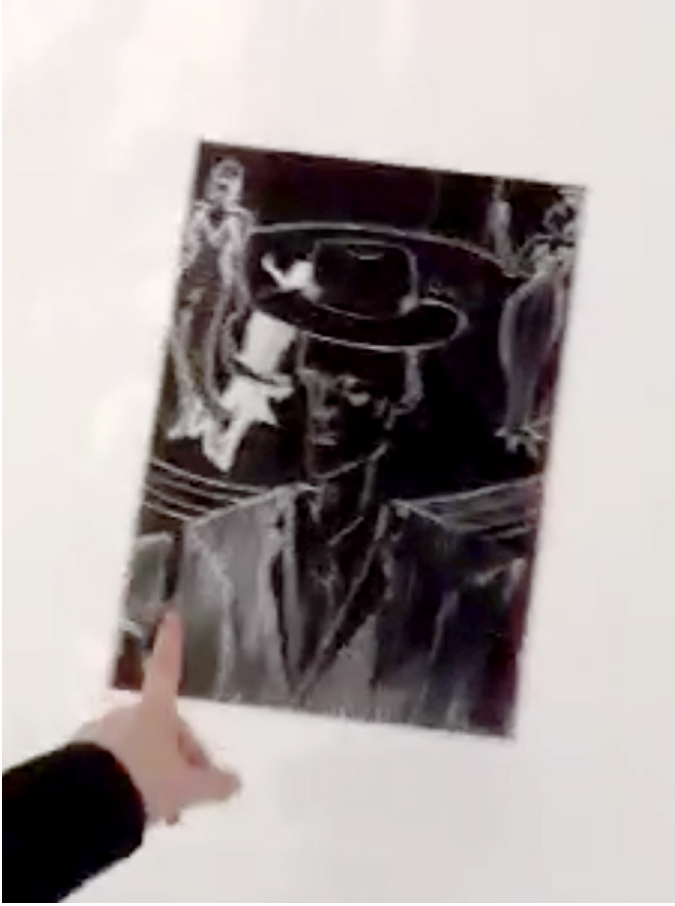


There are different things - so this poster was just from Alexander McQueen exhibition.



That was from the Basquiat exhibition at the Barbican four or five years ago.

Me and my Mum went to go see the Hokusai exhibition at Christmas. So that's a postcard from there.



My friend did this.

It's a print of one of the drawings that he did .

These two, are both the same friend. So they're things that - I like them a lot more. They're a lot more personal than like a club night poster or something.

He's one of my best friends, so we just became really good friends in secondary school. - he did go to Art school, for I think a semester, and then he dropped out because his older sister, who also does art (she's a few years older, and she - I think she went to St Martin's) - had all of these connections and through that I think he just got a few jobs. And he just thought you know if I'm already finding jobs. So he is currently living in Mexico sort of living the dream -doing art full time, freelance stuff. He does animation primarily, so he's done like a few adverts and stuff like that. It's pretty cool.

I guess, when it comes to sort of designing my whole personal space, as opposed to my bedroom I don't really have any experience of it as of yet, just because I've never lived in a place that I've been able to decorate myself as a whole.

Having just been in my bedroom or something like that. I've just been living with my parents. So I guess it was more their say than mine. But yeah I guess it would just depend on when I get older my preferences are and stuff .

I know a lot of people don't like having stuff on their walls or they're not interested in art, but I think my Mum is a huge fan and it's just rubbed off on me to some extent, obviously throughout my life. So yeah I think was is very important to me.

- I guess how I've done my room this year is more - well, I think because it has been refurbished it was all clean and nice.

So it's more like you know, sort of an adult house that you've moved into. As opposed to all the other places I've moved into - they haven't been touched in like 15 years with like scuffs all over the wall and stuff like that.

So this, I think this room is sort of a microcosm of how I would decorate a bigger place typically but- just, yeah, condensed into one room.

I think white walls is - I wouldn't have my house completely white. I think that there would probably be some rooms with like a wall with bright colour or something and that would kind of have to depend on the light and the layout of the room and stuff. But I think white, typically, especially in a small room it just makes it feel a lot bigger. You don't feel as closed in .

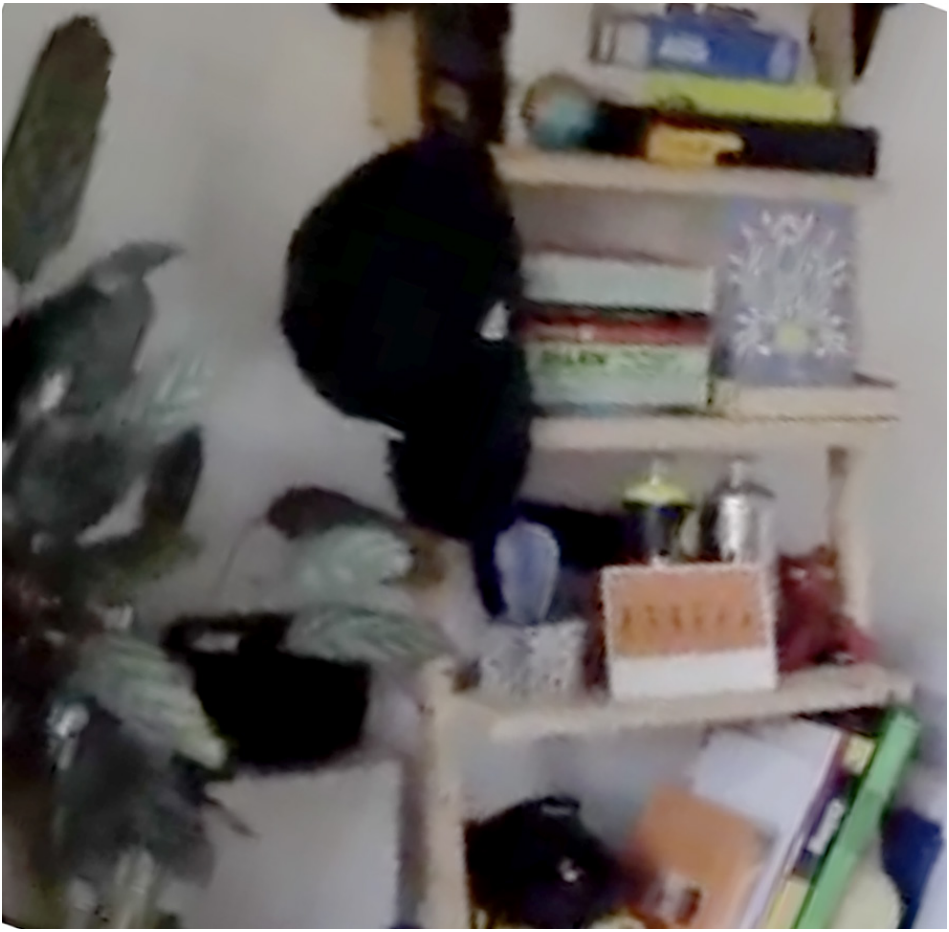
The lighting aspect makes such a big difference. I like natural lighting so that's definitely been important for me. I think if I could have free reign of like a house or room or something it probably would be a flat for me - quite high up because I quite like having the big windows but I don't really like people being able to look at you look through the windows, I find it quite invasive in a lot of ways.

If I'm in here in the evenings with like the curtains shut, if I'm working - or I'm not trying to sort of wind down, and you know get ready for bed or something, I'll have the main light on. It is quite bright so it kind of keeps you a bit more awake and a bit more alert. So it's good if I'm you know just working or writing an essay or something.

But if I'm in here in the evening, like I've made my food. I've eaten dinner and I'm trying to sort of watch something before I go to bed or something I just have a lamp on. I've got two - a standing one here. That came with the house. - and another one hiding behind the plant that my Mum bought me from Ikea a few years ago. But basically a bit less intense (light).

Natural lighting, lots of plants for me. I've got one of those air diffusers you know, that you put essential oils in. Because it's quite a quite a small space with not much ventilation. It can smell a bit gross, - like a bit musty or like a bit damp sometimes. So the air diffuser is literally, I think it's probably the best thing that I've bought. They are just so nice, they keep the air a bit humid - I think I read somewhere that sense and taste triggers your memory, more than anything?

Yeah, so I'm a big fan of my diffuser. I quite like it if I'm illl. When I was a kid I used that Olbas Oil? because I used to not be able to go to sleep unless it was on my pillow. So I think that's eucalyptus. So - if I'm sick or something I'll put that in there, and you know it helps. I think psychosomatically it makes you feel a bit better.



There's definitely sort of home comforts that I would always like to have somewhere. Like the plants, and books and art on the walls, those are kind of my - (along with the scent as well) , those are kind of the three things that -they always have priority in everywhere that I go.

I think books, in particular, as well. It's like they're like such a sort of collection in a weird sort of way of your whole sort of life. It's very personal. It's like a music taste. Like looking through someone's playlist or someone's record collection or something because - you might not have read every book on your bookshelf but it is a combination of whether they were presents, or you bought them because you thought you might like them. Years and years of yeah just what you've been interested in at the time. So I think books are quite nice. I think it really looks really nice when people have like a big wall of books. I don't know if you've seen my Mum's flat but she's got these sort of huge bookcases with all of her books in there. I think it looks really nice as well.