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College Personal Statement

When I was a little child, I was obsessed with coloring pictures with color pencils and painting sticks, and art class was always my favorite. When I grew up a bit and could read Chinese characters, I started to spend most of my time in the bookstore downstairs, reading clothing and fashion magazines. Though understanding nothing, I was deeply attracted because in a little girl's eyes the clothes in those magazines were so colorful – just like beautiful and colorful pictures. At that time, it was my dream to wear such beautiful clothes when I grew up. Rei Kawakubo, the famous Japanese designer, started to catch my attention. 'If I like it, nothing is not OK', which is her design slogan, influenced me. Later on, I started to design clothes for my Barbie dolls with napkins sewed up with needles. This memory is from my childhood.

In high school, I was chosen to participate in an oil painting exhibition. My teacher instructed me patiently, trying to inspire my thoughts. He told me that there is no boundary in art and that you just explore your thoughts and imagination bravely and do whatever you want to do. I was encouraged and indulged in my own thoughts to create an art work of my own style. What he said got me to think about what I would like to do in the future. The love I have of painting, the untrained thinking process during painting, and my childhood love of colorful clothes have made my choice so clear: I want to be a fashion designer.

I started my own designing album immediately after I made this decision. Originally, I thought every piece of clothing I drew could be called 'a design', but very soon, I realized that most of my 'designs' were actually imitations of others' work, at least to some extent. Therefore, I began to think actively about what could be called a 'design' and have changed my way of designing. Whenever I get an inspiration, I try to ask myself some key question, such as: 'What should be the style?'; 'What kind of material should I use?'; 'What do I try to present with it?'; 'Is it novel and beautiful enough?' During this process, I could correct my faults, get experience, and generate better ideas. When I feel clueless, I always go to a gallery to enjoy paintings and pictures, which is an abundant source for my inspirations.

I was very honoured to have the chance to work for Shanghai Fashion Week 2016. This provided me with some insight on my knowledge of the general industry and the work process behind the stage, and it opened my mind greatly with new thoughts and ideas. I even got the opportunity to talk with some famous designers, who were very low-key but full of personality. I got to know that 'style' drives a fashion industry that is dynamic and full of life. Working at Fashion Week has re-formed my understanding of fashion design as a combination of both society's and a designer's characteristics. Fashion design reflects not only the culture, art, philosophy and psychology of a certain society at a certain stage of development, but also the values of a designer. Having good painting skills and knowledge is just one aspect of becoming a good designer, which also requires a passion for fashion, a sensitive attitude towards trends, sharp observation, and an unconfined and brave mind. After working for Fashion Week, I am more than sure that the fashion industry is my dream and that I want to be a designer – and a top one. I dream that one day the models walking on the stage of the world's most important fashion show will wear clothes designed by me, and I will work constantly to make this dream come true.

I have chosen the UK for my future study because of its abundant culture and the prosperous fashion industry. Your university attracts me due to its good educational reputation worldwide. When I graduate, I want to start my career in design companies so as to get sufficient design experience and a sense of the fashion industry. Then I will make a constant effort to establish my own brand and realize my dream of becoming a top designer. I am certain that your esteemed university program will provide me with the advanced knowledge and skills I need for my future career. I sincerely hope to be a qualified candidate for your university. Thank you for your consideration.

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