

Andrew Chen

Transcript for Language and Personality

[A comic.]

A few years ago, when I first arrived in the US.

American A: I like your shirt.

Me: Oh...! Thanks!

American B: Nice shoes!

Me: Oh...! Thanks

Me: Woah- People here talk and act so differently! They even give compliments to strangers!

I'm going to learn from this!

When I went back to China...

Me: You play the flute very well!

Chinese A: No, no! I've only learned for a few months

Me: Haha. People here are not so used to getting compliments like this.

And such openness is not appreciated by everyone.

My friend: My new job is quite demanding.

My friend: I might not come to the art studio anymore...

Me: But you draw so well...

Me: Why don't you teach art?

My friend: It's already draining to just make modification to other people's art like this...

Teaching will kill all of my passion for art.

Me: ...Want a hug?

My friend: No!

Me thinking about what my friend said “I might not come to the art studio anymore...” It’s the same for me.

Someone in the art studio: He just came yesterday and said he’s not coming today. Me: Oh...

Me texting to my friend: Today might be my last time coming to the art studio. My friend texting: What?

Me texting: I told you, right? In 2 weeks, I’m going to the U.S. again.

Me: I will miss this place... And these works.. And especially...

Me (holding my friend’s work): How does someone even paint like this... My friend: Take it with you if you like it that much.

Me: ?? Didn’t they say he’s not coming today?

My friend: Want cigs?

Me: I don’t smoke. Wait, this painting is mine now?

We left the studio after a while -

My friend: Want cigs?

Me: Didn’t I just tell you I don’t smoke?

My friend: ...Most of my friends smoke.

Me: ...Is that why you always ask me if I want cigarettes?

The End