

16: Inmate SA*

01

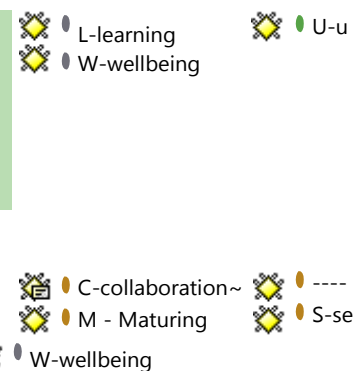
02

03 E- What did you think?

04 S- Yes... I do feel that maybe wasn't long enough but I suppose all good things have to come to an end. I suppose all good things have to make the final bag. Just when you start thinking the final bag then you think nooo, this ain't the final bag. Now you need to come to full range now.

05 E- How would you describe it to others?

06 S- I would say, mmmmm, you kind of blind. You don't know what to do what you doing, when I first started I never had any experience in bag making or any sort of making really. So you sort of going blind but don't be afraid of the blindness. Once you get over that is easy going it giving you a chance to be creative you are not just turning up for work and not repetitively doing the same stitching and peaceful as well. Is not loud, is not noise. People show one another more respect. The atmosphere is completely different, to any other part of the prison. If you were an outsider and you came here without having to go through the prison you know you may not believe that is part of prison is quite nice you forget about where you are for even though is a small amount of time is enough.



07 E- What did you dislike /like?

08 S- What did I dislike? I didn't dislike anything I mean, mmmm.... My outlook slightly different to most anything that pissed me off is that people that didn't want to be here and used the volunteers to get the work done so they are not actually participating. They learned the art staying silent and letting someone do what they had to do. And then but that's not an issue for me is for them they walk away how they walk away is completely different. I do feel that the volunteers work is slightly abused.



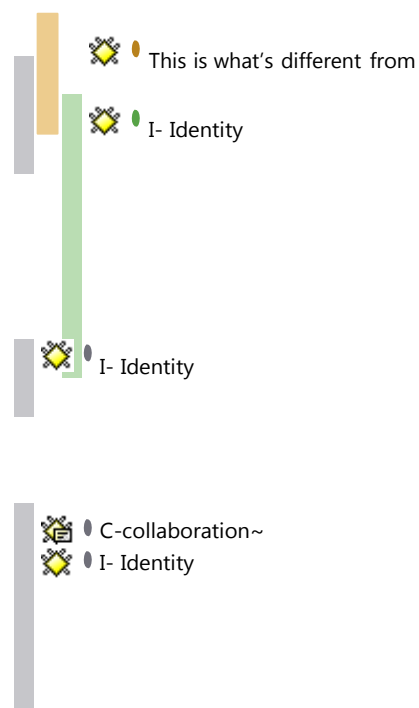
09 It's kind of sad on the hand of volunteers as they are doing a lot of the thinking. Maybe they want that experience, maybe they need that, maybe I'm looking at it slightly.....

10 E- Do you think these people get anything out of it anyway?

11 S- They may do, they get a lot out of it. Gets them out the wing, they

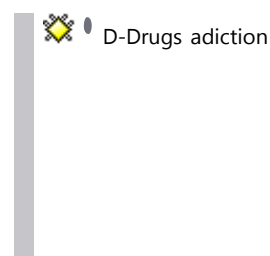


mixing with different people. This is what's different from here than the wing. You can take off your mask and you can be who you want to be. You can be who you are and not feel threaten. While when you are in the wing you need to pump up your chest and put a mask on. You can't let anyone know the real you - you don't want anyone and you don't really want to know them really people this is prison, people done things that maybe you don't want to know about and you don't want people to know maybe what you have been involved with. So when you come here is a social change. You can talk openly, be creative and not sound like an idiot. Whilst if you start talking like you may know something or you enjoy something while on the wing you may get someone knock you down you going to get someone who the fuck you think you are you know what I mean? People may start thinking oh he starts to think he is better than us and that causes you other problems, here you don't need to worry about that, is part of your work.



12 E- What skills knowledge and experience did you use?

13 S- The drawings of the bag I do quite a lot of technical drawing when we were sketching the bags details... other than that I had no experience whatsoever of machines...etc but actually I always use a bag outside and I am always finding fault in bags between me and my group of friends if someone gets a new bag the first thing I actually do is put into pieces and see what is wrong with it . What's the material how long is the zip going to last.

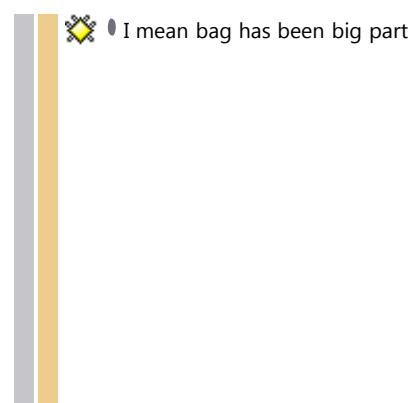


14 E- Is this for real?

15 S- (smiles) Yeah, this is for real. When someone has a new bag this is what we do. Sometimes it's been a conversation specially if someone has paid good money for it and doesn't live up to its prize. Yeah.

16 E- So it's very relevant...

17 S- Yes for me yes. I mean bag has been big part of my life. I mean it is for most city people. Ahm, bag design as well but without thinking about it. When I was growing up I was a skateboarder so... even then. It was like... you would be skating with the bag as well, so it was important. Then skate companies started to do their own bags, and companies like Eastpack tried to steal the market. Later on me living on the street, street people where your bag is your home. Again the bag becomes really important. So... how accessible it is, how bulky. Without even thinking about it there is some experience



through in there.

18

19 S- What did I learn? Learned quite a lot just the process, the design process. Quite a lot of effort goes into a product...

20

21 A bag is not just a bag.

22 E- What was most relevant?

23 S- I don't know, I mean I haven't used my brain for a long time, not that I had to. I was active before. It just reminded me that yes you still got it you can still do it. And yet although a bag is not my main interest, goal in life but if I can do that with a bag – which I plan on doing by the way- what can I do with the rest of my life 'cause everything takes planning. You don't just go - right, I am going to make a bag, I mean some people might I'm sure people plan. Put things together in their head at least.

24 E- How was this different to any other courses in prison?

25 S- Yeah, is very different 'cause here you are allowed to be creative in your own free will. Yeah, what you do is you what you get in is what you get out. Whilst other courses you do it by the book. And if you don't do what is there you don't get it full stop. I mean you can't lie, if you are that clever you can tell them what they want to hear. You can tell them what they want to hear because you are smart enough to know that, here there is no laying the end product is the truth. ...

26 E- What about school? Did you like school?

27 S- I loved school, I like learning.

28 ... The only thing I found about school is that I wasn't advised properly, is as if you are set up to fail. ...

29 E- Most memorable moments?

30 S- It's all quite memorable really. I used to go in my own zone. I used to go in my own. Yes there were some moments. People when there is a few donuts, some people showed their true... just because of this donut or half donut. It really makes you look at yourself and think wow, I'm not like that. But maybe... I am in other ways like that you



H-hope



M - Maturing



I don't kn



L-learning



L-learning



I- Identity

know? Maybe if you put some tobacco on the side I would be like that, not but I don't think I would.

E- Comfortable/uncomfortable?


S- Uncomfortable with talking in group, been put on the spot. Like - what do you think? I don't like that. I don't like pressure but it gets you out, get over it. Can be quite beneficial. You know, if you constantly sitting back please don't call me don't notice me. But if that person gets away with that with so long then gets frightening. You understand? So it is beneficial in a way. I think the spot should not always be in the same people, 'cause then those people become the runners and everyone else carries off so... (...)

 M - Maturing

 M - Maturing

E- Did you like the volunteers?

S- Yes, I think they did a great job mmmm. I don't think it would be possible without them. That's a lie it would have been but ... (interruption) each with different skills, bringing something to the project. Both Js gave me amazing advice and encouragement as well. Some of the things that J said. Like I think you are a great designer... I mean - I know I'm not a great designer... but ... makes you feel like you know your work has been noticed. And he was always so willing to help. Everyone was always so willing to help. Sometimes that's the problem. I think is not very nice for volunteers that they are willing to help and then you get people that don't want to be there they may not want to come back. I think that is... you going to get that anyway...

 Yes I think they did a great j..

 B- believe

 C-collaboration~

E- What do you think they get from it?

S- Maybe they are looking for undiscovered talent, ideas , find new way or a real to develop a design ... but that's me being me, as I always thinking someone is always after something but maybe they just want to help people ... or find themselves. Some of these people haven't had other adults come and talk to them in a civil manner. Is sort of yep bro, ya get me? (laughs) you know, trying to sell you something on Knick time you know and it does show people yes there is another life out there if they want it but some people are frightened of that, they are afraid to seem to be weak, or gay or something you know what I mean? It is what it is. But sometimes I do feel slightly sorry for the volunteers and sometimes I think they might go out and think why did I even bother, when that may not

 M - Maturing

have been the case.

37 E- Do you think they will do similar work in the future?

38 S- Some definitely would, some others may not. They have so much skills, ideas and what not and put them on the table, if they knew how valuable their presence was they would think different. I mean both the Js. They was , they brought a lot to the project and they may not even realise, with arguments and fights and bits of behaviours going on they might think why I'm wasting my time with you bunch of thugs (laughs) yeah... they really need to be, need to be thanked. If I was left on my own devices I don't know if I would have achieved what I did.



C- collaboration~



B- believe

39 E- Did you tell anyone about this project?

40 S- I told loads of people about this project. Like most people are afraid of a bite of work a bit of creativity, they would go yes it's a bit gay innit textiles, but is it? I don't know, not really.



I- Identity

41 E- What about outside prison?

42 S- I have told my mum. Is the only person I talk to when I'm in here. Mmmm... I mean she is happy when I am happy, she is happy that I am happy for once, I think. I haven't been happy in a long while and even when I think I'm happy or appear to be happy that's an illusion behind drink and drugs. And she knows, she hates this, she hates it. And somehow, I don't know my face must change or something but if I have a drink she knows immediately. She doesn't want to know what you have to say. But sometimes yeah... she goes: 'Are you still doing a bag course?' And that takes into a whole other conversation...



----miscellaneous





F- Fam

43 But our life is kind of complicated at the moment. ... one of the things I have found about myself is I have been very selfish in the past so I tend not to talk about myself so much anymore. I tend to ask what are you doing, how are you rather than me, me, me, me, me 'cause is not always about me, S's show ended years ago but some reason I'm refusing to accept the fact that times change and can't watch the Big Bang theory forever 'cause at the end it will go bang, you know what I mean? Play something else. I try not to talk about myself sometimes is hard I only visit someone 'cause I want something, sad as it is true but that's the way I am.






I- Identity

44 E- Do you think that changed through your stay here?

 I- Identity
 ----miscellaneous



45 S- No... it hasn't change but has made me aware.


46 S- I consciously now tend to hold back, because I'm not desperate now. I don't need to lie or say this or that if anything I become a master in realizing everyone else around is playing the same old game that you used to play and that's what's made me aware. I consciously now try to think about others rather than myself. But it happened in my bag design. I was talking about another persona why I will design a bag for another person I don't know this person and then I changed the persona to myself! (Laughs) there it was slowly sneaking...

 I- Identity
 M - Maturing
 ----miscellaneous

47

48 S- My relationship with my mum, she knows now not to take anything I say just wait and see, the amount of times I said I never going to drink again you know. She knows. ... but she is been quite encouraging actually, and she is never giving me anything money wise and that she probably thinks oh he will spend it all... drugs but yeah she is sending a little bit of money. I know she has no money to send so I wouldn't ask. There was a time when I used to give her money. ... So yeah I had a few surprises..... that's what I have been doing, planning all the time, I come up with real good ideas and I can't quite easily put them into use but then I think I need to stop all this thinking. I'm not going to let any of that get in in the middle I'm going to stick with the original plan and then let things flow ...

 F- Family/friends
 D-Drugs adiction

 H-hope

49 Let me just stick with my plan, get out of here.

 H-hope

50 E- Did this project make you more aware of the feelings of others?

51 S- Yes definitely, yeah.

52 E- Why?

53 S- Eh... just I see it all the time, the stronger people they overpower other people. People can say things and people can be hurtful people sometimes say things and don't think what they are saying sometimes people say things and scare people like is not good. I think a thousand bad things about people but I keep them to myself don't say them out loud and if I was won't be nothing won't say to their face and don't like it. Especially on the wing is happening on the

 S-self control

wing. Some inmates can make the guards on their side and then... nothing happens, that's really frightening as well but I am aware of it and see it all the time. Is not something no one can change people got to work in themselves everyone here is committing a crime. (...)




54

55 E- Changes in general?

56 S- Like what?

57 E- Wellbeing wise, motivation wise... anything.

58 S- Definitely, 100 %. Motivation is always been there, but sometimes is motivated to do the wrong things. Yeah and I've got a sense of direction. I do know that I want to do something with my life. Thinking of going back to education. I'm thinking about doing loads of ... but let me stick with the thing and then I will.

 H-hope
 M - Maturing
 ----miscellaneous