
2 Months at Zámeček Art School

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Transition Year 2021-2022
Ardscoil na Mara





Zámeček



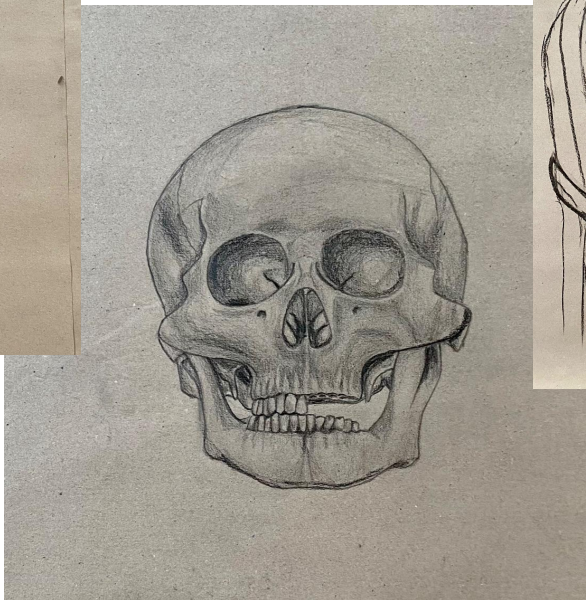
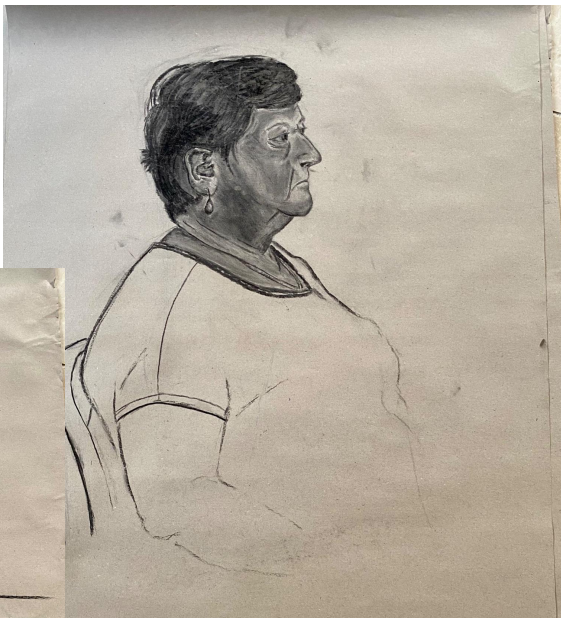
Zámeček is a visual arts secondary school near Pilsen South West Bohemia Czech Republic. I spent there two months of my Transition year abroad study experience, learning three days a week life drawing, clay modeling, casting techniques and stone carving.

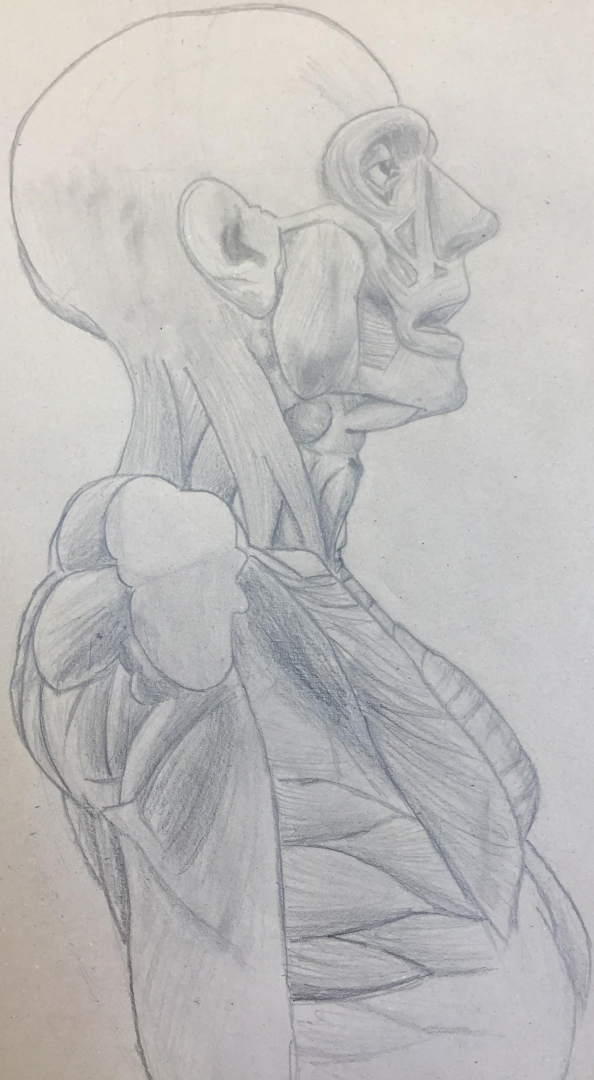


Life Drawing

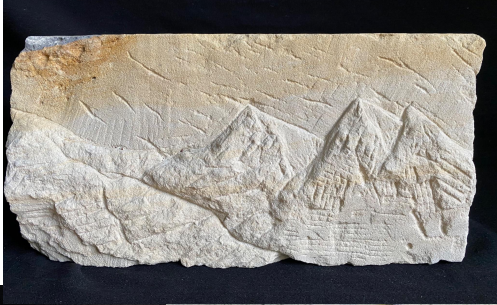


Every Wednesday morning we had two hours to complete a portrait from a life sitter or artificial models, using pencil or charcoal.





Stone Work



During my stay, I learned some basic stone carving techniques and how to use stone carving tools such as chisels, hammers and pneumatic hammers. For health reasons, stone work was done in outdoor sheds in the school gardens. For the creation of the Irish harp, I smoothed the surface, drew a sketch and used a variety of instruments for different effects.

Clay Work



Clay work took up most of my time. I worked from actual objects, plastic models or from imagination. The process consisted in creating a base, then starting with a general shape and using hands and tools to make the details, while keeping the sculpture moist at all times. Clay work is a lengthy process. The shell sculpture for example took 6 hours to complete.



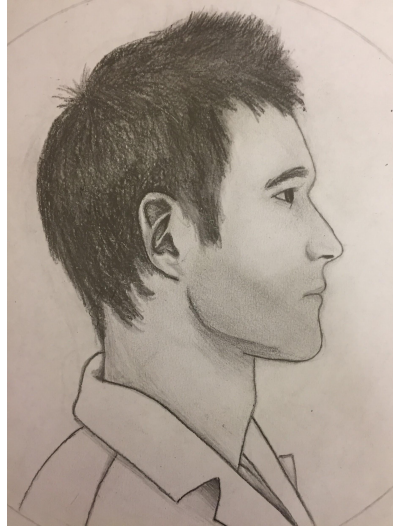
Plaster Casting



My clay work was made from modeling clay not suited for drying or firing in a kiln but used for casting moulds. These are two of the clay pieces in their final, plaster form. I made them by creating a mould out of plaster with an orange signal layer over the clay piece. When the mould dried, I pulled it apart and scooped out all the clay. I then stuck the two halves of the mould back together and filled it with plaster. Once the mould and its contents, dried I used a chisel and a mallet to break the mould around the piece. The orange signal layer warned me when I was getting too close to the sculpture. Once taken out, the sculpture is cleaned, and imperfections retouched.

Profile Low Relief

The profile relief was a project I was working on every Friday afternoon until the end of my stay. I first drew a profile portrait from a photograph, prepared a flat round plaster board, and recreated the face on it out of a clay and beeswax mixture. Then I created a mould and casted the face on the base into plaster.



Conclusion

I really enjoyed my study stay in Zámeček art school. It was a great experience studying and practising art I love, as well as staying abroad without my immediate family.

It was also an opportunity to practise my Czech language, because all art classes were through Czech.

While bilingual (my mother is Czech and I lived some of my life in Prague) I left Czech primary school in second class. During the study stay I worked for two days a week on Czech grammar, comprehension, writing and reading with my grandmother, with whom I stayed and who as a librarian by profession has great love and grasp of Czech language and literature.

I am very happy that the transition year gave me the opportunity to explore the area of visual art which I might like to work in one day and to connect with my second native language and culture. Thanks to both schools and my family for making this possible.

