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Transitions

By

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What comes next? The pivotal question that comes to all seniors graduating. At times it could be rhetorical, I often ask myself this knowing I don't have the slightest clue on how to answer it. When the thought comes to mind of "what comes next?" The best answer I can say to myself is that this is another transition, another chapter closed so a new one can begin. I don't know how this book will end for me, but I will continue each chapter with a plan in mind. The Human race has come to be with a long time span of evolution. Evolution can be defined as the process by which different kinds of living organisms are thought to have developed and diversified from earlier forms during the history of the earth. This transition from college to the "adult world" is an evolutionary period in the life span of Jennifer, and including many other students going through this time period. This time in our lives represents a period where we have to adapt and grow as students into producers for the working world. But are we truly ever ready for that? Throughout my time period of being a student I have questioned myself and asked if I really believed if this was all worth it. Through the experiences made and relationships formed, I can proudly answer that question with a yes now. Since graduating highschool, I attended a two year university, Rockland Community College. It was a difficult

time period, starting off with a commute, school wasn't a five minute bus ride away anymore. Another rough patch of that transition was being one of the college younger students who started at seventeen. There weren't people who were interested in being friends with someone that young for some reason. I often kept to myself for the first year and a half of Rockland. Two years went by faster than anybody could have expected. In 2018 I had to begin preparing for another new routine and environment. I graduated in May of 2018 from SUNY Rockland and was accepted to SUNY Purchase. Purchase was new territory, I had never lived away from home or was ever really surrounded by a community of students that seemed to care. Time still has not seemed to slow down because I have hit this road yet again. I have to begin preparing for a world without school, a world where work and design is where I put my all into now. I sat down and thought to myself how do I prepare a project that sums up my entire learning experience in and outside of Purchase. I answered myself with what seemed to be most prevalent in my life. The answer to that of course, was Transitions. To represent the transitions in life and school, I chose to combine the elements of Jazz and Design into a short animation.

Jazz for me, personally, has always brought out the feeling of being connected to something. It even feels as if it takes you to a point of ascension. Taking you to another place and time other than the one we are in. Even in the 1940's when people started to listen to Jazz collectively more and more, it offered a place for people to express themselves in a way through their passion of playing music. Jazz has always offered a space for creativity and experimentation. In the midst of different instruments playing and different notes being produced, there's a sense of rhythm that always finds you and keeps you connected. Design has always offered an atmosphere of comfortability for me. When I see a product or brand's campaign that is done well, I experience the feeling of being complete. So combining the two seemed necessary. Within the beginning stage of this project I conducted research and came across the works of Len Lye. Len Lye is known for his experimental films and constructing kinetic sculptures. I came across a short film titled Colour Flight (1993). His work uses both mediums of sounds and design. By using lines, color, type, and organic shapes, he illustrates a scene of what is happening within the music. I wanted to capture the sense of what I was envisioning in my head onto the screen, so others could experience what I was seeing too. The feeling of

wanting to be able to translate all of this sound into visual information is what helped sparked the inspiration of this project. Choosing design as a career has a lot to do with this feeling. I am constantly translating what a person wants from their ideas into something that's a visual product they can use. Originally I came up with the idea to create a series of posters, to represent multiple songs. When diving into early research and brainstorming, it didn't seem just to create the sense of constant motion and change in something static. The project developed into an animated video because it conveyed the message of being constantly moving and being in a state of uncertainty of where you will be next. With the decision of making this project an animation instead, I had to completely have a change of pace. At the time of this decision I hadn't felt comfortable with After Effects fully yet. I applied myself to learn as much as I could and even more from my prior class. There were points of frustration and times where I wanted to take the easy route out and just change the project completely. But that decision didn't sit right with my character. To just give up and derail the conclusion I came to, was not an option for me. With the past years of school in my back pocket now, it was time to put my education to the test.

Transitions is a project created to represent the erratic times of change. Jazz being founded by its sporadic nature, it felt right to create an animation helping the translation of its sound by design. The song that I chose for Transitions is Sweet Shop by Kaidi & NK-OK. Kaidi & NK-OK is a relatively new group in the Jazztronica scene. The Jazztronica scene being the new age form of Jazz. Jazztronica uses classic Jazz instruments and pairing it with today's music production, typically an electric feel. It's a new experimental form of expression. It all comes back to the origin of what Jazz was based upon: The ability to express oneself freely through music.

It's an exciting thought to believe that people of prior centuries' decisions and actions are still affecting today's youth and society in a positive way. We still manage to be connected through music. The same applies to design as well. We are taught design education based on successful work and theory. We continue to be inspired through years of history. Design and music's relationship throughout this project continuously proves to me that it goes hand in hand. Being in a two year school before coming to Purchase College meant that I was always preparing for the next step.

So while I was focusing on classes, I also was focused on bettering my portfolio, making sure my grades were at the place Purchase wanted them to be, working a full time job, preparing applications for the next step I needed to take. I found myself always in a state of preparation. Even now, with my time at Purchase coming to an end, I'm preparing myself for the real world. Constantly asking myself Will the world accept me for me and my work? Do we ever really stop preparing for the next step? Do we ever get a break? I just hope the work I produce in the future can make it all the blood, sweat, and tears worth it.

I circle back to the question “What happens next?”. Towards the end of this project I realized that this was another test in a sense. That I had to be able to take control of a project and become comfortable with situation changing. I had to test my determination and willingness to put myself in an area of the unfamiliar. Transitions helped me compose myself for the working world. To be able to be given a task and trust myself that I can make the outcome happen. Transitions has gone through many changes and adaptations, in a way, I went through some as well. This project and I have grown together into what I think was the desired outcome I had for myself and this project. As for the question of “What comes next?” I guess we’ll never truly have that answer and we have to become comfortable with that. We are in a constant state of evolving and trying to be the best versions of ourselves. I am comfortable in the skin that I am in and growing into. Transitions are constant and always present. Transitions are not something we can ever escape. It’s up to you how you handle them and how to make the best of them.

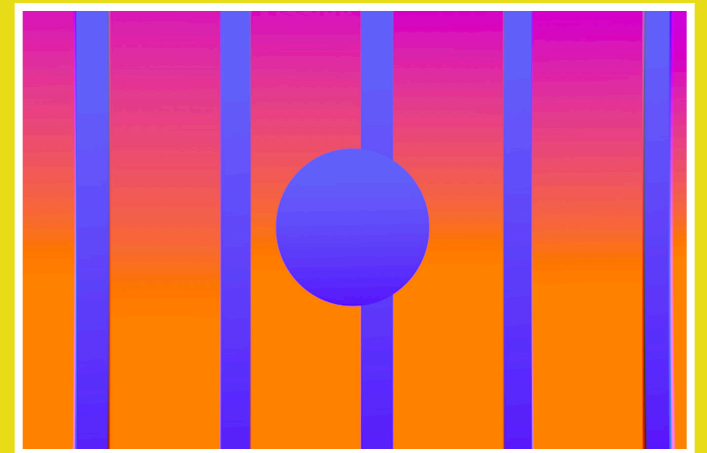
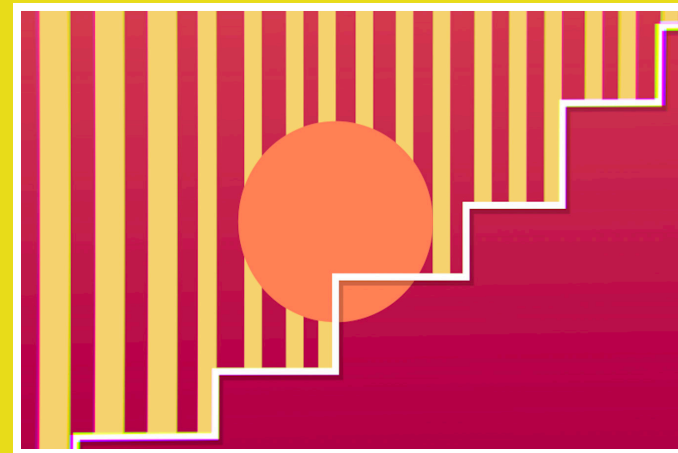
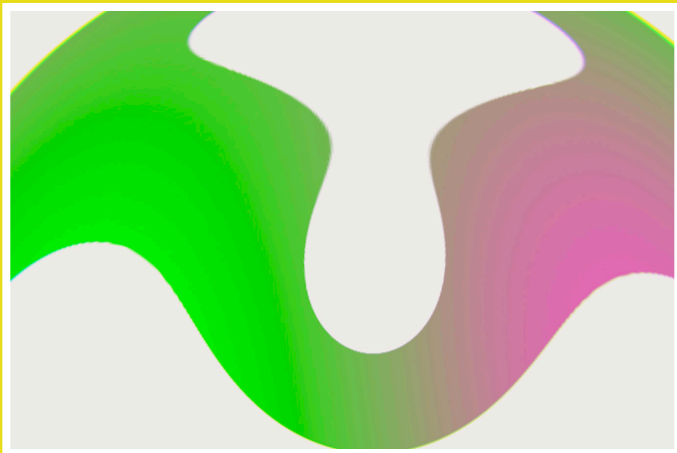
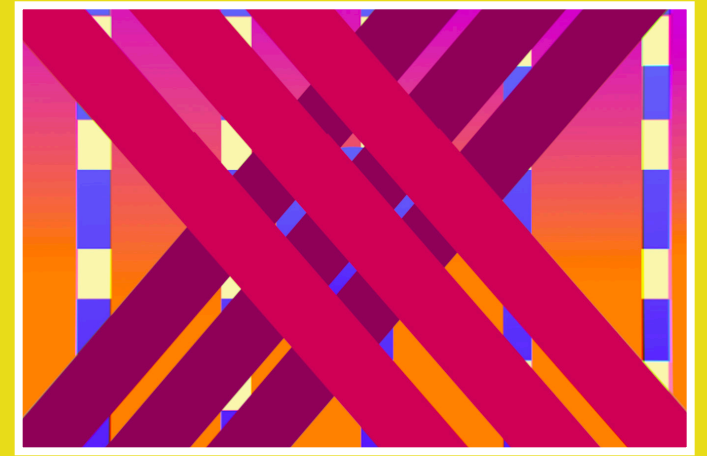
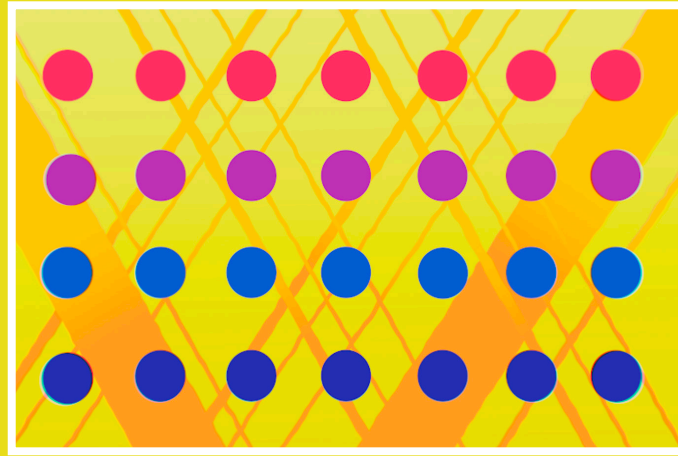
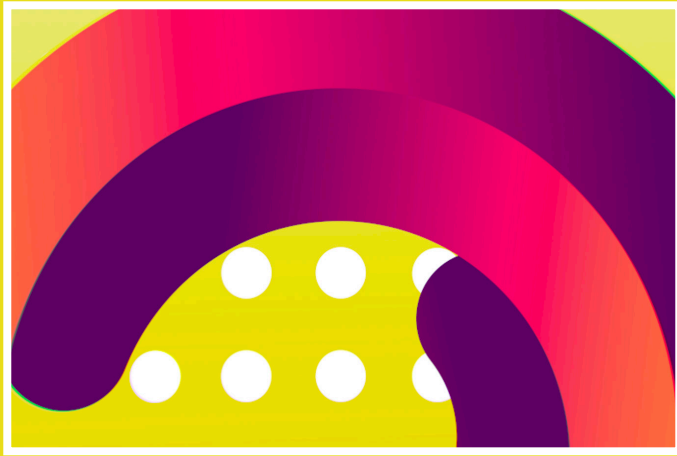
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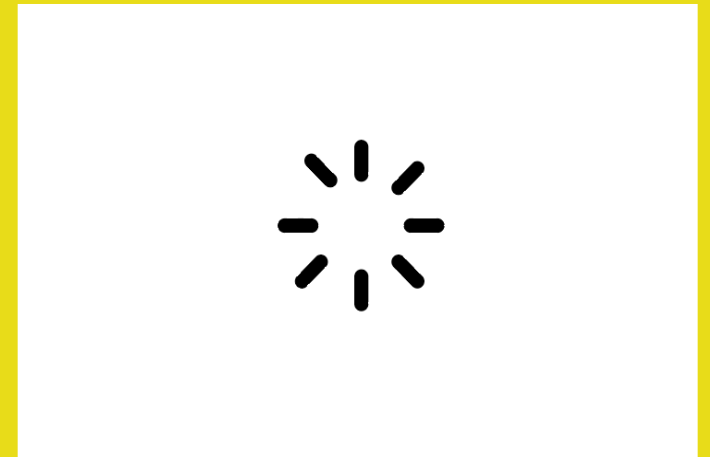
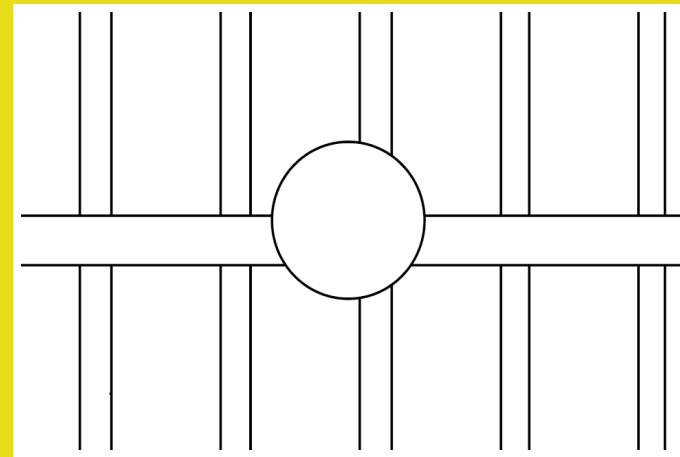
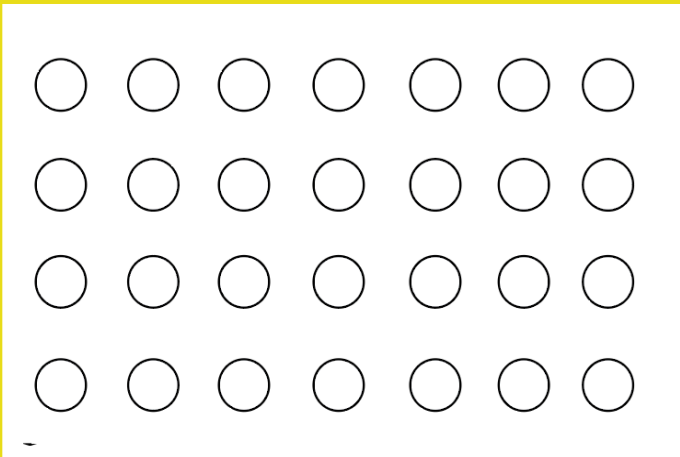
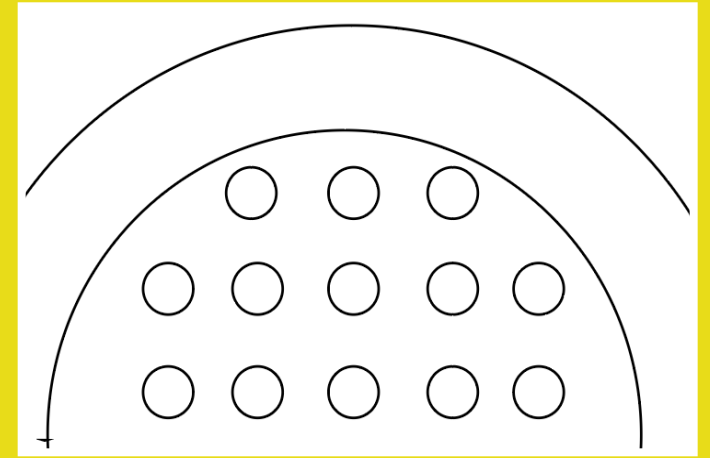
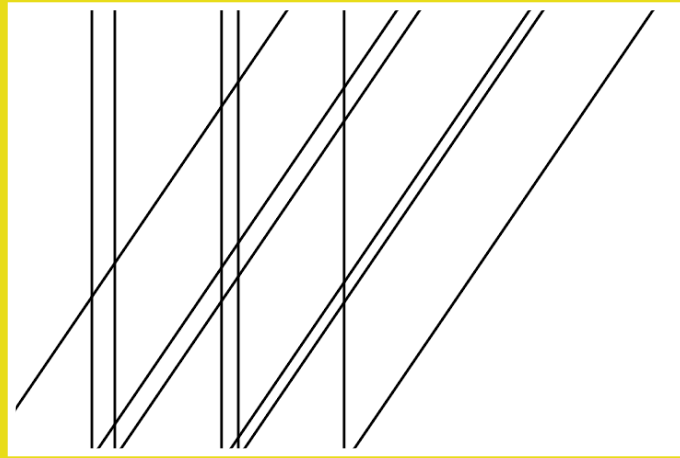
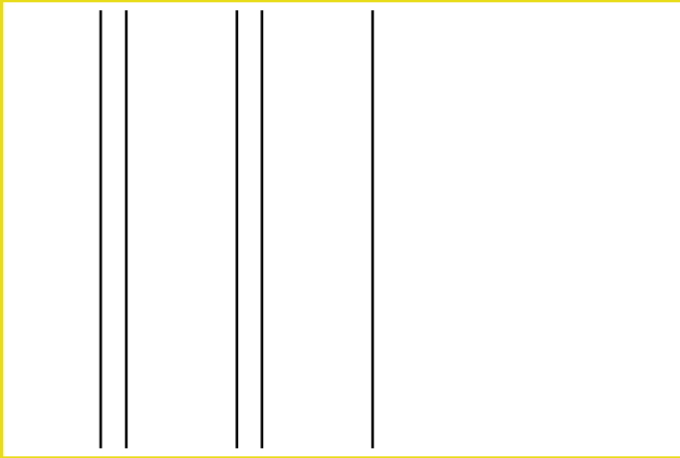
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