



Transcription
Interview with Clare Cinelli

(Recording accidentally started earlier than intended, Clare was preparing recording on her computer at time of start)

Snore Doumbia: That would be amazing.

Clare Cinelli: Cool [Okay] , so does it give you the option now when you hit record to do local or cloud?

Snore Doumbia: Yes, it does.

Snore Doumbia: Just let me know whenever you're ready.

Clare Cinelli: I am all ready, so, I'll also hit record. Oh, I don't have permission.

Snore Doumbia: Oh. Um, There.

Clare Cinelli: Okay, cool.

Clare Cinelli: All right.

Snore Doumbia: Well, this is Oral History Capturing Quarantine. I am the interviewer Snore Doumbia. It is May, first, 2020, and I'm in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Clare Cinelli: Hi, I am Claire Spinelli. I am in Roselle, Illinois the suburbs of Chicago.

Snore Doumbia: Great! And then would you be able to state your title and expected year graduation?

Clare Cinelli: I—so my you mean my major?

Snore Doumbia: Yes.

Clare Cinelli: Okay, so my major is graphic design and I'm expecting to graduate next year, fingers crossed with all this.

Snore Doumbia: Awesome so we'll get right into it. What is your earliest memory?

Clare Cinelli: All right, so my earliest memory is—I was in my house that I'm currently in. I've lived here all my life, and I was in the backyard with my parents and a white cat kept coming by our house and my parents had put out some like random pink blanket that they found and the cat came up to us, even though it was like stray and probably feral.

47 Clare Cinelli: And uh- that's about all I remember.
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49 Snore Doumbia: Where did you live and go to school?
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51 Clare Cinelli: So, I've always lived in the suburbs of Chicago. I went to school in the same town
52 and then my high school is actually in walking distance, so I would walk there every day.
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54 Snore Doumbia: How comfortable was your family financially growing up?.
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56 Clare Cinelli: Um, my dad lost his job for a while. He was on unemployment for a couple of
57 years when I was young so we struggled a bit when I was like six or seven—but then since my
58 parents own their own business, my mom does hair and my dad, he was in construction and he
59 had his own business. And since he kind of lost that for a while—after he got a new job as a
60 superintendent it got a lot better.
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62 Snore Doumbia: What was your relationship with your parents like?
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64 Clare Cinelli: Um, I've always been super close with them. My dad has two boys from another
65 marriage, so I've got two older brothers. One is thirty and the other one is thirty-six. The oldest
66 one has four kids now so that's fun, but I was always super close with my parents, especially
67 my mom, I still am. It's been nice being able to live at home and not have any arguments or
68 anything so far. (Clare laughs).
69
70 Snore Doumbia: So then what would you and your family generally do in your spare time?
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72 Clare Cinelli: We have a park by my house. We would ride our bikes. When I was young, I
73 would—I had a couple of friends who lived down the street that I would play with. We would
74 watch TV together sometimes, but my parents, sometimes talk way too much during the movie
75 or TV show, so I have to not watch with them anymore.
76
77 Snore Doumbia: So, what were your family traditions?
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79 Clare Cinelli: Something—the only thing I can really think of off the top of my head is my
80 grandma always made us do those like Christmas poppers where you would like twist the
81 cardboard thing and you'd get a crown and the toy and she'd always make us wear the crown at
82 Christmas. That's the only reason I can think of right now, I really don't have money. We're not
83 religious, so we don't go to any church on holidays, so we don't really follow too much.
84
85 Snore Doumbia: What's your favorite memory of being home growing up.
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87 Clare Cinelli: Probably- I had a birthday party when I was young. This is like real young and I
88 had all my friends from kindergarten over and we need little drawings of dogs, but like out of
89 paper scraps and it was like the weirdest birthday party, but I remember that being the most fun
90 when I was a little kid. More recently- in the house- my parents always go to Florida for New
91 Year's Eve and they let me have friends over here. So those are some also some good
92 memories.

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Snore Doumbia: What's your least favorite memory of being home?

Clare Cinelli: Um, I'd say like my family's had a lot of health issues and deaths in the more recent years, probably from like 2015 to 2017. We had like four deaths in the family. So, [we] spent a lot of time at home with other members of the family here because our house is kind of where like the family gathers especially like during hard times. So I feel like being home can be either really good or really bad sometimes depending on- you know- the situation.

Snore Doumbia: When would you describe as a time that you felt that you had gained independence?

Clare Cinelli: When I got my driver's license. When I was 16. A couple of days later, when I got my first job, and that's really when I felt the most independence, because I also was starting to get my own money and I would drive my parents car to my job. And even though I hated the job. I worked at an ice cream shop and it was like disgusting the things that like you had to clean out of the dishwasher, like old milk. But it—at least I had something to do. That was my own that my parents didn't have to drive me to and my best friend at the time worked at the same ice cream shop so it was nice. I could hang out with her after work, and I felt very grown up.

Snore Doumbia: So what made you decide to attend Columbia College Chicago?

Clare Cinelli: So Columbia's actually the only school I applied to I don't remember how I first heard about it. Probably just googling schools near me. And honestly, I just thought it was like such a cool campus. I didn't know what I wanted to do. I came in and decided that, but I knew I—like there was something at the school that I wanted to do. I wasn't—I wasn't into going to like a big state school. I wanted to commute. Well, I wanted to stay near home and there wasn't any like sports that I was going into or anything through college. So I figured I wanted to do something artistic but since I didn't know exactly what I wanted to do yet, I just applied to Columbia and saw what happened and then ended up getting a good scholarship. So I was like, well, I guess I'll go. It's the only school I applied to.

Snore Doumbia: What does going to school at Columbia mean for you?

Clare Cinelli: Um, Columbia's taught me a lot more than I thought it would- being an artsy school. I think I learned a lot more than just anything about graphic design. I think just from the people that I meet. I've learned a lot more about, you know, people very different from me. I've met, I mean, so many different professors and students that have just kind of like taught me a lot about living in the city. And, you know, the issues that have been going on.

Clare Cinelli: Yeah, I mean, Columbia has been great. I feel like you learn a lot more about business and how to market yourself than you think you would from a liberal arts school. It's more about developing a lot of different traits to become better at what you do.

138 Snore Doumbia: So then what would you say were your expectations for college when you
 139 graduated high school?
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141 Clare Cinelli: Um, I expected it to be a lot more work and to be a lot more time consuming, but
 142 it actually ended up being the opposite. I feel like I was in all these honors and AP classes in
 143 high school and they were really difficult and really—you know about science and math and
 144 Economics and then they come to Columbia and it's like you show up and you try and you get
 145 good grades and that was nice for me because I always had testing anxiety and the fact that
 146 Columbia doesn't test has been or doesn't test often and really kind of shows like your skills,
 147 your projects and other assignments, other than—than just testing is really what I liked about it.
 148 I mean, I expected—I don't know it to be a lot harder than it was which is interesting because
 149 high school always told you that, “No you’re preparing you for college. It's going to be so
 150 hard,” and it was the opposite.
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152 Snore Doumbia: So, what was your transition into freshman year like?
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154 Clare Cinelli: I feel like it wasn't—I struggled a lot going to Columbia, because I commuted so
 155 it was hard for me to meet anybody in my classes. My very first class was an art history class
 156 and it was fairly big and it was in the auditorium. So it was— you didn't really connect with
 157 other students. It was just like a lecture class and since I commuted I would basically, you
 158 know, spend hours on the train, and then on buses through like horrible weather, and then I
 159 probably be upset from train delays and everything and then I'd get to class and basically just sit
 160 through a three hour lecture and then go to a coffee shop and wait for the next class and— and
 161 then I go home and I feel like—I felt very different from the rest of my friends who went away
 162 to college, because they all had roommates, and friends, and dorms, and activities; and I
 163 basically just went to school and came home and tried to do much else just because of, you
 164 know, living on the train schedule. I didn't want to (want to) stay and chat, because I just
 165 wanted to get on the train, and I still feel like I do that but from freshman year to now I've
 166 definitely tried to connect with people more in trying to meet new people and meet new friends
 167 because a lot of my friends from here [Roselle, IL] went off to school, so I kind of struggled
 168 with feeling like I didn't have anybody here or at Columbia, but now I've met some more people
 169 once I kind of got over just having to get home and trying to do other things.
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171 Snore Doumbia: And how did you expect for that to change for this coming year— for this
 172 year?
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174 Clare Cinelli: Well, I was hoping, especially this semester. Now that like the weather's getting
 175 better. I was hoping with my classes that I could meet more people. And, you know, hang out
 176 with people from Colombia, but now that we're in quarantine. It's kind of all been set back
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178 Snore Doumbia: When did you first hear about the virus?
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180 Clare Cinelli: I first heard about the virus the beginning of March. And it was weird how fast
 181 everything went from, we heard about it, to everything shutting down. I feel like once
 182 everybody started like kind of not hugging and getting a little bit freaked out it was like a few
 183 days later and it felt like everything was locked down. When I first heard about Colombia being

shut down, My mom was actually doing my hair and it was a couple days before my birthday. My birthday was supposed to be well— my birthday was in March, which was that Monday that school did shut down and I was at first excited that I didn't have to go to class on my birthday, but then I realized that I had have to sit at home and be sad on my birthday, and I couldn't see anybody that I wanted to see which was—yeah—at first I was excited and very quickly went away. Yeah, that's kind of how I found out.

Snore Doumbia: So then what was your initial response to the preposition of Columbia going online?

Clare Cinelli: Sound sounds bad, but I was super excited because community is hard. (Laughs) I mean, I would get up at 6 a.m. meeting 5:30 a.m. to make my 8:30 classes, you know, Monday through Wednesday and I was sick of it. Honestly, I mean, I want to live in the city, but can't financially, so I—I try and get online classes, but where I'm at, in my major there is no online classes offered. So I personally like online classes. I think I'm good at managing my time with them. I'm pretty strict with myself about my grades, just, I've always been that way. So I think I'm—I'm pretty good at getting things done, but I know that like my best friend who is actually a vet [veterinarian] major she is in organic chemistry and like failing and she's got really bad ADHD and can't study at home. And she's got all these siblings. So, I know like I—I feel really lucky, being able to effectively do online classes because there's so many people that you know live in, you know, a house that has a lot of noise and have trouble focusing or have trouble meeting deadlines, so I'm doing okay with it.

Snore Doumbia: So how do you feel about the overall response that Columbia had to the pandemic?

Clare Cinelli: Um, I feel like I was a little overwhelmed with all the emails coming in. I didn't know exactly what pertained to me. I felt like a lot of—a lot of the struggles with going online had to do with people who lived in the dorms and who lived far away, trying to get out. So since I just came home and I didn't have to pack up any of my stuff it for me. I feel like Columbia did fine, but I know it probably would have been a completely different situation. If I had to deal with— like housing and I mean, I'm honestly not sure how they're handling a lot of things about housing and refunds and everything. But— yeah, I mean it didn't, it didn't affect me all that much. I thought that they were— they did have a lot of communication with students, which I appreciated, even if it felt like way too much at some points.

Snore Doumbia: So then, before the lockdown in Chicago, how are you and your friends responding to the virus?

Clare Cinelli: Before the lockdown?

Snore Doumbia: Um-hm.

Clare Cinelli: Um,

229 Clare Cinelli: Before we are fully locked down. I did hang out with friends. It was a nice
 230 because they're all back from school and I hadn't seen them and they were supposed to be
 231 coming back for spring break, and my one friend was coming back for my birthday, actually.
 232 So it was still exciting to be able to see them. And then I mean so fast. It felt like I couldn't see
 233 any of them at all and I feel like sometimes FaceTime and Zoom as much as it is nice to
 234 communicate with that. It's just, it's not like being with somebody and going out and doing
 235 things. So it's, it's definitely been a struggle.
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237 Snore Doumbia: How did your parents react to the lockdown on the school's closure.
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239 Clare Cinelli: Um, so my mama. She runs a chair at a hair studio. So she's completely self-
 240 employed.
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242 Clare Cinelli: She was freaked out, because especially well she's got [crohn's disease], which is
 243 an autoimmune disease, so she's already more high risk than other people for getting the disease
 244 [COVID-19]. So her work wasn't very good about responding to the virus right away, they
 245 stayed open as long as possible until they were forced to shut down, but she stopped working
 246 about a week and a half before they actually did shut down because of her own worries about
 247 her health and since she is fully self-employed she doesn't play— pay into unemployment and
 248 so she doesn't get it. And that's definitely been rough for her. She's been trying to sell hair color
 249 at people's doorsteps like her clients and she drops it off and they— they apply it themselves.
 250 And it's definitely been weird because she's just trying to make some money while she can't
 251 even though there are people from her salon that are like kind of sneaking in and putting on hair
 252 color, the clients in dark secret and she feels very annoyed by this because people really aren't
 253 following the protocols that they should and— thinking that— some clients have also been
 254 super pissed off for her for not doing their hair at their homes, even though she's got a disease
 255 that makes her more high risk so it's been weird the response from her clients. And then my
 256 dad, He is still working. He's a superintendent for a company that does construction and he's not
 257 around a ton of people, but he like manages other people doing work on the building so he's still
 258 going, trying to wear masks and gloves when possible, but then also having to deal with people
 259 in the building, not wearing them and like shared elevators and stuff. And plus, he doesn't want
 260 to bring any diseases into the house for my mom, especially because she's high risk so it's been
 261 difficult for them, for sure.
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263 Snore Doumbia: When did you start to see the virus as serious threat to yourself?
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265 Clare Cinelli: Um, I think, fairly early on, I was more worried about my mom and what she
 266 could get. And at first it was like only, you know, older people are going to get the virus only
 267 people with health risks and then a couple weeks, more like later march, is when they started
 268 finding that young people could get the virus and could potentially die from it as well. And they
 269 were having all these cases of young people dying from it or people with no underlying
 270 conditions. And then I started getting kind of fearful for my own health. Especially because I
 271 would still go to the grocery store, obviously, with masks and things, but it's still you can't
 272 control everybody else being precautionary, so I was trying the hardest that I could, but then
 273 also fearful that I could get it. I was more fearful that if I got it that I would spread it to my
 274 mom, so I think I took it seriously, very quickly, just because I had somebody that I knew in my

275 household, but I know I had some friends who for sure weren't taking it seriously quickly.
276 They're like, "oh I'll be fine. I'm just going to go out anyways," because they don't feel like
277 staying home. So that's been frustrating too.

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279 Snore Doumbia: what resources did, or do you monitor to get news?
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281 Clare Cinelli: I use CNN mostly. Like more liberal news sources. But honestly, at first I
282 watched the news a ton. And I would get freaked out by it and I would hear all this conflicting
283 information from articles that I was reading online from all sorts of news outlets and the articles
284 would say something different. And then the people on the news would say something
285 different. And it was overwhelming because I didn't know what was factual and what I should
286 be afraid of. And what I should be doing. So I tried not watching the news very much anymore.
287 Like maybe every other day I'll watch it for maybe half an hour, at most, but I had online
288 therapy with my therapist and she was like, maybe you shouldn't be watching the news. And I
289 was like, that is a good idea because I don't think it's good for my anxiety anyways to get all
290 paranoid. At one point I thought I did have the disease. So I was like, I'm going to freak myself
291 out too much if I keep watching this.

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293 Snore Doumbia: So what are some coping skills that you did you use to help deal with your
294 feelings of anxiety caused by the virus?
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296 Clare Cinelli: Lexapro. (laughs) No. I mean that that helps, but I'm definitely— it's stopping
297 watching the news more has been helpful because a lot of it's all the same. Anyways, if you
298 watch it for more than a half an hour they start repeating what they were saying a couple
299 minutes ago anyways. I've been trying to not be on my phone too much. I feel like even when
300 I'm not actively looking for me for information about the virus. I'm finding out more scary
301 things about it just from being on Instagram and Twitter. I recently got a dog. So I've just been
302 trying to put my phone down and go on walks with him or go on bike rides go outside. I feel
303 like that's been helping out the weather's better that I don't have to stay inside because I think
304 that was also it was making me anxious was feeling like I wasn't being productive, but then if I
305 do something outside it feels like at least I'm getting something out of it.

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307 Snore Doumbia: So then how would you describe your current living situation?
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309 Clare Cinelli: Um, it's been good. I mean, I've lived at home with my parents before this all
310 happens to not much feels different. Except for everybody's home alone more often. So like
311 finding time to be alone is definitely something I've been like seeking out, because I was home
312 alone a lot when they were working and when I was at school or on my days off or going out
313 and doing things. So I'd say it's not too bad.

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315 Snore Doumbia: So how would you describe your relationship with your parents and your
316 family now that you're in the home together?
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318 Clare Cinelli: Not too many arguments, except for I'm always trying to make bread or like other
319 random food items now that I have nothing better to do. And I get like yelled at if I don't clean
320 up just right or if I don't make my bed fast enough. It's like you're— you're with them too often

there's not even anything to talk about anymore. So that's been irritating, but at the same time, I think we all kind of get along fairly decently. So it hasn't been too bad.

Snore Doumbia: What things in the dynamic of your family have changed?

Clare Cinelli: Um, So usually since my mom and dad work. It would be like a switch off of, like, who would make food, but now that my mom's completely out of work and my dad still going to work. It's more like she'll do the cooking and or I'll do it. And then there's like less responsibility. It's been different about. Like, who does what, because of my dad being at work all the time. And then my mom and I being home. But other than that, not much has changed.

Snore Doumbia: So then, how has the income in your home been affected by the coronavirus?

Clare Cinelli: Um, we've definitely been not buying things like be used to because my mom. I've— I've been getting unemployment, because my work was furloughed. I work in retail and honestly I'm making more with unemployment than I was at my retail job. But I've been trying to save it, because I know that, obviously I don't know how long I'm going to be out of work. And I think at a certain point, you stop receiving unemployment. So I'm trying to save it, but my arms getting absolutely nothing because she can't get on women, even though at one point, she thought that she could. So she's been trying to not spend any money, but it feels like. All we do is spend fun to the grocery store and nothing else. So that's like where most of our money has been going is just the grocery stores and like bills and everything. But my mom supposed to pay rent for her chair at the salon, which is like thousand dollars and— even though she's making no income. So there's also been like kind of a battle between her and the work because she still has to pay even though she's not making anything so it's definitely been difficult with that. But luckily, my dad's loves his job and he makes good money. So it's been— at least we have that. And at least he's not out of work, but there's always a fear that since he is newer to this job that he could possibly lose his job, just because if they start cutting people he would be one of the first to go so I think there's also that underlying fear that if he loses the job, then we're on unemployment or getting nothing. So there's some daily fears behind that.

Snore Doumbia: How was your home life affect your ability to study?

Clare Cinelli: Um, I mean, even just for this interview. It was like, Mom, you cannot turn on the TV because it uses too much internet and Zoom will be all gross if we try and use two make devices at once. Like a battle of who is using the internet or not. But since it's just the three of us and my dad's done for most of the day at work. And my mom will walk the dog for me if I'm like on Zoom classes, it's— it's been okay because I can come in my room and I get a decent amount of quiet time. So I've been able to study pretty effectively.

Snore Doumbia: So then, what changes have you seen in your academic habits?

Clare Cinelli: I'm, you know, I thought I was on top of my work. But I think I've put it off more because I've been feeling less motivated to do my work. I was as a person that would always get my things done early. Just so I'd have more time to do other things later in the week if I had to work all weekend or if I you know happening with my friends, I would try and get all my

367 schoolwork done like really early. But now sometimes Sunday night I'll still have, you know, a
368 couple of assignments and it's a bit like the lack of not been motivated to do my drawing
369 homework for sure because I don't feel creatively inspired to draw anything. I kind of put that
370 off the most of any of the creative classes. I just kind of want to get the assignment done. I don't
371 want to spend a lot of time on it, even though I've got nothing better to do. It feels like not much
372 is inspiring to be creative anymore, which is definitely been a bummer.

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374 Snore Doumbia: So then how would you say that the pandemics affected your ability to learn
375 anything from your classes?

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377 Clare Cinelli: Yeah, that's a good question. I'm still trying to take away some things like I'm
378 learning a lot of Adobe programs like Photoshop and Illustrator and InDesign. And I'm trying to
379 learn technical skills because I feel like I can stay focused on now but when it comes to like
380 upping my drawing ability, since I'm going into graphic design it's kind of like a prerequisite to
381 be able to do some artistic things, I've definitely I've still been trying to develop my skills. I
382 just, I'm not as happy with the work as I was when I was at school. Because it's also hard to
383 force myself to sit down for an hour to and just work on it because when I'm at home. I'm like, I
384 guess I'll just do laundry are all organized this closet instead of doing what I actually should be
385 doing, which is just focusing on school more, but actually, I've been working on my portfolio, a
386 lot more now that I've had this time, I feel like I didn't have time before with my job. I was
387 always working or if I wasn't working I was trying to sleep. I was not taking much of my free
388 time to work on school outside of school and developing that portfolio. So I've been slowly
389 picking away at that and I'm proud of what I've done so far. It's just saying I have something off
390 for a while. So there are some things that have definitely benefited even though there are some
391 things that I definitely feel less motivated to learn.

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393 Snore Doumbia: What are some things that you excel that before the pandemic record and
394 versus now?

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396 Clare Cinelli: Um, I think I was good at designating time to do things because I had, I was
397 commuting and I have long train rides and bus rides. I would do a lot of the assignments that I
398 could do on a computer, my phone. I would designate time obviously because I was stuck on
399 the train to just do it or I had like a couple hours in between classes on Wednesdays and I
400 would go to the honors lounge. And I would do a ton of work because I had three hours in
401 between my classes. So I had all that time to do work, and I felt very focused, but now besides,
402 like scheduled Zoom meeting or classes I don't focus too much, or I don't set aside like specific
403 time just because if the whole days clear, it feels like to do whenever. And then they end up
404 pushing it off a little bit too much. So, because I don't have like super hard deadlines anymore
405 either. I feel like a lot of assignments. You don't have to get done right away. Especially
406 because it's the end of the year. And a lot of the projects are final project. So it's due like May
407 thirteenth and it's may fourth so I'm like going to work on it later. And then it's kind of piling
408 up a bit.

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410 Snore Doumbia: So then, which classes have you resumed su—successful with the online
411 learning and why?

Clare Cinelli: My design lab class is really easy to do online. Because I'll have my iPad and my computer. And it's actually easier to see what the professor is doing when he's got the screen sharing on because the whole class is basically just following along what he does on the screen. So I— it's actually been easier to learn for me sometimes through Zoom to learn like the Adobe suite things, but drawing class like that's impossible to do through Zoom. It's basically just going over like objectives for the week and then going off on your own and doing it. I have a Photoshop class. It's been going well because it's the same thing. Basically, it's the design lab class where I'm just learning Adobe features and doing things I have a foundation studio class that is not going as well, just because It's hard to create things. The whole— the whole purpose of the class was basically to use the shop at Columbia to work with like wood and materials and laser cutter and everything and now that we can't use any of that the projects are like, “make something out of cardboard in your house,” and I feel like that isn't the learning objectives that we're going for. So it's definitely there are some classes that were way better than others.

Snore Doumbia: So what classes have struggled with the transition to online learning?

Clare Cinelli: Um, I think all the professors have done a good job communicating. I think sometimes it's just the structure of the entire class that suffers a bit. I haven't had any issues with professors not responding or not being able to make the Zoom calls. I mean, everybody's been good about that and giving us opportunities to get help if we need it.

Clare Cinelli: It's just— yeah, that foundation studio class and the drawing class have definitely taken a turn, because it's kind of ‘rely on yourself’ to take something out of the class, you don't really have time to like sit in the studio and draw or like sit in the workshop and learn how to do something. I was looking forward to learning the laser cutter for sure. Excellent via I make earrings and I wanted to make them out of acrylic and the only way I could do is through Columbia so that's been disappointing for sure because I don't think that foundation studio class, we're really getting much out of it anymore. Like our final project is making a mask out of cardboard that keeps people three feet away from you and I mean like, Sure, it's useful, but I don't think it's— it's what the final project was meant to be for sure. So yeah, it's a little disappointing for some things

Snore Doumbia: So how have you and your professor has been communicated?

Clare Cinelli: Mostly through email. I don't do like one on one Zoom sessions with professors. I haven't yet just because I haven't had any issues that I needed to do that. I'll ask little questions here and there. I feel like I email my professors more now. After the whole pandemic, just because there's things that aren't clear on the canvas page or there's, you know, things that are working as well. But yeah, it's not been bad with professors. They've all answered my emails, for the most part, so it's been pretty good.

Snore Doumbia: So then what would you say has been your biggest struggle in converting to online class?

Clare Cinelli: Um, I would say, time management. Like designating certain times to do my work. And I've been getting a little bit better at it, even though at the end of the semester. I've

459 been trying to say like, okay, I'm going to finish the classes work by the end of this day. I'm just
460 so it doesn't all pile on to the weekend because obviously, even though we can't go out on the
461 weekends, I'd still rather have certain days where I could not have to do schoolwork. So, I—
462 I've been learning from it, but at the same time that it's definitely been hard to not have a
463 routine anymore because then I feel like I don't do the things that I used to do what scheduled
464 times

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466 Snore Doumbia: How have you stayed motivated during your time.

467

468 Clare Cinelli: Um, it's definitely been hard to stay motivated. Sometimes I don't get out on my
469 pajamas all day and then it just feels like a wasted day, but at the same time, if I can get up and
470 get ready I think that's been more motivating personally just because at least, even though I'm
471 not going anywhere. It feels like I have some kind of routine that I can control still and if I like
472 make my bed and wash my face at least like a I did something and I'm not just going to crawl
473 back into bed and go to sleep. Yeah, going outside has definitely been more motivating because
474 the weather's nice, but on the super rainy days, it's like, I'd rather just stay inside and do
475 nothing. So I think it's dependent on the— the factors in my environment now rather than
476 actually having planned things to do.

477

478 Snore Doumbia: Why do you think it's important to stay in class during this time? Or why do
479 you think it isn't as important?

480

481 Clare Cinelli: Um, stay in class, like the Zoom calls or just continuing classes anyways?

482

483 Snore Doumbia: Both

484

485 Clare Cinelli: For some classes I think the Zoom calls are good. Like, especially where I'm
486 learning something with from screen sharing with the professor. I still feel like I get things out
487 of that that Zoom call experience or the class continuing Honestly, that foundation studio class
488 isn't the best class to continue and I'm not sure if you know we're still online in the fall, how
489 that fast even continue to be honest, because kind of the whole point of it is learning things at
490 the Columbia shop and everything that we've been doing at home like— an example— I made a
491 project where I made little clay frogs and I just feel like I didn't get much out of that, like it was
492 just something— It was just something that I feel like it's not the professors fault at all. I mean,
493 nobody knew it was going to happen. But the online learning curve for— For a really hands on
494 class is definitely a lot harder. There's some classes too were like the Zoom calls you don't learn
495 much. It's just like catching up with people and sometimes they feel like a little bit of a waste of
496 time. But it is nice that we have that time to ask questions, even though for some classes, things
497 have been pretty straightforward.

498

499 Snore Doumbia: How do you feel about the pass/fail system?

500

501 Clare Cinelli: Personally, I wouldn't use it just because I'm happy with my grades so far. And I
502 think online they've improved, but I feel like teachers are being really lenient with grading,
503 especially with the pandemic. Just because everybody's super confused and maybe not putting
504 in like their 100% best effort, just because there's a lot of mixed feelings going around and

again a lack of motivation so since my grades have been okay I don't consider a pass/fail. But for a lot of colleges I don't like the idea of a pass/fail. I'll use my friend, as an example, just because that's what's been like hitting home the most to me, but since she's a pre-vet [Veterinarian] major she If she chooses pass/fail she's less likely to get into grad school because they don't see like her actual progress. They just see like she passed or she failed it. Especially with like really important classes so I don't like the idea of it for some people but for our school since it is liberal arts and for a lot of things and we don't have super— I don't know how to describe it. We don't have classes that are as like life changing as some other like pre-med [medicine] classes, that a lot of us could do pass/fail and probably still get into grad schools, but I guess it just depends on the majors well. A good grading system that I saw was people were doing like the ABC grading system where like a 100 to like a 75 was an A, and so on. And that nobody failed, but everybody just got like modified grades. I think that's good for a lot of students just because, like, this is a really weird time where some people like feel no motivation to do school, especially people who have dealt with Illness or, you know, knowing somebody who's being sick so I think there is some more consideration that could have gone into the pass fail, but I still understand why the school did it.

Snore Doumbia: Do you what things do you have planned for after the endemic?

Clare Cinelli: Um I supposed to go to Canada. This summer, and I don't think I'll be able to. I haven't even been able to get a passport, so not to keep passport photos so I was hoping to still do that later in the fall, but now I'm not so sure. I don't know. I'm hoping to just do anything but I considering the fact that nothing is going to be the same as it was anymore. Like, I see documentaries of— of people like famous people hugging strangers at meet and greets from, you know, years ago, and now it feels so weird to see people hugging or being close to each other in public or going to restaurants anymore just because of the current state. And I'm not sure we're going to get there until we have a vaccine. I just kind of don't see how it's going to work at least personally, I'm not sure how I'm going to feel comfortable again going around people just because— Again, my mom still has autoimmune disease, whether you know, the viruses down curve or not. So I still want to be as cautious as possible. I guess I'm worried about other people, for sure. After the pandemic, I just feel like— I don't know when they'll be an after if it'll even come during this year I'm hoping people learn from it, though, to be honest, like it's interesting how the environments kind of healing. During this time, like all of those articles. I've been reading about like pollution has been at an all time low and people aren't driving and I hope people learn from this and that they kind of appreciate some things more. I think we kind of took our lives for granted before this being able to, you know, do what we do every day and be around so many people. So I think there's some good that can come from it. But I'm just not sure when that's going to be

Snore Doumbia: What would you have done or wish had been done to better prepare yourself for the social distancing period?

Clare Cinelli: Um, I wish I knew more about the virus before the social justice thing period. I'm, to be honest, it felt like a lot of weird conflicting information. Even before we were like, We have to stay at home order. I went to work a couple of days before that happened and a couple of days before our workshop down. It was like, people were like solving a little bit more

551 than usual. But I don't think we knew enough that it wasn't enough, and especially like how
552 many people I was around. I just wish I knew information sooner. I wish I would have not
553 worked as close as I did to the stay at home order. I feel like that definitely put some people at
554 risk. We didn't know about having to wear masks or anything. So I think now that I do know all
555 the dangers of it. I wish that I had known sooner. Just because I feel like I wasn't as well
556 prepared as I thought I was my dad's in construction. So he had all these and 95 bass in the
557 basement. From like years ago that we just conveniently had for some reason. And since my
558 mom just hair she's got gloves. So at least I felt fortunate that we had some things because I
559 know that it was so hard for people to get them for so long. So I felt fortunate to have the
560 supplies. Yeah, that's about here.

561
562 Snore Doumbia: How did your social circles change from before the virus?

563
564 Clare Cinelli: Sorry, what do you mean by that?

565
566 Snore Doumbia: Like how did your social interactions change with people from before the
567 virus to now?

568
569 Clare Cinelli: Oh, I'm— I feel like even though It was my niece's birthday. A couple weeks ago
570 and we drove by their house and we're like, waving to them who we're talking to them far away
571 from the car. And it made me realize how much I miss like hugging people, I think I never
572 realized that I did it so often, but me, even people I don't know all that well. Like when I go into
573 my mom's shop. There was always a people who knew me from when I was younger, that were
574 there and he would just like hug them even though you didn't know them all that well. And now
575 people that are closest to you like your, you know, family who lives one town down from you.
576 You can't even hug them. So I think that's definitely been kind of sad. And I think also, you
577 realize who like your closer friends are during this time because some people are good at
578 communicating. I definitely have some friends that I haven't talked to from like most of the
579 time during the pandemic so far. And I think it's just because we realized like, who you want to
580 make an effort to stay in contact with versus who you hang out with just because they're around
581 or just because you're used to it so I've definitely like figured out kind of who the most
582 important people in my friend group and the people in my family who stayed the most
583 connected, who are the closest. I think you realized kind of who cares more or like who cares.
584 The most personally before this. Sometimes you you know see people and family at events
585 and— and then they weren't like really that close to you if you thought they were so that's
586 definitely changed.

587
588 Snore Doumbia: So that, how have you maintained stimulating relationships with those that you
589 don't share space with?

590
591 Clare Cinelli: Um, I've been trying to text my friends and family to check in on them. I feel like
592 I didn't do that before and now I kind of wish that I had done that. Seeing like not only how
593 school is going, or like financially how they're dealing with it kind of mentally. I Think a lot of
594 people are dealing with this in a lot of different ways. And some people need more support than
595 others. So I think I've been trying to reach out to them like text phone calls, Zoom calls, but I
596 don't know, there's just something weird about face timing. Sometimes I never used it much

before the pandemic and I just don't feel like I connect with people in the same way, especially because there's like so many distractions with your phone that at least in person. If you're doing something we could put the phones away. But I think the constant like news and social media all the time. It's kind of just still too distracting to really connect with somebody in any way so it's definitely changed a lot. That way, I hope that after this we kind of realized the importance of being around people I know I'm going to definitely appreciate being around people more for sure. I think I, I didn't before and I kind of regret it now.

Snore Doumbia: What hobbies activities of people, have you tried to use to get through this challenging time?

Clare Cinelli: Um, I ordered a cheap painting set and I haven't painted in years. And I did art in high school and then I kind of I dropped it for a while and then I obviously being at Columbia. There's definitely a lot of opportunity to be creative. So I've been trying to paint. I made earrings before the virus, it actually stopped making them. just because I was selling them with shop Columbia, but obviously I was making them for that. So now that they're closed down. I haven't had any reason to and I already have so many that it feels like I didn't need to make any more earrings. So...

Clare Cinelli: What else have I done? Like I said, I got a dog. So I wouldn't call it a hobby, but it definitely is very time consuming and I think that's actually been the best for me. I dealt with things it before the pandemic, but especially being at home and feeling like I'm not getting enough done or I'm not doing what I should be doing. If I have a distraction, like a puppy. It's definitely been a better way of distracting myself, for sure.

Clare Cinelli: I feel like that's what everybody's doing right now is distracting themselves what's going on and it feels kind of sad, but at the same time, I feel like I've been able to have the time to try painting again or to try organizing my space in a different way. So that's definitely been kind of fun, even though not fun at the same time.

Snore Doumbia: What is the pandemic made you realize?

Clare Cinelli: Um, It's made me realize a lot about my own life and society for sure. I think It's made me completely rethink our society structure and how-- how interconnected everybody was before all this. Personally, my own life, I realized that I didn't take all the opportunities that I should have to connect with people, especially at Columbia. I feel like kind of sad that I never found all that many friends at Columbia because of commuting depending on what happens and still hoping to move to the city next year, I've been trying to save up for a while so that I can have kind of more of those experiences of meeting people and doing things, but I think there's a lot of times where I chose not to go out or chose not to do things just because I was tired or I just didn't feel like it but I think now I've realized that I should take more opportunities. Even like in developing my portfolio. I think there was always like classes. I could have taken or things I could have done to better my skills that I just kind of chose not to for one reason or another. And now that I have all the time to do it. I think like that is important and yeah, I'm going to try and take away a lot from this actually

643 Snore Doumbia: So how would you say the pandemic has changed you currently?
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645 Clare Cinelli: Um, Just like-- like personality wise or sorry, like what do you mean my change
646 me?
647
648 Snore Doumbia: Like, how has a going through everything that you've been through with the
649 pandemic made you who you are now versus how you would have been?
650
651 Clare Cinelli: Oh okay, I think if this didn't have occurred. I wouldn't think about other people
652 as much. It sounds strange to think that way. But I'm like an Asian cultures people wore masks
653 when they were sick to not get other people sick and here we would wear them to protect
654 ourselves from getting sick. So I think it's made me think about others simply in that way. Like,
655 how could you help another person or think about somebody else. Yeah, I find it interesting
656 how that happened like how everybody started wearing masks. I think it's just changed my
657 outlook on everything, and it made me just think more about my own life and what's kind of
658 important to me. And now I think I didn't even thinking more about like my career path being
659 stuck at home all this time. And what I actually want to learn from online classes. Because I
660 think when you're going to classes every day, you're too busy thinking about everything else to
661 think about the future. And now that we're all to heat up the future constantly in daily. I think
662 it's opened my eyes to kind of thinking about how I want my portfolio to develop and how I
663 want to use like my career. To impact society in an important way. So I think there's a lot of
664 things that I just kind of opened my eyes to with all this newfound time
665
666 Snore Doumbia: So how do you feel about the future.
667
668 Clare Cinelli: Um, if you-- to be honest, I don't know when things will open up or how people
669 will react to it, but personally in my own future, I think. I mean, as long as I still graduate and
670 keep working on my portfolio and bettering myself as a graphic designer. I am hopeful. I'm
671 definitely going to be way more cautious-- cautious and public now. With, like what we touch
672 and how we clean things and what protective gear we use, I think. Maybe we should have been
673 doing all this stuff during flu season even earlier. I mean, not as intensely, obviously. But I
674 think there's some things that will continue for the rest of all future times in public because
675 people are now realizing that, you know, we're not always protected like we think we are. And
676 we're not invincible. Like we think we are. So I think it's kind of humanity, realizing its own
677 destruction. And that kind of way.
678
679 Snore Doumbia: So then, before the spread of COVID-19. Where did you think you would be
680 today?
681
682 Clare Cinelli: I'm probably today. I probably would have been working for sure. I still would
683 have been commuting. Hopefully, it would all now that it's the end of the semester I hopefully
684 would have been planning going to Canada, um, yeah, I think I would. Since it's nice out
685 probably be with friends who are coming home around this time to. I know a lot of kids are
686 getting out of school in this next week, so yeah, I would have been doing a lot more, but I think
687 I haven't had time like this to sit and think because I feel like I was so busy before. So, at the
688 same time, it has been kind of nice thinking about the things and thinking about the future in a

689 different way. Instead of just focusing on like the present and everything I do for work in
690 school. I'm kind of thinking about long term now. So it's only been a shift, but kind of in a good
691 way for a lot of things.

692
693 Snore Doumbia: So what would you say has been the most significant imp-- change for you,
694 due to the virus?

695
696 Clare Cinelli: Um, definitely not working. And I think and going to school online, but at least
697 I'm still doing school. I actually became really close with a lot of people from work and that
698 was a lot of who I saw on a daily basis. Since my friends were all the way at college. It's been
699 weird not seeing the same people and-- and not working and making money. I felt like very
700 strange not doing something all day long. Especially physical work like I would walk
701 sometimes nine miles a day being a manager. I was like, always doing something and always so
702 busy that now, like doing nothing, It almost feels normal now. And I kind of don't like it. And
703 like, Yeah, that's definitely been the biggest change like not being as active like home workouts
704 just aren't I can't do them. I just don't feel like-- I just feel weird about it. So definitely like the
705 lack of activity has been the biggest change.

706
707 Snore Doumbia: What do you think all of this will impact society moving forward and you and
708 your family.

709
710 Clare Cinelli: Um, I think people are going to start thinking about how what they do affects
711 other people. There's been a big shift mentally. I think about that. I'm hoping people appreciate
712 healthcare workers more. I think that was a thing that everybody's starting to appreciate. Now
713 that maybe wasn't as appreciated before. Yeah, I think there's going to be just a whole different
714 outlook on life in general and kind of how fragile, it can be sometimes, and how easily
715 sometimes things spread, and how we can kind of prevent that. Yeah. And personally, I'll do the
716 same.

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718 Snore Doumbia: Well, that is all the questions that I have for you today. It was great
719 interviewing you.

720
721 Clare Cinelli: Thank you so much.

722
723 Clare Cinelli: Okay, I stopped my recording
724