

Ding

Xinyu

CLIT7801 Creative Cinematic Practice: Experiential Learning in Museum and Film Festival
Film Club Experience

The monthly collective viewing event is like a time travel for me. As the theme of the film list designed by Ms. Kate for us this academic year "the city as cultural text" suggests, we were taken on a journey from the constantly evolving neighborhoods of Seoul, South Korea where the characters grow up as well, to the cabins that pose potential threats for woman in Karachi, Pakistan, to Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia where shamanic tradition and modernity coexist, to the revolutionary streets of Havana, Cuba where the protagonist roams as an outsider, to the space underneath the footbridges of Hong Kong, which the homeless defend to the death, and finally to the "Madchester" of post-industrial England composed of alternative music and hallucinogens. Through these films, we were able to appreciate specific time and space that were captured in the frames, feel the subtle expression of the city in a special context, including the events and people that occurred and lived within it. The cultural studies theories that were once difficult to understand in class were vividly interpreted in the film texts, allowing me to better integrate the two, complement and enrich each other, and even develop new associations and ideas.

I firmly believe that since its invention, film has always been an art for collective viewing. Therefore, it is a blessing to be in the same cinema with professionals in the filmmaking industry, fellow students in the film club, and other movie enthusiasts of all ages, to share the same afternoon, to listen to the audience's reactions, and to discuss our feelings about the film. It made me start to envision an ideal public space that revolves around film.