



COLLECTION CHRONICLES

AMEER, SAM, AND TQ

An illustration of various art supplies. It includes a palette with yellow, green, and blue paint, a paintbrush with a wooden handle and a blue head, a tube of green paint with a black cap, a tube of brown paint with a black cap, a green clothespin, and a brown paintbrush. The background is a mix of pink and blue with a brown swirl.

An illustration of art supplies. In the top left is a light brown paint palette with several wells containing different colors: red, yellow, white, black, green, and blue. To the right of the palette is a paintbrush with a black handle and a light-colored bristle head. Below the brush is a black bottle of paint with a white label that has the number '0' and the letters 'ALL' on it. The background is a light blue textured surface with a large pink brushstroke in the upper right and an orange brushstroke at the bottom. There are also some small, dark, circular shapes in the top right corner.

A collage featuring a light blue textured background. A large, thick orange scribbled circle frames the center. Inside the circle, a white envelope is shown, partially open, with the words "thank you" written in a black cursive script. In the top right corner, outside the orange circle, is a small black box with the number "0" on a white label.

editor bios

tq

HI I'M TU QUYNH VUU, BUT I OFTEN GO BY TQ! I WAS BORN IN VIETNAM BUT I GREW UP IN GARDEN GROVE, CALIFORNIA, USA. MY MAJOR IS INTERACTIVE MEDIA ARTS. I HAVE A VARIETY OF COLLECTIONS, BUT MY MOST PRIZED ONE IS MY FUNKO POPS! I'VE BEEN COLLECTING SINCE I WAS 14, BUT THE ADDICTION GOT MORE SERIOUS IN RECENT YEARS. I HAVE AROUND 160 FUNKO POPS THAT CONSIST OF CHARACTERS FROM VIDEO GAMES, MOVIES, SHOWS, ANIME, ETC. SOME OF MY OTHER COLLECTIONS INCLUDE FURRYBONES FIGURINES, POPMART FIGURINES (MOSTLY HIRONO & SKULLPANDA), MANGA, AND OTHER SMALLER TRINKETS.



CALIFORNIA, USA



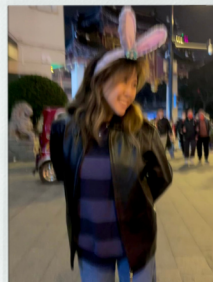
NEW YORK, USA

ameer

HEY! MY NAME IS AMEER QURESHI AND I'M FROM LONG ISLAND, NY. I AM MAJORING IN BUSINESS AND FINANCE. I COLLECT DIFFERENT CURRENCIES AS MY GRANDFATHER TRAVELED A LOT AROUND THE WORLD FOR THE PAST 50+ YEARS AND BEGAN A UNIQUE COLLECTION FOR COUNTRIES HE HAS VISITED. I WANTED TO HONOR THAT LEGACY BY ADDING TO IT THROUGH MY TRAVELS AND EXPERIENCES.

sam

HEY, I'M SAM AND I'M FROM IRVINE, CALIFORNIA IN THE UNITED STATES. MY MAJOR IS INTERACTIVE MEDIA AND BUSINESS WITH A FOCUS ON MARKETING. I COLLECT SONNY ANGELS, MINI, JAPANESE CHERUB FIGURINES. I STARTED COLLECTING THEM WITH A FRIEND AND IT'S STUCK. SONNY ANGELS HAVE DIFFERENT SERIES, BUT THEY ARE ALL IN SEALED BLIND BOXES SO THEY PROVIDE AN ELEMENT OF SURPRISE UPON OPENING. WHAT RESONATED WITH ME THE MOST IS HOW THE CREATOR, TORU SOEYA, CREATED SONNY ANGELS FOR WORKING WOMEN IN THEIR MID 20S TO DEAL WITH THEIR STRESSES OF ADULthood. THE STRESSES OF ADULthood.



CALIFORNIA, USA



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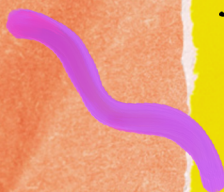


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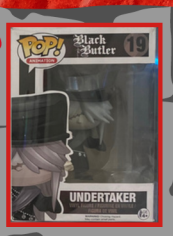
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tq's COLLECTION

MY FAVORITE FUNKO POP!



I was first introduced to Funko Pops in elementary school when I was at a bookstore and instead of looking for academic books, I lingered in the toy section. One Funko Pop particularly caught my attention because it was a uniquely shaped bobblehead figurine of a character I often played in a game, and it was so endearing that I put it on my Christmas wishlist that year. I was given my first Funko Pop that year, and I've been obsessed ever since.

As a huge fan of pop culture, particularly TV/book series, Japanese anime, video games, and more, I found that collecting figurines of these characters was most enjoyable as I loved having little trinkets and it connected to who I am as a person. I believe that experiences shape who we are as people, so the content we indulge in contributes to our personalities, interests, and it also expands our perspectives. On the surface, I don't tend to show most people my personality revolving around my interests and hobbies as these elements are deeply significant to my personal life and outlooks, so in order to compensate for that, I reflect how I perceive myself through my collections. Others may think it's silly to spend copious amounts of money and time on searching and collecting these figurines, but to me, it is a valuable passion that I am proud of, and something about collecting things just helps alleviate the struggles of my mental health. My addiction to collecting Funko pops and other figurines became much more serious after I got my first job, as I had my own income to spend without feeling guilty for using birthday or Lunar New Year money.

Although I own 160 pops, my largest sub-collections include the Harry Potter series, Attack on Titan, Jujutsu Kaisen, and Demon Slayer. If I had to choose an all-time favorite pop, it would be Undertaker from the Black Butler anime series, as I spent the most time, effort, and money searching for it. Some other favorites from my extensive collection are Hatsune Miku (metallic version), Chun-Li (red-outfit) from Street Fighter, Kitana from Mortal Kombat X, Ashe & Miss Fortune from League of Legends, Mitsuri Kanroji from Demon Slayer, Sailor Moon (crisis-outfit), and Tomie from the Junji Ito Collection. I usually buy Funko pops second-hand both in-stores and online because of cheaper prices and the higher possibility of rare/exclusive pops, however, I do keep up with new releases from the Funko company itself! With every Funko Pop I purchase, especially when I find the rare-ones I've been looking for, I feel an incredible sense of accomplishment and happiness. In the case of my collections, I do believe in the saying that money buys happiness.



NOT MY ENTIRE
COLLECTION BUT
SOME OF IT!



MORE FUNKO POPS!



SNIPPETS OF MY OTHER COLLECTIONS

AMBER'S

CURRENCY COLLECTION

MY GRANDFATHER'S CURRENCY COLLECTION, GATHERED OVER ALMOST A CENTURY, IS A TESTAMENT TO A LIFETIME OF TRAVEL AND CURIOSITY. HE STARTED THIS REMARKABLE COLLECTION IN HIS YOUTH, EXPLORING FAR-FLUNG REGIONS OF THE WORLD AND ACCUMULATING AN ECLECTIC ASSORTMENT OF CURRENCIES, INCLUDING THOSE FROM AUSTRIA, IRAN, AFGHANISTAN, FRANCE, AND THE UAE.

WHAT MAKES THIS COLLECTION EVEN MORE SPECIAL IS THE CONNECTION IT HAS FOSTERED BETWEEN US, DESPITE THE PHYSICAL DISTANCE THAT SEPARATES US. HE RESIDES IN PAKISTAN, WHILE I HAVE SPENT MOST OF MY LIFE IN NEW YORK. YET, THROUGH THIS COLLECTION, WE'VE FOUND A BRIDGE THAT TRANSCENDS MILES AND BRINGS US CLOSER.

EVERY NOTE AND COIN IN THIS COLLECTION TELLS A UNIQUE STORY, PROVIDING INSIGHTS INTO THE ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL HISTORIES OF THE PLACES HE VISITED. THE INTRICATE DESIGNS, LANGUAGES, AND SYMBOLS ON THESE CURRENCIES OFFER A GLIMPSE INTO THE IDENTITY AND EVOLUTION OF NATIONS.

WHAT'S PARTICULARLY HEARTWARMING IS THAT I'VE JOINED IN THIS SHARED PASSION. I'VE CONTRIBUTED CURRENCIES FROM MY OWN TRAVELS, LIKE POLISH ZLOTY, THAI BAHT, AND CHINESE YUAN, FURTHER ENRICHING OUR COLLECTION. IT'S BECOME A SILENT CONVERSATION BETWEEN US, A WAY OF SAYING, "I MAY BE PHYSICALLY FAR, BUT WE SHARE THIS CONNECTION THROUGH TIME AND SPACE." AS I EXPLORE MY GRANDFATHER'S COLLECTION AND ADD MY OWN, I FEEL LIKE A STEWARD OF HISTORY, PRESERVING THE STORIES OF NATIONS AND THEIR DEVELOPMENT. THIS COLLECTION IS MORE THAN A HOBBY; IT'S A BOND THAT TRANSCENDS GENERATIONS, FOSTERING A SHARED LOVE FOR UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD'S INTRICATE TAPESTRY THROUGH CURRENCIES.



sam's COLLECTION

I COLLECT SONNY ANGELS, MINI, JAPANESE CHERUB FIGURINES. I STARTED COLLECTING THEM WITH A FRIEND IN MAY OF 2023 AND IT'S STUCK WITH ME SINCE. THIS PAST SUMMER, I WOULD DRIVE AROUND TOWN WITH MY FRIENDS IN AN ATTEMPT TO FIND SONNY ANGELS. THERE ARE MANY DIFFERENT SERIES; THEY ARE FRUIT, PLANT, SEASON, ETC. THEMED AND ARE FOUND IN BLIND BOXES. ALTHOUGH MY FRIENDS AND I ATTEND DIFFERENT COLLEGES IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE WORLD, WE ARE STILL ABLE TO BE CONNECTED TO ONE ANOTHER THROUGH THIS HOBBY.

WHAT RESONATED WITH ME THE MOST IS HOW THE CREATOR, TORU SOEYA, CREATED SONNY ANGELS FOR WORKING WOMEN IN THEIR MID 20S TO DEAL WITH THEIR STRESSES OF ADULthood. AFTER MOVING TO SHANGHAI, MY LIFE HAS FELT VERY UNPREDICTABLE AND ALWAYS CHANGING. I FEEL THAT WITH COLLEGE AND GROWING UP, HAVING A CONSISTENT LIFESTYLE IS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE. WHAT'S BROUGHT ME A SENSE OF STABILITY IS BEING ABLE TO HAVE A CONNECTION TO MY HOMETOWN WHILE ALSO BEING IN CHINA.

UPON VISITING THE OLD DORMS THIS SEMESTER, I WAS ABLE TO FIND SONNY ANGELS IN A LOCAL MALL. IT PROVIDED ME WITH CONSISTENCY AND A FEELING THAT NO MATTER WHERE I AM IN THE WORLD, I CAN ALWAYS HAVE THE FEELING OF FINDING SONNY ANGELS. I AM REMINDED OF MY HOMETOWN AND THERE IS A BRIDGE BETWEEN LIVING IN THE STATES AND LIVING IN SHANGHAI.



NICHOLAS HOOK

NEW JERSEY, USA



My books are old and new, and the vast majority of them I have not read. Honestly, it's perfect. I have the collection of my dreams and it's completely perfect as it is now. They take up five cases—two of them in my room and the others in the basement or living room, and piles in the office—and they currently hold maybe 400 volumes or probably more. Maybe a couple hundred Western classics, a hundred volumes of comics in Japanese that I can't read (I bought them young and don't regret it at all), and more than 100 art books and art history books. Of course, there's random interspersions of children's books and the Russian language and other languages but I don't do anything with those or most of my books for that matter. They're roughly all mine, except I'm the least well-read. The best part is they wait for me forever. It is my consolation, so I never miss them. The healthy part is it's okay if I lose them all. If anyone in my family wanted them all they could have them. Besides that, I wouldn't let them go for free. I really get caught up in material sometimes, like things mean something more to me than life, like it's the most important thing in the world to have it, and I have to, just have to buy it. But I've outgrown that feeling for books and that's good. I've retired from collecting. I probably won't ever read all the books I own. But I'm happy to have them, if there is one collection of things to own, it's books, you'll never be left with an empty feeling.

all the feels

A MOST RECENT PHOTO OF MY TWO SHELVES (2020) MY COLLECTION WAS JUST BEGINNING. I WOULD USE THE PAINTING TO BLOCK THE UV WAVES FROM GETTING TO THE EXPENSIVE BINDINGS!



RAMISH JALIL

LAHORE, PAKISTAN



IN ADDITION TO BEING A TREASURED FAMILY HEIRLOOM, MY STAMP COLLECTION HOLDS A SPECIAL PLACE IN MY HEART SINCE IT REPRESENTS MY LOVE OF HISTORY AND MY FEELING OF NATIONALITY. MY DAD'S UNCLE ORIGINALLY PUT TOGETHER THIS AMAZING COLLECTION, SO INHERITING IT FEELS LIKE TAKING ON THE ROLE OF GUARDIAN FOR A PHYSICAL PIECE OF OUR HISTORY. I AM DIRECTLY CONNECTED TO THE PAST BY THESE STAMPS, SOME OF WHICH ARE FROM THE 16TH AND 17TH CENTURIES, AND I CAN'T HELP BUT BE DEEPLY PROUD OF MY COUNTRY'S RICH HERITAGE.

THE ADDITION OF STAMPS THAT COMMEMORATE SIGNIFICANT HISTORICAL EVENTS IN PAKISTAN'S PAST JUST MAKES ME FEEL MORE STRONGLY. THEY ARE MORE THAN JUST SYMBOLS; THEY ARE PROOF OF OUR TENACITY, ASPIRATIONS, AND NATIONAL ADVENTURE. EVERY STAMP IN THIS COLLECTION HAS ITS UNIQUE STORY, AND I'VE FOUND IMMENSE JOY IN UNRAVELING THE NARRATIVES BEHIND EACH ONE.

I HAVE A SPECIAL PLACE IN MY HEART FOR ONE SPECIFIC STAMP OUT OF MY COLLECTION. IT HAS BECOME A GENERATION-SPANNING SHARED PASTIME IN THE COMMUNITY. ORIGINALLY, THIS STAMP WAS GIVEN TO MY DAD'S UNCLE IN THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY BY A FRIEND WHO LIVED IN JODHPUR. THE FACT THAT THIS STAMP HAS BEEN TREASURED AND KEPT SAFE FOR SUCH A LONG TIME IS PROOF OF THE HISTORICAL VALUE THAT THESE SMALL FRAGMENTS OF HISTORY HOLD.

FOR ME, COLLECTING THESE STAMPS IS MORE THAN JUST A PASTIME. IT'S A MEANS OF HONORING OUR ANCESTRY, FORGING CONNECTIONS WITH THE PAST, AND PRESERVING PAKISTAN'S LEGACY FOR THE NEXT GENERATIONS. EACH STAMP IN THIS COLLECTION REPRESENTS A DISTINCT CHAPTER IN THE HISTORY OF OUR COUNTRY, AND IT IS AN HONOR TO BE THE ONE TO CONVEY THIS STORY.



REESE DYCHIAO

MANILA, PHILIPPINES

TRAVELING HAS ALWAYS BEEN AT THE HEART OF MY FAMILY'S TRADITIONS. EVERY VACATION, MY PARENTS MAKE SURE TO TAKE US SOMEWHERE NEW. WHETHER THIS BE DOMESTIC OR INTERNATIONAL, OUR DESTINATIONS ARE ALWAYS UNCHARTED TERRITORY. PERSONALLY, TRAVELING HAS ALWAYS REPRESENTED AN ESCAPE, A WAY TO LEAVE OUR EVERYDAY REALITIES AND IMMERSE OURSELVES IN DIFFERENT PLACES AND ALTERNATE LIVES.

MY HABIT OF COLLECTING SNOW GLOBES BEGAN WHEN I WAS 8 YEARS OLD, AS A WAY TO REMEMBER THE WONDERFUL PLACES WE'D VISITED. TO ME, SNOW GLOBES ARE NOT MERELY ORNAMENTAL; THEY HAVE THE UNIQUE ABILITY TO ENCAPSULATE A MOMENT IN TIME IN A LITTLE GLASS SPHERE. IT'S ALWAYS AMAZED ME HOW THESE SMALL KEEPSAKES CAN SO ACCURATELY CAPTURE THE ESSENCE OF A PLACE WHERE SOME OF MY HAPPIEST MEMORIES WERE CREATED.

I ALSO FIND IT MEANINGFUL HOW SNOW GLOBES COULD BE STATIC BUT ALSO DYNAMIC. A SIMPLE SHAKE SETS THE "SNOW" PARTICLES SWIRLING, MIMICKING THE MAGIC OF SNOWFALL. THE SLOW, CINEMATIC FALLING OF THE PARTICLES NEVER FAILS TO MESMERIZE AND SOMEHOW TRANSPORT ME BACK IN TIME. WITH THIS, SNOW GLOBES HAVE BECOME THE PERFECT MEMENTOS OF MY TRAVELS, EACH ONE OCCUPYING A SPECIAL PLACE ON THE SHELVES IN MY ROOM.

AMONG MY COLLECTION, YOU'LL FIND SNOW GLOBES FEATURING ICONIC LANDMARKS LIKE ITALY'S LEANING TOWER OF PISA, LONDON'S BIG BEN, HONG KONG DISNEYLAND, SYDNEY'S OPERA HOUSE, AND JAPAN'S MT. FUJI. LOOKING AT THIS WALL IS ALWAYS A REMINDER OF THE PLACES I'VE BEEN AND THE PLACES STILL WAITING TO BE EXPLORED.



JINWOO PARK

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

K-POP, A COMPOUND WORD OF POPULAR MUSIC AND KOREA, HAS BEEN AN IMPORTANT BRANCH OF POP CULTURE EVEN BEFORE I WAS BORN.

DUE TO THIS CULTURAL PHENOMENON I MYSELF HAVE HUGELY BEEN AFFECTED BY THIS POP CULTURE EVER SINCE I WAS YOUNG. THE TREND OF MUSIC THAT HAS IMPACTED ME THE MOST WAS MUSIC PRODUCED FROM YG ENTERTAINMENT ARTISTS, THIS INCLUDES ARTISTS SUCH AS BIGBANG, 2NE1, BLACKPINK ETC. LISTENING TO THIS GENRE OF MUSIC SOMETIMES ENLIGHTENED ME AS IT CONTRIBUTED WITH EMOTIONAL OR ARTISTIC VALUES. EVER SINCE I FIRST WENT TO THE K-POP CONCERT WITH MY FAMILY AS A CHILD, THE COLLECTION OF ALBUMS OR BOOKLETS OF THOSE GROUPS BEGAN EITHER FROM A GIFT OR FROM A PURCHASE. AN ACCIDENTAL LISTEN TO K-POP TURNED INTO A SOLID SHAPE OF MEMORY, WHICH PLAYED IMPORTANT ROLES IN MY LIFE AS WELL. SIMPLY LOOKING AT THE COLLECTION OF MY FAVORITE ARTISTS RELAXES MY FEELINGS IN GENERAL. THIS INTIMATE CONNECTION FROM HUMAN AND NON-HUMAN ASPECTS MAKES THIS COLLECTION EVEN MORE SPECIAL. COLLECTION OF ALBUMS NOT ONLY SHOWS MY PASSION TOWARD THOSE ARTISTS AS A FAN BUT ALSO EMPHASIZES ITS STRONG CONNECTION TO MY LIFE IN GENERAL. THEREFORE, THESE ARTISTIC VALUES ARISING FROM THE COLLECTION OF K-POP ALBUMS



ROY SHI

SHANGHAI, CHINA



I'm a total shoe fanatic, and you know what? Shoes aren't just everyday items for me; they're like little vessels of my memories. It all started back in middle school when shoes were merely tools for playing basketball. But as I racked up more and more pairs, I couldn't help but get hooked. Each pair of shoes tells a story; they're like time machines that transport me back to when I first got them and what went down when I wore them. Moreover, I've got this quirky superstition about shoes. Like, if I've got a big basketball game coming up, I won't just grab any old pair from my collection, instead, I'll pick a specific pair. I swear it brings me luck! Even back in high school, I believed certain shoes were the secret to passing exams. I've got so many shoes now that I can't possibly wear them all, but I'm still buying more. It's turned into a full-blown hobby. Just gazing at my shoe collection brings me this sense of peace and pure joy. It's like my little sanctuary, and I'm not about to stop adding to it anytime soon.



BILL HE SHANGHAI, CHINA

HERE IS MY COLLECTION. IT MAY SEEM FAMILIAR TO SOME OF YOU, YES, IT IS A COLLECTION OF COMMEMORATIVE QUARTERS FROM THE UNITED STATES. I COLLECTED THESE COINS DURING MY SEVERAL TRIPS WITH MY FAMILY TO THE UNITED STATES SINCE TEN YEARS AGO. DURING MY FIRST VISITS, I WAS A YOUNG CHILD WHO WAS CURIOUS ABOUT EVERYTHING NEW SPOTTED BY MY EYES, AND NEW DISCOVERIES ON CULTURAL DIFFERENCES. INFRASTRUCTURES AND LANDSCAPES CAN ALWAYS AROUSE MY INTEREST. WHEN I FIRST DISCOVERED SOME SPECIAL PATTERNS ON THE BACK OF SOME QUARTERS, I WAS WILD WITH JOY. THAT FUELS MY INTENTION TO COLLECT THESE COINS. IT WAS ALSO A SURPRISE THAT THERE COULD BE VARIANCES BETWEEN CURRENCIES THAT IS ALWAYS DESCRIBED WITH "UNIFORM", AND MAYBE "DULL" FOR ME AT THAT TIME. LATER FROM A RADIO PODCAST, I LEARNED THAT THIS KIND OF QUARTERS IS DELIBERATELY DESIGNED BASED ON SOME CULTURAL FACTS. EACH YEAR, SEVERAL TYPES OF COINS ARE DISTRIBUTED INTO THE MARKET. THEY SERVE FOR COMMEMORATIVE PURPOSES, BUT DUE TO THEIR ESSENCE AS CURRENCY, ONE CAN OBTAIN A COIN AT ANY TIME IN A TRADE, WITHOUT ANY PAYMENT. THIS WAY OF GETTING THEM MAKES THE ADDITION TO COLLECTION A SURPRISE. AT THAT TIME, THERE WERE TWO THEMES: US STATES AND TERRITORIES QUARTERS (STATES AND REGIONS) AND AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL QUARTERS (NATIONAL PARKS). THESE THEMES ARE FASCINATING TO ME, BECAUSE THE MOST CHOSEN DESTINATIONS OF MY TRIP WERE NATIONAL PARKS. COLLECTING THE COINS ABOUT THE PLACES I HAVE BEEN TO STRENGTHENS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF COMMEMORATION, AFTER VIEWING THE GEOMETRIC SCENERIES AND LEARNING THE AMAZEMENT OF NATURE.

