



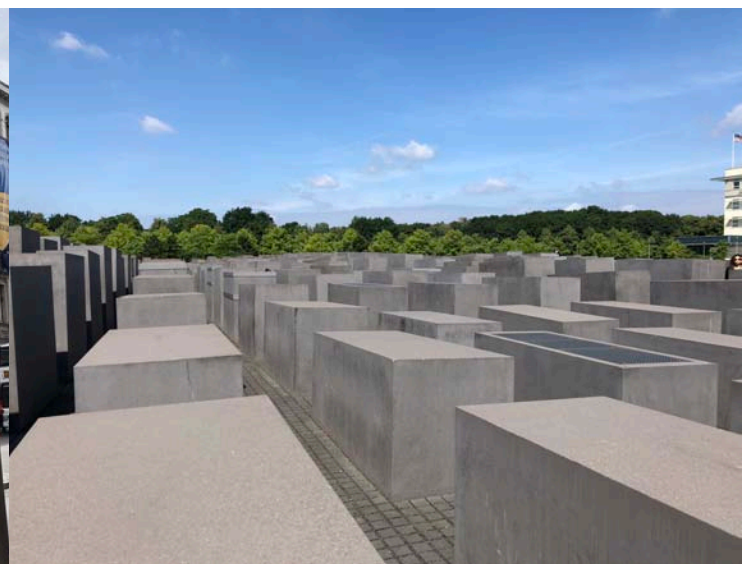
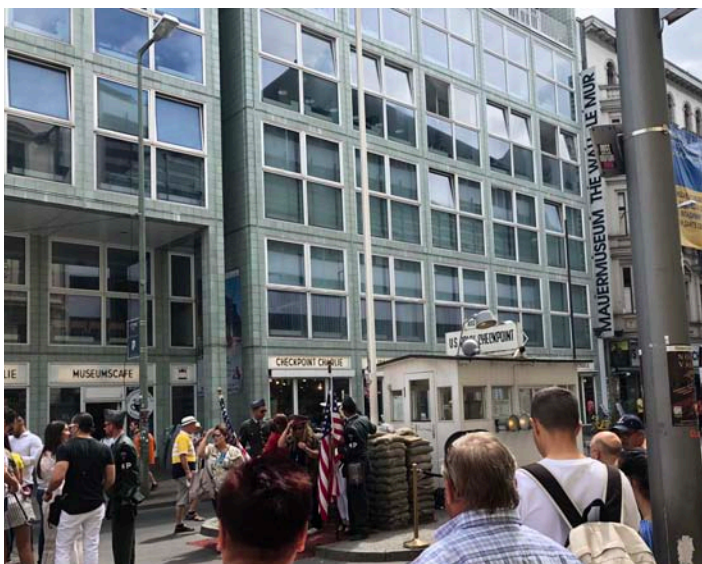
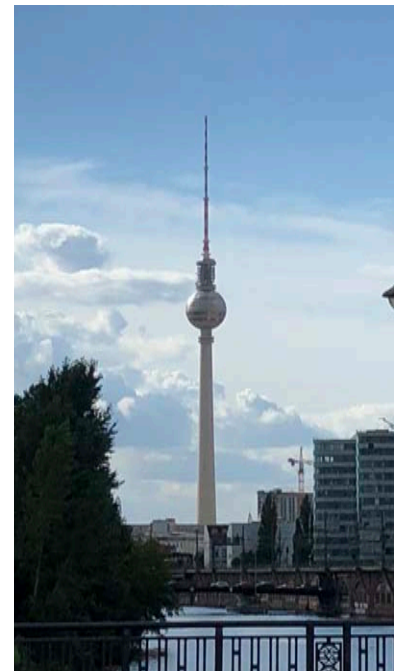
# Summer Internship In Berlin

Jessica(Jiangxue) Liu - Summer 2018

I spend 8 weeks in the beautiful city of Berlin working as an intern for an animation studio, Mimic Productions. The studio focuses on building digital doubles, 3D faces and motion capture. My work includes writing and debugging scripts(in python), working on innovation projects, as well as facilitating other teams.

Through out the 8 weeks, I visited numerous cultural and historical sites in Berlin. I also visited Prague with a friend and spent a weekend in Munich by myself.

(Top: Brandenburg gate at night(world cup season). Right: Berlin TV tower. Bottom left: checkpoint Charlie. Bottom right: memorial to the murdered Jews of Europe )



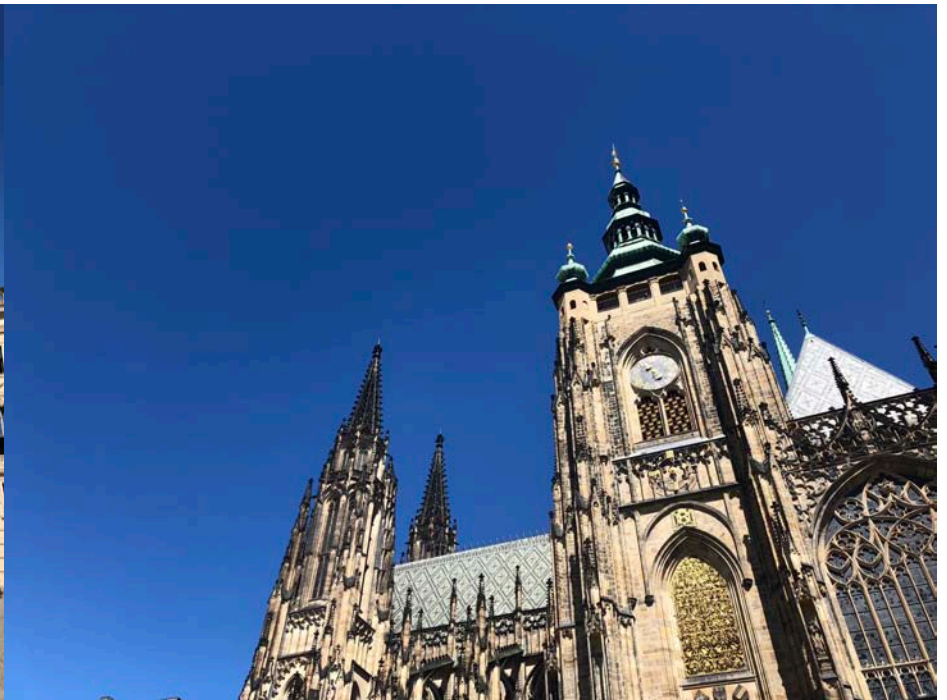




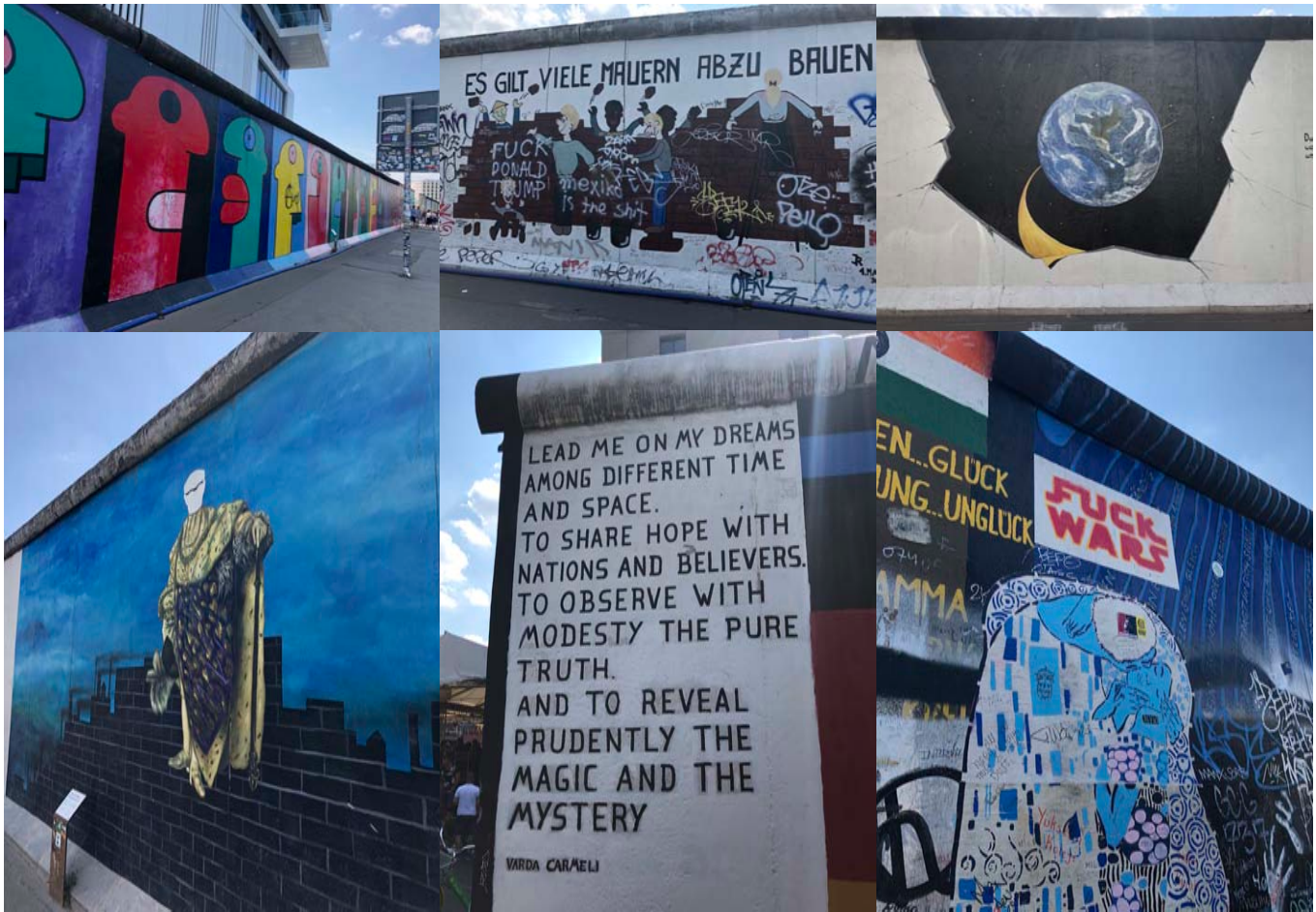
For my first 3 weeks at Mimic, I worked alone on developing an new tool from the company. For that, I had to do a lot of research on my own about certain features of the programming language that I was working with and it was a great opportunity for me to expand my knowledge and fineness my skills. It also made me realize that what I learn from school was so far from enough and that I have to be always learning in order to keep up the pace if I decide to work in a field that is so technically advanced.

I visited Prague on the weekend of my 3rd week. Prague was very similar to Berlin, but it's historical sites for me were more "calm" and more religious-oriented since they've been through less war. Although the city was filled by tourists, my friend and I found a tour guide who has lived in Prague for her entire life and she gave us a very fun and informative tour of the castles.

(Top: left most: Mimic Productions from afar, middle: office meeting room, right top: my desk. right bottom: my boss brings his dog, Wednesday, to work everyday. Bottom: left: Prague city government, right: old town castle.)



After I finished the software. I helped out on various projects for the 4th and 5th weeks of my internship. This was an eye-opening experience for me since I get to learn about almost every projects that the studio had at that time. I observed how others work and I talked a lot more with coworkers about their works and how they acquired their skills. I got a lot of insightful advice from senior members of the studio as well.



(All: East Side Gallery)

For the 4th and 5th week, I stayed in Berlin and visited a lot of places such as the EUREF innovation center, which is an incubator campus for start up companies, the Prinzessinnengarten Urban Community Garden, the Reichstag German Parliament and I even went on a BMW motorcycle factory tour! However, my favorite out of all is the East Side Gallery. It's a part of the old Berlin Wall that wasn't destroyed so artist painted graffiti and murals all over it through out the years. Street art is everywhere in Berlin, I especially like the East Side Gallery the most because it blends history with art, and I see it as a way Germans presents their history in a proud way.



For the last couple of weeks of my internship, I was assigned a large project with a pressing deadline. This was my first time being assigned a leadership position at the studio and it was exciting but also stressful. It wasn't all sunshines and rainbows, I remember some days when I would come back home feeling really tired and frustrated. I had a lot of trouble communicating with my coworkers - they are from all over Europe and some don't speak English very well. It was hard to address my expectations for them and some times their work were unsatisfying.

However, through the struggles, I've grown very close to another American girl at work and together, we managed to get the project done. Through out the project, I learnt and became proficient at a new software, communicated with client directly, worked with remote workers and freelancers we hired for a few days, dealt with difficult coworkers but most importantly, I learnt to remain calm when problems arise and make alternative plans accordingly to solve problems.

(Right top to bottom: view from Berlin TV Tower, protestant church Sophienkirche, Berlin Dome. Bottom: my friends and I at an Italian restaurant.)





I travelled to Munich the last weekend before I left Germany. I visited the Neuschwanstein castle, built by the mad king Ludwig II. It was the highlight of my entire trip to Europe. I was fascinated by the story of Ludwig II and his mysterious death. The castle itself is stunning. The Disney castle was built based on it and I completely understands why: Neuschwanstein's beauty if out of this world.

Throughout my 8 weeks in Europe, I worked a fun and rewarding internship, made a lot of friends and travelled around Europe and gained a deeper understanding of its history and culture. It's an experience I will never forger.

(Bottom: the Neuschwanstein castle.)

