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How can I describe the experience of being plucked from my quiet life and given the chance to indulge in an entirely different existence? The words surreal, exciting, invigorating and intense come to mind. Center City Philadelphia is a very vibrant place, a combination of historical and contemporary, art and grime, and very far removed from my four-stoplight town. Traffic, noise, shops, restaurants and always people. The overall effect was a dreamlike bubble of working, observing and intense introspection. Seven people from around the world thrown together to mix their knowledge and aesthetics was nothing short of a heady experience and one I will never forget. I didn't want it to end.

Not knowing what to expect, I arrived with no expectations, hoping the experience itself would provide the ideas. I admit that at first it was difficult to get into the groove of trying new things, as we were encouraged to do. The pressure of the exhibition of work at the end was somewhat daunting and for the first week I felt like a rabbit caught in the headlights. But that all changed as we began to work together and share ideas. Our group was fortunate enough to enjoy one another's company and diverse enough to offer a wide range of artistic experience. Never a dull moment - we got along from the start. Everyone had something different to offer and I took advantage of every perspective and opportunity to expand my artistic repertoire. In the end, I came away with a renewed appreciation for the cooperative effort, and a lot of great memories of a wonderful time.