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First off, I just wanted to say how amazing it is that we can gather virtually across time zones and be in this space together, joined by everyone's friend's family, and partners, especially after this long isolating year. I want to thank the faculty for their sweet and kind messages. Without all of you, we would still be in first year, not knowing what we are doing. So, thank you from all of us for consistently pushing us out of our comfort zones, challenging us, and believing in us. I know your lessons will forever ring in my ears every time I try to design something.

To the graduating class of 2021!! It has been so special to spend the last four years working, laughing...sometimes crying...and learning beside all of you. Although we are here today to celebrate four years of education, we are also here to celebrate the memories, each other, and the time we have spent together.

We are here today because of each other.

The consistent love and support you give to each other is a true strength and is what has gotten all of us here today. Whenever you entered studio, you knew you were not alone and that you had the entire class rooting for you, pushing you, and wanting you to do your best. If you needed anything, there would always be someone to share their drawing supplies, their space heater, or be willing to pick you up a snack if you were hungry. And even if you were spiralling, the consistent stream of memes in the group chat made it a little more bearable. Although we may have been graded individually, it was definitely a team effort. And I hope that in the future, you continue to support and care for each other and check in on one another no matter how much time has passed.

I know I have learned just as much from each of you as I have in structured classes, and I cannot wait to see where each one of you will go. Each one of you brings a unique perspective, creativity, and light that the world needs. And I urge you to stay true to this uniqueness and continue to share your voice regardless of the fact that you might be the youngest in the room. We are graduating during a funny time. This is a time where we need to be doing things differently. You might be currently feeling worried about the next chapter going into new jobs and are using everything you have learned for the first time in the workforce. And I want you all to know that your inexperience in the workforce is a strength. It allows you to question pre-existing ways of doing things and allows you to innovate. Don't ever be afraid to do things differently.

I wanted to end with one of my favourite quotes from Carlo Rovelli's book *The Order of Time*. I find it illuminates how we interact with the world and makes endings a little less sad.

"We are time. We are memory. We are nostalgia."

And I think this holds true. We can recall our memories over and over again, and they begin to take on new life through us. This night too, will soon be a memory. I hope when you look back on this era of your life when you are sixty, seventy, or eighty that you remember it with fondness and as an era of radical transformation. Cherish your memories. I know I will cherish mine.

Thank you.