

Guido Tarricone

Re: Timesheet

To: Adecco

GT

Dear Sylvain,

I convene with you and I understand that unnecessary is often regarded as a waste of time. But why is that so? How come if you are not productive you have this unescapable feeling of also being meaningless? And why unproductive seems to be often just a synonym for not monetizable?

In these first weeks after the end of my assignment, my biggest concern was to keep myself busy. I was operating under the constant pressure of actively spending the 8 hours that I used to spend for my assignment, and I was afraid of feeling like wasting that time if I slowed down: why do you think doing something without a concrete end, or even doing nothing at all, is so problematic?

I am aware that lately my communications haven't been related to any assignment matter in particular. But since I am still under a contract with Adecco, I am wondering what does it make of this exchange. Is it work for you? Or it is not? Funnily enough I have been asking myself similar questions this week, as my paid freelance continued also over Easter Monday. But what if I was taking some time to think about my own project instead? Would I also have been working during the holidays? What is work then? And, more importantly, when is work when it becomes more and more cognitive work?

If anything, I decided that working on the paid freelance shouldn't be included in my timesheet, so please feel free to disregard the part in last week timesheet that concerns it. I also valued your feedback, so I will try and keep this one short and focused.

Monday

I spent some time with friends at a bbq. I arrived almost in the afternoon, and I tried to not speak about big problems as I usually tend to do all the time. Unexpectedly it was them who started one big discussion after asking how come my assignment at Google ended. What surprised me is that, even if we were quite at the side of the party, someone felt the need to come and ask why we didn't speak about something lighter. This stuck with me. In the evening I went to see the woman I have been seeing in the last months. She lives in Italy. Long distance relationships are difficult, but chilling on the couch together doing nothing was everything.

Tuesday

I went back home, finished my book and started a new one. I also arranged a meeting with a curator for Thursday.

Wednesday

I found a new supplier for the perspex cutting, hopefully I will receive the prototypes soon. I also searched for printers for the other project I am working on. I watched TV series and read. In the evening I went for a beer with a friend. It was nice and we chatted quite a while since we hadn't seen each other for almost a year.

Thursday

The meeting with the curator has been postponed to Friday. I worked on my portfolio and then I met two friends in the evening: my former flatmate and an artist friend who I met in London and is now living in Milan. That was nice as well.

Friday

I met with the curator. We had a nice chat and he seemed to appreciate my work. Then a friend of him joined us, also a curator, and she also wanted to know more about my work. Then another artists joined. It was a nice evening until I had to leave. Do you know what's funny? I left without paying, and I only realized it half an hour later. Sometimes I wonder if I am self-sabotaging. I apologized with him and will try to return the favor soon. Hopefully this will become just a funny anecdote.

Best,
Guido