

The Golden Reflection

“It made him smile. Someone had invented this thing. It could have been him. He knew where you could download vision-system libraries, and force-feedback libraries. He knew where you could get plans for the robotics, and off-the-shelf motors and sensors. Christ, these days he had a good idea where you could get the ice cream wholesale, and which crooked vending-machine interests he'd have to grease to get his stuff into truck stops.” Doctorow (132)

In thinking about “the mind behind the artifact” (in this case the ice cream vending machine), we must think about the life of a person. The quote above demonstrates so many pieces of prior knowledge. This demonstration leads me to wonder about the instances in the maker's life in which he learned these pieces of knowledge. In order to make something do you have to know something? Are these things slowly learned over time or can they be picked up quickly? Is the knowledge information? skill? both? Probably both and beyond.

Reflect on the Reflection

The bit of writing to the left was one of my first CST posts of the quarter. At the time I was struggling with making my ideas a reality because I lacked skills to take necessary steps in making what I envisioned. Because of this my project ended up completely different from my original vision. But, in this process I gained skills. My conclusion is that skills come (slowly) from trying to do, learning in the process, and paying attention to this learning so it sticks. It's a little bit discouraging how long it took me to gain the slight proficiency that I now have in Sketchup, Tinkercad, and InDesign. I went through a lot of frustration and confusion with these programs and I probably would have gotten more out of it had I been next to an expert.



