Sketch: Bourgeois Pig

The two-story Chicago brownstone is a duplex on a trendy block opposite the deserted hulk of an abandoned Children’s Hospital. The retired home and adopted café is split into two equally meaningful halves; one side serves the food, the other the drinks. Its privacy and plush vintage particulars protect each and every customer, keeping them warm from the unending winter weather. The Bourgeois Pig is an escape from the big bad city; it’s the aunt that will take you in on a rainy afternoon and warm you up with homemade baked goods and gourmet hot chocolate.

White walls with white patterned wallpaper and weathered exposed brick section off the rooms of the upstairs right half. Here, the walls talk through the furniture and décor that surrounds them; 50’s Sputnik inspired, a gold double-faced mirror faded and slightly warped, basic brown wood chairs that creak with just the movement of the air. A wooden throne sits in a corner, its long back inscribed with the word “justice.” The chair builds itself up and up and into a bookshelf dusted with books that encourage. Wait, but first look at the oil pastels of people you’ll never know framed in gold and hung crooked and unstable.

That’s just the upstairs. Downstairs sits the coffee bar where hundreds of types of tea line the walls and it reeks of coffee beans and focused individuals. The left smells of toasted Panini with gouda and your choice of meat, salty French fries or baked chips; it’s brighter and more open to the world. This café is an unscripted community, one brought together to support each other anonymously; one that brings a sense of life to the silence that fills it.