A Promenade Through Paris

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APPROVED

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ABSTRACT

I have written and illustrated a short story that takes place during one day in Paris, France. The story is drawn from my own experience living in another culture. I have created a main character that brings the reader through the story. Along the way the reader visits wonderful places in the city of Paris and learns snippets about Parisian culture and lifestyle.

The text and artwork themselves appear in a book that I have made by hand. I began by inventing a unique paper of a cotton base, lilies, cattails, and other starchy plants. At the end of the process I made over one hundred 5.5” by 8.5” sheets of beige textured paper with fun edges and traces of lilies laced throughout. Then I sewed each page onto colorful strips of cloth and then sewed the cloth together to serve as the binding. The book covers are a hard surface covered with a different and elaborately colorful cloth that is attached to the binding with ribbon.

The illustrations are done in various different styles and mediums. Some are shrunken paintings adhered to the paper of the book while others are done directly on the handmade paper. They illustrate many of the scenes, people, places, and events that occur in the story. The text has been adhered into the book on a plain paper that compliments the color of the handmade paper. The story, illustrations, and book combined serve as a creative thesis that reflect more of what my project is and means to me than would a series of paintings.
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