



AU PAIRIS

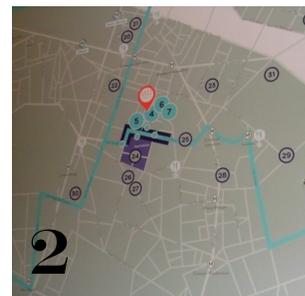
BY: JULIA MATSON

MY AU PAIRING YEAR IN PARIS, FRANCE

October 2014

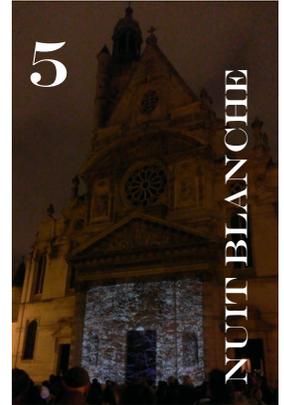
October was my first full month in Paris and it went by both fast and slowly. There was so much to take in; the culture, history, fashion not to mention the food. There is so much I would love to share but I had to narrow it down or this newsletter would never be sent out. Please enjoy!

The month of October started with a bang with me going to an event that Emmanuelle suggested called **Nuit Blanche** (White Night): an event that occurs every October, where certain museums are free and open till 7 AM, there is live street art and performances, food stops and a blue line along the street to guide your way (image 1 & 2). The Metro and buses are open all night as well to keep the party going. I started with the Pantheon, which is covered from floor to ceiling with pictures of people faces (3). There was a beautiful clash of modern and classic imagery of human beings.(4). The building took on a whole different atmosphere at night. I tried to get some good pictures, but since I kept the flash off not

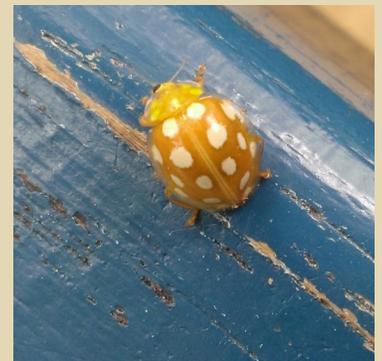


many turned out. In the busy streets there were people enjoying their glasses of wine while watching live light architect performances (5). I had a good chance to explore the city and mark places that I wanted to visit again.

I was honored to be included in the many Jewish Holidays that occur in October including Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) on the 4th, Sukkot (Feast of Tabernacles) from the 9th-10th, Shmini Atzeret (Eighth Day of Assembly) on the 16th, and Simchat Torah (Day Celebrating the Torah) on the 17th. There were many guest and family that I got to meet as well enjoying Emmanuelle’s great cooking. Emmanuelle makes sure that I feel included and I love sharing time with her and the girls. When she laughs at what they are saying , it makes me so motivated to pick up French to know the funny little things the girls say. She has a great system set up, so this month I was just getting used to the ropes. It’s considered odd to smile in the streets of Paris, but I can’t help but smile thinking “I live in Paris, with a family I really care about! How did I get so lucky?!” The girls and I have a lot of fun drawing—which is our main form of communication while they pick up English words. Deborah is very theatrical, so me and her love to sing Disney songs as we walk home from school. Gabrielle loves when we draw together and can be a little mischievous. This month she broke off her little fingernail, she is fine, it will grow back in no time. Emmanuelle let me take the girls to see the film *How to Train Your Dragon*, which in France was *Dragons 2*. One thing that is very French is gouter or snack for children when they get out of school; when I first came here I was so surprised to see parents handing out chocolate and bread to little kids which would be odd to see in America.



of
as



My favorite place to relax is near the Louvre and the Jardin de Tuilleries with my sketchbook on the warm October days. My French classes continue on, I am starting to pick up words in a conversation. As you can see below my Canadian friend, Jessica (left), are enjoying a snack in between French classes (I was amused that Bradley Cooper is the face for Haagen-Dazs). Our school is near the Arc de Triomph so on a



sunny day we would visit and then walk down the Champs-Elysees which is a shoppers paradise. On the bottom left is Caroline, she is from Marseille but is moving to Paris for school. She spent a couple of weeks with Emmanuelle while looking for an apartment. I must give such a deep thanks to her, she speaks both French and English, so it made my adaption with the girls so much easier. She is such a beautiful person inside and out, she works so hard as a student and always comes bringing gifts. We both attended the community lunch hosted by Emmanuelle's apartment complex. There are humorously a lot of English families in her building. It was a night of great food and



welcoming people.

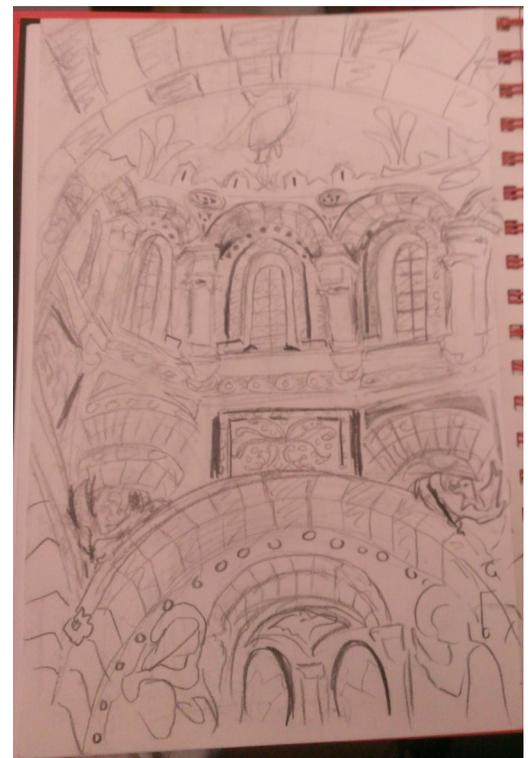
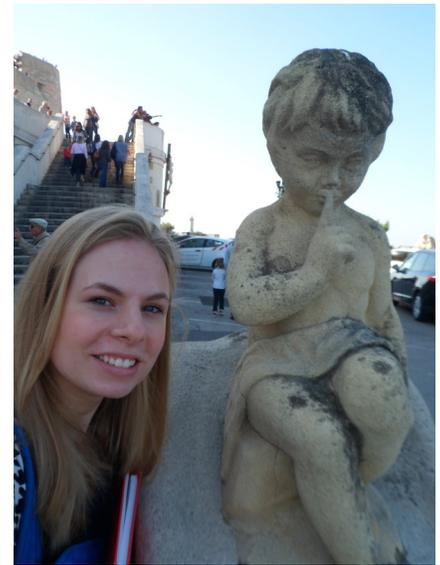
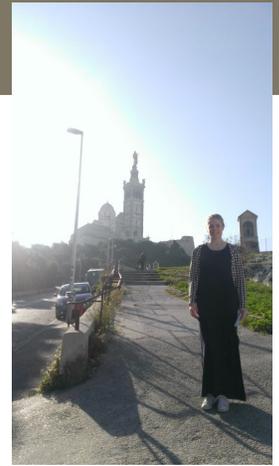
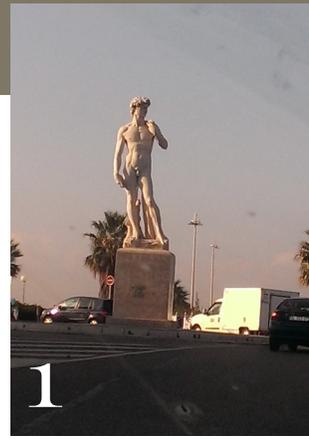
One day, Sinead and I met at Montmartre, an area well known for the poets and artists. We saw a great view of Paris from the top to the Sacre-Coure We then bought a cheap bottle of white wine and a slice of quiche and sat out on the grass . There were artists selling painting and music being played. We then walked past the Amelie's café were she worked from the cult classic movie: *Amelie*. We passed by the Moulin Rouge, and the Cimetiere Montmartre. The Louvre and Notre Dame were our last stops. We had dinner along the Seine River. And then by the Notre Dame and finished our white wine with bread. As we soak up the sights of the night was finished with a boat passing with a saxophonist performing on the roof, what a perfect ending to a great day that I will always remember.

MARSEILLE

DAY 1

In France the school schedule has a two week break every two months; Emmanuelle is originally from Marseille, Provence so for the girls two week vacation my host family went down to where the sun is bright and the water blue. Emmanuelle invited me to come along later in the week. You will be happy to know that I boarded the train and did not have the same experience as I did at the Charles de Gaulle airport. Emmanuelle gave me two days free to explore the 2nd largest city in France . I would like to describe it as if France, Italy and Greece melted all together. I was overwhelmed by the blue sea and white rocks, and the richness of history and culture.

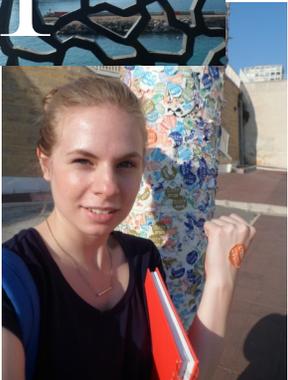
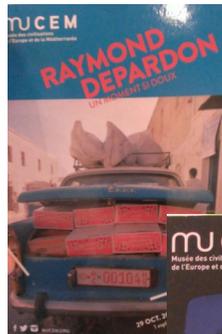
I started day one by driving by the long Mediterranean Sea coast and saw the statue of David (1) on the round about. I was dropped off at Basilique Notre-Dame-de-la-Garde on top of a hill where I got a great view of the city and sea. I took so many photos here and even did some sketching of



the interior. I was mesmerized by the beautiful colors and stones used to decorate this church. I then took a bus to the View Port which is where fresh fish, and colorful boats awaken every sense.

From the red arrow you can see where I was that morning at Basilique Notre-Dame-de-la-Garde. I walked around the Vieux-Port on the a beautiful day, looking at the colorful boats and fresh fish for sale. I headed to the Mucem and Fort Saint-Jean, a new museum that architecture is a cross of old and new (1 & 2). After exploring the Fort I saw the *Food* and *Raymond Depardon* exhibits at the Mucem. I also learned about Marseille being the center of religions and culture because of the sea access. In 2017 Marseille will be hosting the Capitale Europeenne du Sport event, save up you money and come with me, this city is so magical I will definably be coming back. After I had walked through the beautiful Cathedral

Nouvelle-Major, I saw a car being towed (3) which I was always curious about in Paris, "how do you tow a parallel parked car?"-You lift it up with a crane. Later I walked along the coast to Mal-mousque where I saw the sun set. We stayed at Emmanuelle's father house, a beautiful home with a jasmine plant in the back.



MARSEILLE DAY 2

It's no wonder Marseille won the 2013 European Capital of Culture, I was so overwhelmed with all the sights. I started the day at Jardin et Palais du Pharo where I saw a great view of the Port. Next I went to Abbaye Saint Victor which is know for it's immense crypte underneath the church. At the View Port I took a tour boat to Chateau d' If which is a prison island off the coast of Marseille. I particularly like it because in the book *The Tale of Monte Cristo*, the prison is based off this island. They even used the prison during World War II. On the way back from the island, the boat drivers let me steer the boat! What fun! I soaked up the sun and the Le Panier shopping area-where the famous Marseille soap is sold.

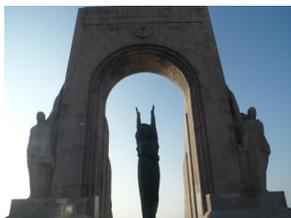
In France, Halloween isn't really celebrated, its only for the tourists and the children who rather stop at local shops for

treats then door to door. But Emmanuelle bought a pumpkin in the holiday spirit and I carved a Jewish star.

We then celebrated the Sabbath meal over at Emmanuelle's brother's house. We had so much fun dancing to the song "Happy" by Pharrell Williams.

October began and ended with great memories and experiences that I will never forget. I knew from visiting Paris that I wanted to live there, but I want to retire in Marseille (or at least visit again). I truly feel so blessed and I am taking it all in!

Happy
Halloween!



Happy Birthday Lydia!

In Marseille I could only think of one person the blue water would attract, Lydia. My beautiful, talented, little sister and best friend whose birthday was at the end of the month.

Lydia, I love you so much and am so proud of you! Thanks for all the memories and for the adventures to come, Happy Birthday!



THANK YOU LARRY!

I would like to take a moment to thank Larry A. and the receptionist who helped him put together a personalized map of Paris for me; it has helped me many a time in the streets of Paris. For those who do not know Larry, he is a very inspirational, active man that lives at the Senior Home I worked at. He would always be willing to share his great stories or his photos. This summer he also took me sailing on his son's boat and because of that I was able to sail the boat in Marseille quite well. During WWII he was stationed at Versailles in Paris and shared his advice of the city. Thank you for your willingness to share and teach Larry, you continue to inspire me.

(Larry's Angel's)



Thank you for your support!

November will be coming soon!



Best Regards,
Julia Matson



Photos owned by Julia Matson*

*not including:

- Map of France
- Dragons 2 poster
- Haagen-Dazs



Dog on a chilling on a roof in Marseille

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