

River Walking Sketches From Seoul: A Journey of Discovery and Inspiration

Seoul, the vibrant capital of South Korea, is a city of contrasts, where ancient traditions seamlessly blend with modern innovations. Nestled amidst towering skyscrapers and bustling city streets, the Han River meanders through the heart of Seoul, offering a tranquil escape from the urban hustle and bustle. For me, an artist and avid walker, the riverbanks of Seoul have become a source of endless inspiration, a canvas upon which I can capture the city's multifaceted beauty.



RIVER WALKING: SKETCHES FROM SEOUL by Kieran Scott

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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My Journey of Discovery

My exploration of Seoul's riverbanks began as a simple desire to combine my love of walking with my passion for sketching. With sketchbook in hand, I set out to traverse the length of the Han River, from its northern reaches in the suburbs to its confluence with the Yellow Sea. Along the way, I

encountered a tapestry of landscapes, each with its unique character and charm.

In the northern stretches of the river, I found myself surrounded by lush greenery, where willows dipped their branches into the flowing water and birdsong filled the air. As I ventured further south, the cityscape gradually encroached upon the riverbanks, transforming the scenery into a vibrant urban panorama. Bridges of all shapes and sizes spanned the river, connecting different parts of the city and creating a dynamic interplay of light and shadows.

One of the most striking features of the Han River is its extensive network of walkways and bike paths. These paths wind along the riverbanks, providing a safe and accessible way to explore the city on foot or by bicycle. As I walked, I couldn't help but notice the diverse crowd that shared these paths with me. Families strolled leisurely, couples held hands, and groups of friends chatted animatedly. The riverbanks had become a place for recreation, relaxation, and social interaction.

Capturing the Essence of Seoul

With each step I took, I observed the city from a fresh perspective. Through the lens of my sketchbook, I sought to capture not only the physical beauty of Seoul but also its intangible essence. I sketched the bustling markets, the serene temples, and the vibrant street life that unfolded along the riverbanks. I drew inspiration from the traditional Korean architecture, with its intricate roofs and colorful eaves. I captured the fleeting moments of everyday life, such as the elderly women practicing tai chi in the morning sun or the children playing by the water's edge.

As I continued my journey, I realized that the Han River was more than just a geographical feature. It was a symbol of Seoul's resilience and vitality. The river had witnessed the city's transformation from a small settlement to a global metropolis. It had borne witness to wars, floods, and periods of great prosperity. Through my sketches, I hoped to convey the enduring spirit of Seoul, a city that constantly reinvents itself while preserving its cultural heritage.

The Hidden Gems of the Riverbanks

Beyond the well-known landmarks and tourist attractions, I also sought to discover the hidden gems that lay along the Han River. I ventured into quiet neighborhoods where traditional houses nestled amidst modern apartment buildings. I explored the hidden parks and gardens that offered a respite from the city's hustle and bustle. And I stumbled upon street art and sculptures that added a touch of whimsy and creativity to the urban landscape.

One of my favorite discoveries was a small, unassuming temple hidden away in a secluded corner of the riverbank. The temple was dedicated to the goddess of mercy, and its tranquil atmosphere invited contemplation and reflection. As I sat in the temple's courtyard, surrounded by the sound of running water and the scent of incense, I felt a sense of peace and serenity that I had not experienced anywhere else in the city.

A Source of Inspiration

My river walking sketches have not only been a way to document my journey through Seoul but also a source of inspiration for my art. The sketches have provided me with a wealth of visual ideas that I have incorporated into my paintings and other works. The riverbanks have

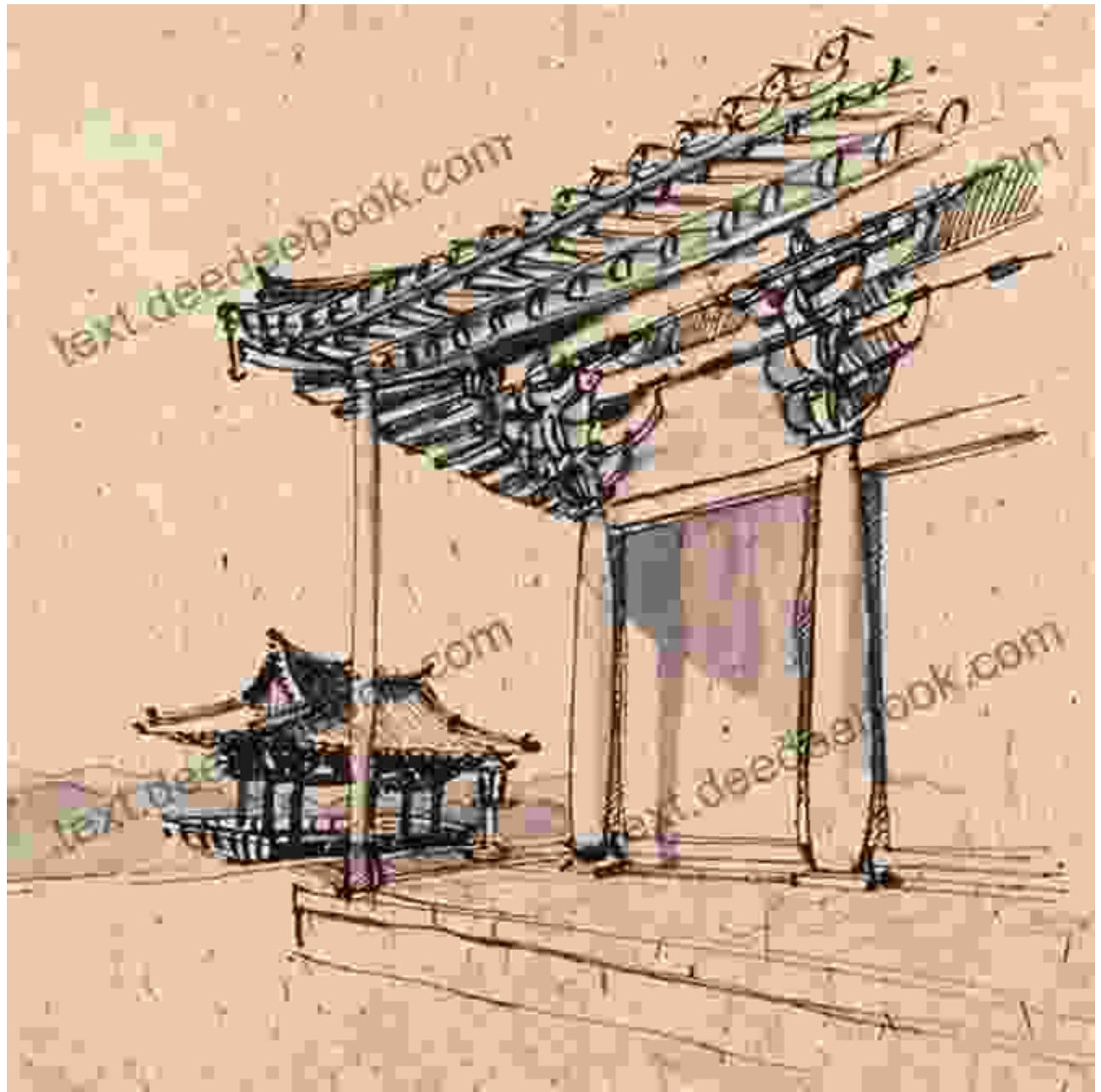
become a constant source of inspiration, a place where I can always find new subjects to draw and paint.

More than just a collection of sketches, my river walking project has become a personal narrative that reflects my experiences and emotions during my time in Seoul. Through my art, I hope to share the beauty and diversity of this city with others, and to inspire them to explore their own surroundings with a fresh perspective.

My journey of discovery along the Han River has been a transformative experience. Through the act of sketching, I have gained a deeper understanding of Seoul, its history, its culture, and its people. The riverbanks have become a source of inspiration, a place of peace, and a reminder of the beauty that can be found in even the most ordinary places. I invite you to join me on this visual journey through Seoul, to discover the hidden gems and cultural treasures that await you along the Han River.

Below, you will find a gallery of some of my river walking sketches. I hope you enjoy them and that they inspire you to explore your own surroundings with a fresh perspective.











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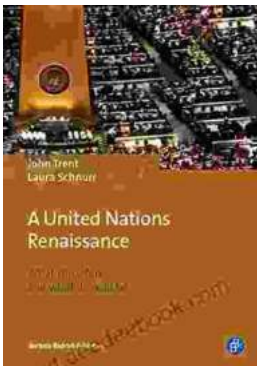
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