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Intertwine Oil Painting and Fiction Writing (Summer 2022)

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Anna McKnight, Supervisor Wastewater Treatment Plant, Facilities Management, intertwined oil painting and fiction writing

I spent the week for my residency in a studio that I rented in Water Valley. I also used the stipend to buy paints, brushes, and canvases. Most of my days started early, working on an oil painting based off of one of my writings. I spent most nights writing a story based off one of my paintings.

The painting I created, “The Standoff,” depicted an image of a girl who was being forced to remain at the dinner table until she ate a dish of boiled okra. It was based off of my older short story, “Cricket,” which included this scene.

The first short story I worked on, “The horror,” was based off of my previous painting, “The Goosha,” which depicted a goose dressed as a geisha. The story explored a mother’s worry of her daughter’s life, upon finding out that her granddaughter had the face of a goose. Though this story hasn’t been completed, it does have an ending.

The second short story I worked on, “Linnie,” was an attempt to connect the previous two works. It focused on capturing the feelings of alienation of each individual within a family, the ever present worries of a parent, and the tangled dynamics of family, highlighted at the dinner table.

From each of these came plans for future works. I plan to write a story linking these glimpses into everyday lives, and also plan to create several new paintings that focus on creating their own type of stories.