Diaspora Experience

I have been investigating the Diaspora experiences of Korean adult adoptees in the United States. Adoptees often confront ethnic identity conflicts in a predominantly white society. I had an opportunity to accompany a group of six Korean adoptees on a trip to Korea in 2012. Among the adoptees that I traveled with, Ryeon Corsi agreed to collaborate on this project, offering her journals written throughout her life. Corsi’s collective memories of realizing her different background despite many assurances during her childhood, becoming involved in the Asian community in college, searching for her biological mother in Korea, and confronting the walls of prejudice in Korea are projected onto the multiple silk screens. This collaborative project is my exploration of three-dimensional forms in textile that examines Korean adoptees’ ambivalent feelings of acceptance and rejection in both societies resulted from the Diaspora experiences. Each section, consisting of three silk panels, represents the maps of the cities where she has resided in US and visited in Korea.