

Lady Pink (Sandra Fabara) Brick-Lady Crying, 2001

I decided to visit MOCA (Museum of Contemporary Art) in Little Tokyo. Keeping an open mind while viewing these unusual works of art, I didn't know what to expect. Every new room entered fed curiosities, demanding full attention to my own unknown. The life these artists lived is very foreign to me. Several displays, photographs, and paintings were difficult to relate to. However, capturing their real life experiences made their artwork powerful. One piece in particular lured me in with its beauty and uniqueness. The Artists name is Sandra Fabara: aka, Lady Pink who resides in New York City. Lady Pink painted *Brick-Lady Crying* in 2001.

Visually *Brick-Lady Crying* draws your eye to stay focused on the Brick-Lady and not her background. The Brick-Lady is orange with great detail while the background appears to be washed away in monologues blue. Using these two analogous colors makes a huge impact on the success of the painting. The composition is intriguing as Brick-Lady's body is nestled against the left edge of the painting opening up our ability to see what is happening around her on the right edge of the painting. The way her legs are displayed gives a sense of child-like innocence. She appears comfortable in sharing her emotions for all to see. This painting is very large at about 18x24 inches that gave the ability to see its detail.

The first interpretation the artwork appears to capture is the catastrophe that took place on September 11, 2001 when the New York World Trade Towers were the target of Terrorism. The blue background and buildings give the impression of cold steel. Life appears to be missing from the background. There is a sense of loss and sadness. These building are without graffiti. Their life and connection to the artist's world is no longer present and appears to be somewhat disconnected. However, the Brick-Lady is full of life as she is tattooed in graffiti from head to toe. She contrasts with her background in every way. She looks warm and approachable, whereas the background appears hostile. The Brick-Lady is sad yet instilling a strong desire to stare, admire, and help her. There is peacefulness within her even though all chaos is breaking out around her. She isn't closed up or showing anger. She is hiding her face to not witness the tragedy. All of these things work extremely well together.

Secondly perhaps this is the Statue of Liberty without her gamut and stripped bear of all she represents to this country. Lady Liberty is crying over what took place in New York on September 11, 2001. Perhaps that is why she appears to be larger than the other buildings. Interestingly enough it's a woman and not a man crying. Perhaps this is the reason why the woman is separate from her background. Lady Liberty appears that she walked up to the middle of the city on September 11, 2001, sat down, covered her head, and mourned the loss of that city.

Lastly, perhaps this is a painting of any city out in any country where graffiti artists see themselves as outsiders, unable to fit in with society because of their unique ability to possess this art skill. Perhaps they view themselves and their lives as peaceful yet the world around them is chaos, cold, broken, and lifeless. Perhaps this is why the background seems dull and uninviting. Its as if the Brick-Lady's composure represents a hint of shame, which could be why her face is covered. Perhaps there is guilt in doing something that society has labeled "illegal" and "dirty" as many paint over their artwork with dull tone flesh colors, hiding their colorful masterpieces. Perhaps this painting captures the fact that their art is inside them and goes with them wherever they go and can never be taken away.

Regardless of what Lady Pink intended to portray in her *Brick-Lady Crying* artwork, she created an interesting piece of art that can be translated into countless interpretations, making it highly successful.

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