

28 July 2017

My favorite modern art movements seem to be Muralism with an inclination for Mexican Muralism which inspired Chicano Muralism, and Naïve Art. I've spent a few days looking over various works of art for this assignment, and I had a difficult time finding favorites. I was attracted most by those with themes of ordinary life, ethnic identity, and sociopolitical messages. I love the bold colors in the paintings I share, and I love the stories and activity in the distinct parts of each painting.

Two months ago I visited the Cesar E. Chavez National Monument in Keene, CA, and less than a year ago the Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site in Topeka, KA. The wave of emotion that overwhelmed me so unexpectedly at those places immediately upon entering the building impacted me profoundly. I think they carry a message of hope which inspires me. The choices made in the art chosen for display at those places is geared for memorability and high impact, and they succeeded. I remember sometime last Summer I was in downtown Denver, CO, and as my family and I rounded some corner, we came across a giant Bernie Sanders mural, which, again, overwhelmed me with emotion. (I wasn't a Bernie supporter, but the wave of emotion came anyway!) Its boldness and in-your-face-ness of Murals really comes across. So, in that sense, these themes move me and demand my attention, and I like that.

Naïve art is generally art that is made by someone with no formal training, although that is not true about some artists that might fit the genera, like Diego Rivera and Faith Ringgold who were both educated in art, for example. I think I like this style because it seems very natural, and it isn't intimidating. It invites me to appreciate it as a lay observer without making me feel like I'm in over my head. Grandma Moses is a true Naïve artist, and her artwork depicting normal life in rural New York helps me appreciate the beauty in everyday life, which, of course, I live every day! (Especially that Laundry Day!)



[entrance to Cesar E. Chavez National Monument in Keene, CA]



[Mural at Chicano Park, San Diego, CA]





[entrance to Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site in Topeka, KS]





[Faith Ringgold: Tar Beach]





[Diego Rivera: Mural at Palacio Nacional de Mexico]





[Grandma Moses: Laundry Day]



[Grandma Moses: Apple Butter Making]