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Maya Lin: A strong clear voice assignment

I cannot figure out what would be harder to bear and live through, being rejected for my idea or opinion of the world that I live in today or being given a chance to actually prove and build my architect piece. Maya Lin was given a chance like this and she as a matter of fact did go through numerous amounts of rejection, oppression, racist remarks and other cold comments that have been uttered by the oppressionists.

The Vietnam Memorial was built in the Constitution Gardens in Washington, D.C., through private donations from the public, and dedicated in 1982. Even though the money was there, there was still a great task of choosing the perfect architect to build a piece that would reflect and relate to all of U.S Americans that have fallen during this horrible war.

Maya Lin, an Asian-American was considered to be a horrible choice for this particular task not because of her lack of experience but because she was "Asian". She was selected because of her true feelings towards the men and women that were killed or MIA during this war. She expressed deep emotions towards them and her design or preview of the actual piece was simple yet full of words and amazement. Even though there was a lot of controversy like for example a Vietnam vet mentioned that this piece looks like a giant black scar slashed upon the United States.

Every time I look at the Vietnam War memorial I get a sense of relief that sort of flows through my body. It is amazing how a architected piece like this can have such huge influence on me and even on individuals such as the vets or other people involved directly or indirectly to the war. A piece like this is simply amazing because the simplicity of the piece is what gives it character, makes it strong and carries its message

across, not the obvious signs and plaques that are supposed to signify a certain something, but that something can never be found.

Simplicity is key when dealing with a great amount of people because beauty is in the eyes of the beholder. The Vietnam War Memorial signifies and carries different messages for each and every one of us. For me, even though it does not have anything to do with the Vietnam war, the memorial affected me on a level far beyond anybody that did not have to go through the things that I went through. I look at the list of names and I ask myself, why? Why did so many innocent people have to die because they were trying to prevent a cause not worthy of even a bad man's life?

It's amazing how the government can persuade people or masses to think the way that they want them to. They are able to hypnotize the men to go and risk their lives and be proud of the fact that they will inevitably lose their lives for one reason or other.

Another great design by Maya Lin was the Civil Rights Memorial in Montgomery, Alabama that remembers the people who shaped the struggle for civil rights in America. Constructed of black granite, a thin stream of water gently flows over the names inscribed in the face of the monument. After I saw the actual piece on the video tape provided by Mrs. Bresnan I thought to myself that this is simply amazing. How an artist can give herself to a certain architect piece similar to this. Maya Lin is willing to go a 100% and beyond to inform herself, to predict and to emphasize memory and the beauty that lies within it, the conquered past as I like to call it. She is constantly trying to open the gates of true perspective on the situations that individuals had to live through with nothing in future but more suffering and pain. She greatly portrays this in every one of her architect pieces.

The significance of the Vietnam War Memorial and any memorial that Maya Lin was responsible for is that it is in its simplest form. The simplicity of these memorials is what matters the most. She carried this over into her other works like for example the "Topographic Landscape", "Avalanche", "Wave field" and of course the "Vietnam War Memorial". Maya Lin is truly a hero in the eyes of every soldier alive or dead, every

African American that struggled for his or her rights, every human being that ever fought for something that is righteously theirs not by any law but by the code of humanity, the code that everyone of us is meant to live life by according to their standards and not by anybodies rules, segregations or codes, but simply because everyone of us is the same within, we are all human and Maya Lin greatly portrays this in every one of her architect pieces by simply saying we are all one and by saying preserve the memory of the fallen and loved ones because the future lies in the past, not the present.