Allison Lunka

Digital Imaging

Extra Credit

Us IS Them Reflection

On January 27th I attended the Us IS Them exhibit from the Pizzuti Collection in the Short North Arts District. This exhibit deals with many issues that tie into the theme of identity, including race and politics, and is “organized to reflect timely and potent issues of social justice and current affairs across the world” (Press Release).

One artwork on display is “Winter Harvest”, by artist Kara Walker, which deals with African-American issues with a focus on the treatment of slaves in the Civil War era. This work is a black and white silhouette on paper and displays a series images including a man with a gun and a body dangling lifelessly from a stick. As an African-American artist, Walker’s art usually follows the themes of unfair treatment and racism through oddly grotesque images.

Walker’s work, while startling and outlandish, provides great insight into her identity as an artist. Although others may be taken aback by her art, I find it mesmerizing as it tackles the problems of racism head on and unforgivingly.

I relate to the concepts of identity that are prevalent in Walker’s work, as my art greatly portrays my identity and personality. Walker’s work deals with her roots and heritage, which follow the themes of my work closely. I like to include themes of family, childhood and heritage to give a sense of my identity as an artist.