



Transcript

Tonya Gregg - Europa and the Bull

Gregg: This painting is called "Europa." And, um, I didn't originally. It was untitled originally. Um, and the title found it because of the narrative. The narrative is dealing with, uh, again, this sort of Greek mythological story, um, of Europa and Zeus, who, um, in mythology, he was so taken by her beauty, I guess that he wanted to take her to his island to be with him.

However, my bull looks more like a cow, and I think that was appropriate because the cow, to me, is more of my experience and background being from the South.

And, um, I kind of was looking at Cat Woman and Batman, and I wasn't thinking about the movie Cat Woman though, because this was done before, before that. But I was thinking about, uh, these kind of superheroes which, to me, fall into this idea of mythology.

And, um, the bull symbolizes a whole lot of stuff that I think to me, he symbolizes popular culture, for example, because, I think popular culture has quite a lot to do with the younger generation and their identity-how they see themselves.

The, um, sports jacket, um, she's got on contemporary high-heel shoes.

Uh, these little girls, for me, they represent the sort of inner part of yourself. And they're like her consciousness, so they're talking to her and she's talking back to them. One is looking shocked and, for example, another one is looking, well, you know, she could, hey, it's all right. Whatever it is, it's okay. And, um, sort of this inner conversation that one has within one's self.

I like history. I think, uh, history is important to everybody. We are always making history. So what I'm trying to do is just place myself as a painter, as a person, in, in, in the context of where I am today. Where, where am I in relationship to histories and histories of other painters? I mean, for example, and where's my voice within that? And that is probably is going to be an ongoing process, I can tell you that. [Laughs.]

But, um, but I feel like I'm getting somewhere with all of the different series that I do. Every time I do a series, I, I feel like I'm getting a little closer to me.

End of video.