

I GOT LOST / I GOT DELETED

Andrea Abi-Karam

response to Covered in Time and History: The Films of Ana Mendieta

I GOT LOST / I GOT DELETED

like carve a w/hole into the wall
rub against the surface — speak my
name
out loud every time you apply more ink to your palm
i am in the red in the bucket
i am in the red on your palm
i am in the red pasted against the face of the wall

There

Is

A

Devil

Inside

ME

THERE IS A DEATH THAT HAUNTS THESE STREETS

WALK AWAY BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE

THERE IS A HAUNTING IN THE WAY
I RUB RED ON MY SKIN

THERE IS A HAUNTING IN THE WAY
I RUB RED ON THE INSIDE OF MY LEGS

THERE IS A HAUNTING ON THE INSIDE
I TRY TO EXTERIORIZE

THERE IS A THICKNESS IN RED
U CAN ONLY FEEL IF YOU TOUCH ME,
RED ON SKIN

THERE IS BOTH A CALMNESS & AN URGENCY
IN THE WAY I WANT TO COVER MY ENTIRE SELF
IN THIS WAY I LEAVE THE GREEN SCREEN PARTS BLANK

LIKE

*IF I BECOME UNCOVERED FROM THE RED
THE SPACE LEFT BLANK*

WILL

BE

DELETED

I RUB MESSAGES INTO THE WALL
I RUB MESSAGES INTO THE WALL B/C I KNOW SOMEDAY I
WILL BE DELETED
I RUB MESSAGES INTO THE WALL B/C I CAN FEEL HOW LOST I
AM &
I WANT TO REMEMBER HOW I GOT HERE

SHE
GOT
LOST/LOVE

SHE GOT LOVE
SHE GOT LOST
SHE GOT DELETED

I RUB MESSAGES INTO THE WALL
IN HOPES I CAN BE FOUND AGAIN
I RUB MESSAGES INTO THE WALL
IN HOPES I WILL BE UNCOVERED
I RUB MESSAGES INTO THE WALL

///////

IF I STARE LONG ENOUGH I PRAY I WON'T SEE A FIGURE
TAKE THE SUBJECT OUT OF THE FRAME
WHAT'S LEFT
AN EMPTY FRAME
OR A LOST SUBJECT
OR THE SMELL OF YOUR FRIEND'S SHINY BLACK HAIR

BURNING
TURNING INTO WISPS
MAYBE THIS IS NOT THE THING
BUT IT FEELS BETTER TO FEEL THAN TO NOT
SO TRAUMATIC RE-REMEMBERING
IS WHERE I'M HEADED WITH THIS

/////

THX ALIENATION/ANONYMITY FOR THE
PASSERBY

THX CROOKED SIDEWALK SQUARES FOR
CONTAINMENT

DON'T STOP

U GOTTA GET 2 WORK

NOTICING & NOT SEEING ARE
TWO DIFFERENT THINGS

/////

FORCING ITSELF OUT LIKE A SPIRIT
I WAIT FOR AN EXIT
I WAIT FOR RELIEF
THAT FAILS TO ARRIVE
I WAIT FOR SOMEONE TO NOTICE
I WAIT TO BE STAINED BY EXPERIENCE
BUT NEVER TIRED
I WAIT FOR THIS SHOCK TO STOP
I WAIT TO FEEL SOMETHING NEW LIKE
EXPERIENCING SOMETHING FOR THE FIRST TIME
BUT I KNOW I CANNOT BE REREMEMBERED
I KNOW THE BODY CANNOT
FORGET TRAUMA
BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW TO ACCESS IT
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO GET BACK
THERE & I KNOW I AM AFRAID 2

//////

THE PARALLEL BETWEEN BODY & EARTH

I DIG A W/HOLE TO FEEL ENCLOSURE
I DIG A W/HOLE TO FIND CONTAINMENT FOR THE PARTS OF
MYSELF
DRIBBLING OUT OF THE BUILDING & ACROSS THE SIDEWALK
I DIG A W/HOLE TO FIND A DARKNESS
I CAN FALL ASLEEP WITHIN
I DIG A W/HOLE & THEN BLOW IT UP
SO THAT I MIGHT FIT ALL OF
MY PARTS INTO IT
EVEN THE STUFF DRIBBLING OUT ACROSS THE SIDEWALK
I NEED TO FIND
ALL OF MY PARTS
FIRST
BEFORE I KNOW IF I WILL FIT INTO IT
I DIG A W/HOLE IN THE SIDE OF A MOUNTAIN
BUT I CAN'T EVEN REACH IT
I DIG A W/HOLE IN THE GROUND IN THE SHAPE OF MYSELF
BUT I STILL CANNOT STUFF MYSELF INSIDE OF IT
I DIG A W/HOLE MAYBE BIG ENOUGH BUT WHEN I LEFT
TO GO LOOK FOR THE REST OF MY PARTS I COULD NOT
FIND MY WAY BACK TO IT
I FOUND THE TRAIL OF DIRT BACK TO THE W/HOLE
BUT I KEPT DROPPING MY PARTS ALONGSIDE IT
I SEE SMOKE & THINK I HAVE FOUND MY WAY BACK
BUT I STEP CLOSER & FIND MY OUTLINE HAS DISAPPEARED
& I AM LOSING MY PARTS FASTER & FASTER &
IT IS BECOMING HARDER & HARDER TO
REPLACE THEM
THE BROKEN PARTS OF MY OUTLINE SIT DOWN ON THE DIRT
HAPHAZARDLY & WAIT TO RECONNECT BACK INTO EACH
OTHER
I JUST HOPE THERE IS ENOUGH OF ME LEFT

//////

oh you know, dig me out
so i might climb inside
so i can split apart my ribs
& lay down FLAT

what's beyond the screen / what's beyond the scene

THE INTERRUPTION VS BLOCKADE

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE DISRUPTION?

BEYOND THE FLASH POINT

WATER SNAKE

OIL SLICK

OIL SNAKE

WATER SLICK

SLICK SURFACE

CAN U EVEN STAND UP ANYMORE

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR LEGS?

WHERE DID U LEAVE THEM

IS IT TOO LATE

WHAT DISFIGUREMENT IS THIS

WHAT DISFIGUREMENT IS LEFT

MY FACE IS TWISTED BEHIND ME

BUT I'M STILL NOT LOOKING BACK

I'M TRYING TO SEE

WHAT'S LEFT

OF MY BODY

I'M TRYING TO SEE

ALL THAT'S LEFT OF MY BODY

HAS IT ALL TURNED TO SAND ALREADY?

I LOOK BACK I TRY TO SEE WHAT'S

LEFT OF ME

I LOOK BACK I TRY TO SEE WHAT'S

LEFT

I LOOK BACK I TRY TO SEE

HOW I FORGOT
I LOOK BACK I TRY TO SEE
WHAT I LEFT OUT
I LOOK BACK I TRY TO SEE
WHAT I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO KNOW

I LOOK UPON MY OWN DISFIGUREMENT
I LOOK UPON MY OWN DISFIGUREMENT
I LOOK UPON MY OWN DISFIGUREMENT
& HOPE OTHERS NOTICE IT TOO
I LOOK UPON MY OWN DISFIGUREMENT
& SUDDENLY REALIZE I AM BUILT OUT OF PARTS
I FOUND WHILE OUT DIGGING W/HOLES
THAT I WANTED TO FIT INTO
PARTS THAT I FOUND ON THE CITY SIDEWALK
TREES TOO BARE & DRY
SLUDGEY BEACH W/ SOFT SAND
BUILDING WALL
FULL LENGTH MIRROR
TRAIN YARD
CRACK IN THE EARTH
RAINY MOUNTAINS
DESERT DUST

I
HOPE
OTHERS
WILL
NOTICE
MY
DISFIGUREMENT
TOO