

Barbara Kruger: Thinking of You. I Mean Me. I Mean You. Transcript

Floor:

IF YOU WANT A
PICTURE OF THE
FUTURE, IMAGINE
A BOOT STAMPING
ON A HUMAN FACE,
FOREVER.
GEORGE ORWELL

East Wall:

YOU.
YOU ARE SEEING AND BEING SEEN. CAUGHT IN THE
MIND'S EYE. CAUGHT IN A WORLD IN SHAMBLES.
THIS THING CALLED "YOU". THIS THING CALLED "ME".
IN THIS MOMENT. IN THIS PLACE.
RIGHT NOW. COME CLOSER.

Upper South Wall, from left to right:

THIS IS ABOUT THE YOU NOT I.
THIS IS ABOUT A WORLD OF HURT.
THIS IS ABOUT LOOKING FOR
THE MOMENT WHEN PRIDE
BECOMES CONTEMPT. ABOUT
WANTING ONE ANOTHER.
ABOUT FEARING ONE ANOTHER.
ABOUT TOUCHING ONE ANOTHER.
ABOUT THE WAR FOR ME TO
BECOME YOU. I MEAN ME. I MEAN YOU.

MONEY TALKS

Lower South Wall, from left to right:

A TRAGIC ERROR

YOU.
YOU ARE HERE, LOOKING THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS, DARKLY.
SEEING THE UNSEEN, THE INVISIBLE, THE BARELY THERE. YOU.
WHOEVER YOU ARE. WHEREVER YOU ARE. ETCHED IN
MEMORY. UNTIL YOU, THE LOOKER, IS GONE.
UNSEEN. NO MORE. YOU TOO.

WAR TIME, WAR CRIME, WAR GAME,
GANG WAR, CIVIL WAR, HOLY WAR,
CLASS WAR, BIDDING WAR,
TRADE WAR, COLD WAR,
RACE WAR, WORLD WAR,
WAR FOR PEACE, WAR
WITHOUT END, WAR FOR A
WORLD WITHOUT WOMEN,
WAR FOR ME TO BECOME YOU.

Column near South Wall, counterclockwise from East:

[N] A TRACE OF GRACE
[E] A FLIMS Y ALIBI
[S] A SMUG EMBRACE
[W] A CALCULATING CON

Upper West Wall, from left to right:

YOU.
YOU KNOW THAT WOMEN HAVE SERVED ALL THESE CENTURIES
AS LOOKING GLASSES POSSESSING THE MAGIC AND
DELICIOUS POWER OF REFLECTING THE FIGURE
OF MAN AT TWICE ITS NATURAL SIZE.
AFTER VIRGINIA WOOLF

IN THE END, SOMETHING ELSE BEGINS
IN THE END, YOU'VE HAD YOUR CHANCE
IN THE END, YOU WIN OR YOU LOSE
IN THE END, HISTORY HAPPENS
IN THE END, NOTHING MATTERS
IN THE END, ALL IS FORGOTTEN
IN THE END, ALL IS FORGIVEN
IN THE END, ANYTHING GOES
IN THE END, YOU DISAPPEAR
IN THE END, LIES PREVAIL
IN THE END, ANGER FADES
IN THE END, HOPE IS LOST

Lower West Wall:

THIS IS ABOUT LOVING AND LONGING. ABOUT SHAMING
AND HATING. ABOUT THE PROMISES OF KINDNESS
AND THE PLEASURES OF DOING DAMAGE. THIS IS
ABOUT CRAZY DESIRE AND HAVING A GIFT FOR
CRUELTY. THIS IS ABOUT THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN
THE FIGURE AND THE BODY. ABOUT THE FICKLENESS

OF RENOWN. ABOUT WHO GETS WHAT AND WHO
OWNS WHAT. ABOUT WHO IS REMEMBERED
AND WHO IS FORGOTTEN. HERE. IN THIS PLACE.
THIS IS ABOUT ~~YOU~~. I MEAN ~~ME~~. I MEAN YOU.