



Stanch

Date

2017

Primary Maker

Alison Saar

Medium

Woodcut on vintage linen seed sacks

Description

"During a 2013 residency at the Joan Mitchell Center in New Orleans, Saar was dismayed to see how little had been done to rebuilt African American communities devastated by Hurricane Katrina eight years earlier. Upon her return to Los Angeles, she began researching the histories of American floods and the effect on African Americans. The Great Mississippi River Flood of 1927, described as one of the worst natural river disasters in U.S. history, piqued her interest. Heavy rains resulted in the river breaching levees, creating a historic catastrophe that had a profound impact on the life of African Americans living in the Mississippi Delta. The flood exposed the conditions of poor African American sharecroppers and tenant farmers and their relationship with cotton plantation owners. The flood also resulted in social, cultural, federal policy, and political changes." (SOURCE: Lafayette Art Galleries, Alison Saar: Breach, fall 2016) "Stanch speaks to the impossible task laid upon the shoulders of the African American men that were charged with building up the levees and stanching any levee breaches. The male figure, also stripped bare, stands waist deep in the flooded landscape carrying an unwieldy mound of tools and paraphernalia used to shore up the levees. Stanch also alludes to the act of stopping bleeding and the arrest of a flow of pain." (SOURCE: Tandem Press prospectus, fall 2017)

Dimensions

Overall: 43 1/4 x 19 1/4 in. (109.9 x 48.9 cm) Frame: 51 3/8 x 26 7/8 x 2 in. (130.5 x 68.3 x 5.1 cm)