

MODERNITY ART

Symbolism of “Embrace the Difference” – by Erik Kučera

“Embrace the Difference” by Erik Kučera was created to demonstrate the need for more than just understanding and tolerance when we observe the differences in others. “Embrace the Difference” is about finding joy, respect and love in that which makes each of us different.

To illustrate the idea first of embracing, we see there are two large hands which span the globe. As the hands come together the pointer finger and thumb of each hand creates a heart shape. The idea behind this is to express that through the simple act of touch, handshakes, hugs, etc can we start to break down the walls which divide us.

Also the hands are there to demonstrate that the power to make change and to love one and other lies within our hands and not something external to us. If we are willing to make an effort we can embrace the difference instead of fearing or ostracizing others for it.

On the back side of each hand we see the countries of the world. The fingers are spread apart to demonstrate that although political boundaries exist to separate land into countries, it is still the hand of man which can bring together or divide them.

From the wrist of each hand we see large trees growing out of them. These trees have a couple different meanings. One meaning of the tree is to represent our interconnectedness with nature. It is to show that although humans and the environment may be separate entities we are dependent on the environment and we cannot thrive and grow unless we respect and protect it. Trees give us nourishment through their fruits and nuts, oxygen to breathe, homes for many animals, wood to build with and so on. Therefore we are but just an extension of nature.

The second meaning of the trees is symbolic in the sense that the trees are seen as our parents. They are the elders who came before us, wise and strong. They are responsible for planting the seed of love and not hate within us, they are responsible for giving us our first lessons in love, in tolerance and in understanding of all. In the middle of the heart, in the center of the image we see this very seed. No child is born with hate in their heart, hate must be learned. So in this image we see only a seed of love, a seed embraced by the entire world.

In the middle of image between the trees we see the artist’s interpretation of a sort of “Shangri-La”. Here it is imagined how beautiful, pure and safe the world could be from the highest mountain to the deepest valley. The trees extended out from hands providing a place of safety and love like a baby cuddled in the arms of its mother. We see the sun is rising as a new day is dawning and the promise of a better world where hate is only a memory and all people can live in harmony with another, with no fear of war and where the abundance of the universe is shared with all.

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