

Public Abstract

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Title: A Man Ain't Nothin but A Man

Physicality is one of the most powerful ways in which I express my innermost feelings with others, constantly making the body articulate that which I cannot express freely in words. This way of showing emotion I find to be most common in men, burdening the body to free the mind; sheer emotion represented by the human form.

In reflecting personally and historically, mythological tales and folklore such as the legend of John Henry and the many sagas of Greek mythological figures, have acted as a kind of measuring guide or moral compass for masculine traits. Aspects of our cultural masculinity are reflected in these stories. They serve in some cases as a manual for young men to look towards for guidance. The roles that men have played through history have always intrigued me; men who were singular figures of greatness, who actually existed well beyond myth and legend. Some of these men were alive and their prowess was so great they became more than human, showing that their feats seemed virtually impossible to normal men at that time. These stories and struggles go on in the culture and perhaps the genetics of my own family. We each have our own family stories that have been passed down from generation to generation, changing and adjusting as each narrator puts in his or her own personal twist on the original. In researching these stories I had found a connection in how narrative my own work is but also in that a vast majority of these stories deal with masculine identity.