

Audrey Warren

Dirt is the Truth of the Earth

When I first saw Yusuke Asai's work, I made my first impressions, as any human does. I noticed the rustic and minimalist style, noting that the common color scheme was earthy-browns and rusts. I recognized an ethnic theme, and its features of details within "the big picture". I also received the repetition of animals and plants, nature at its work.

Learning about the idea behind the image definitely broadened my perspective and heightened my senses. We learned about his connection to Mahatma Gandhi, who is notable for his simplistic ideas, and "satyagraha", or truth. I then began to think about his motives and desires of Yusuke, and saw his dedication to the Earth. He yearned for the truth of the Earth, so why would it be represented any other way? Even dirt itself was varying in colors and textures, and offered the opportunity for his expression. He also included the idea of impermanence. Well before starting this project, he knew that it was not eternal. And that is to be expected, and meant to be accepted. He disciplined his efforts into his full potential, no matter how long it will last. He wanted us to realize that change is part of life.

Just as Yusuke gave his all in an impermanent project, we should all learn to accept that this life is impermanent; one day, we will be forgotten, there will be no trace of us, no one will know how great or bad our lives were. But does that mean we should just give up now? Just get by, only survive? No, we are in this life and that in itself is a gift at all. We strive to find importance and make a name for ourselves, but what we needed all along was the recognition from ourselves.