

Marcia Annenberg 'The Disappeared' 1996

Thoughts and Discussion.....



Annenberg made the work as a response to the Bosnian genocide in 1995. Annenberg based this painting on a photograph she saw in the newspaper, of men walking down a street, carrying water jars in Bosnia, during the Srebrenica massacre. We do not know the identities of the men.

What might the artist be trying to express by leaving the identities of the men blank and anonymous?

How would our understanding of the painting change had Annenberg depicted the men in full detail?



The faces of the men have been left deliberately blank and the clothing has minimal detail.



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What colours has the artist used in this painting?
What effect does this have on the viewer? Why do you think that the artist chose these colours?



In the same way that the men have been left 'blank', the setting of the painting is also anonymous and hard to identify. The scene could be set in any number of cities or towns around the world.

**“It was this photograph that sent a shock of recognition that the term, "Never Again", had within the space of 50 years, indeed happened again”
Marcia Annenberg.**

What do we usually look for when identifying where a place is?
What is missing from the setting of this picture?
Why has the artist made the location hard to identify?
What message do you think the artist is trying to convey by leaving the setting anonymous in this way?

What is Annenberg explaining here?
Why is this painting called “The Disappeared” ?
What do you think the artist means by the title?