

Artist statement:

The creature that is staring at you is a fluffy lion, a typical character that occurs during the Chinese New Year Festival's Costumed Lion Dance. Personally speaking, it's my favorite character among all representational beings. As you can see, the upper half is painted in a red palette, typical and symbolic of Asian aesthetics. For the creature, it has huge, opened eyes expressing curiosity, concentration, and devotion. You can't really sense a horrific or intimidating atmosphere around the lion, at least I hope not. I have to admit that, though I might have idolized it a bit, painted it just slightly more adorable than it is in reality, my wish is sincere and strong, hoping there will be an international understanding of simple ideas.

First, Asians do have kind hearts. Secondly, the politics and systems that have dictated us for so long do not determine our true nature. Some could resemble their regime, and others could be entirely different, but please do not judge everybody based on one race. Finally, a reiteration of the above: a country's culture does not equal the government or politics in that country. Does that cute and focused Chinese creature in the painting resemble any of your impressions about the same country's government? My bold guess would be no. I have faith in diverse races treating each other indiscriminately. Just like Black Lives Matter, Asian Lives are not inferior.