

"Rwanda: The Wall"

2009. Bronze Relief Sculpture. 12"w x 11.5"h.

David Feinberg. Drawing contributions of genocide survivor Alice Musabende and artists Ali Abdulkadir, Bonnie Brabson, Mary George, Rachel Mosey, Jason Krumrai, Rowan Pope, Ryan Rasmussen, Nicole Rodriguez, Adam Streeter, Stephanie Thompson.

During the Rwandan Civil War in the year 1994, the Hutu Government raided Tutsi and Tutsi sympathizers' homes in what became a 100 days of genocide where close to a million people were killed. This was at first hidden from the international community, and even now not all the details of what happened are fully known. Alice's experience is demonstrated in this piece.

The main element of the piece is that of a destroyed home. This is what Alice saw when she went back to her home and found it destroyed. The number 94 marks the year in which everything happened. On the top of the piece we see two huge tires and the tracks of the trucks that took over her grandfather's land once the Civil War and the genocide hit full force, as well as the front of a bulldozer. In the middle there stands the last wall of Alice's home. Bullet holes adorn the side and mark where her parents were shot and killed, luckily when she had already escaped. The guns pointing at the wall signify this moment and all the other guns that Alice saw as a child being carried around by soldiers and used to kill her people. Between the tracks there is a hole, a well where a person was thrown.

Though there were destroyed homes and dead bodies all around, all young Alice could worry about was the book she loved as a child. In the shadow of her home we see her book. She mentioned that her desperation to find this book might have had a deeper meaning. She was looking for her childhood. As a reminder of her childhood Alice added objects that belonged to her grandfather. Alice's grandfather, when she was a child, was her best friend. In his memory she has added a scythe, which he used in the fields and a radio. She would walk along with him and they bonded over the radio that he carried with him wherever he went. Though the only station that it received spoke in French, her grandfather listened to it. Alice assumed he just wanted the company. Since he didn't speak French it was often up to Alice to translate and tell her grandfather what it said.