2-18-2013

Walker Evans' Alabama Cotton Tenant Farmer's Wife 1936

Herbert Woodward Martin

Grand Valley State University

Follow this and additional works at: http://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/amaranthus

Recommended Citation
Available at: http://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/amaranthus/vol1972/iss1/57

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by ScholarWorks@GVSU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Amaranthus by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks@GVSU. For more information, please contact scholarworks@gvsu.edu.
WALKER EVANS' ALABAMA COTTON TENANT  
FARMER'S WIFE 1936 (For: Mark & Mary Ann Callahan)  

She has made what she could out of this life.  
It is spare  
But she bites her lips  
Perhaps tastes her own blood  
And knows she will endure.  
It looks as if the wind has worn away her beauty  
As it has torn away the paint from their clap-board dwelling.  
It is the desolate thirties.  
The land has long since turned from yielding cotton.  
She has Modigliani eyes  
They cut through  
They look forward  
The time is spent for this brief picture taking.  
She will make what she can for dinner  
And hold on to what she has in Alabama.

VISITING THE MUSEUM (For: Dennis Diefendorf)  
The lovers  
(pigeon-toed  
bow-legged  
big breasted  
broad shouldered  
large penis  
loosed hips)  
have everything to gain through freedom  
hands clasped in each other's ass  
are more fluid than the paintings  
or the sculptures spending eternity in stone.

MUSEUM PIECE  
Two blonds  
Male and female  
embracing  
walk each other  
in the museum  
among the still lifes.  
Only I watch with interest.  
The arrogant portraits look on disapprovingly.