

Goodbye To All That

Henry Moore's imperturbable bronze lady moves on. Maybe we've learned something.

By José M. Tasende

In a munificent gesture, she lets the birds rest on her bronze shoulders. She watches the seagulls around her as they await the passing of the storm before continuing their flight in search of nutriment. Her stoic image symbolizes courage in the face of the elements nature unleashes.

Impervious witness of the days and the nights, she observes without seeing the fauna's mystic fight for survival and the pagan rites of creatures perpetuating their species.

Silent friend of the morning joggers who suspire the invigorating ocean breeze, she keeps hidden in modesty her affection for the seals who lounge on the nearby rocks, for the whales, magic giants who burst forth from the waves and momentarily enrich the horizon, for the melancholic stroller. At twilight, she protects lovers with her shadow.

Made of imperishable materials that will outlast her creators, she looks with scorn and indifference upon the construct that man, the great predator of the environment, has erected around her. Her immutable image warns the dawn walker of the menace of a modern society preying on life itself while, serene and liberal, she invites the early-rising passersby to contemplate the splendor of the dawn.

Like a Goddess of Wind and Storm, imperturbable, she lets infuriated waves lash the shores that have been violated by disparaging structures built out of ignorance and greed. She witnesses time passing without changing, unaware that her own presence has provoked a fugacious storm, a storm of paper and letters.

She was not conceived to be liked, but to be understood.

The imperturbable Lady knows that the void her image will leave when she is gone will remain forever. #



Made of imperishable materials that will outlast both her creators and adversaries, Henry Moore's *Upright Motive No. 9*—whose presence in a La Jolla park provoked unprecedented controversy—will be relocated to the Laumeier Sculpture Park in St. Louis.

Photograph by Anna Photographic Art