

# Compare and Contrast: Carlee Fernandez + Alison Saar

Art + Social Justice

The logo for the Santa Barbara Museum of Art, featuring the text "SANTA BARBARA MUSEUM OF ART" in a black, sans-serif font, enclosed within a black square border.

SANTA BARBARA  
MUSEUM OF  
ART

# Themes:

- Identity
- Motherhood
- Race
- Homelessness
- Human Rights
- Liberation

The following artworks are in the permanent collection of the Santa Barbara Museum of Art. Each work relates to the theme of art and social justice.

Explore their meanings, answer questions, and discuss together.



# Carlee Fernandez

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Carlee Fernandez  
(American, b. 1973)

*Hues from Brown to Pink*, 2010

C-print

SBMA, Museum purchase, 2014.58

© Carlee Fernandez



# Carlee Fernandez

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1. Look at the the gestures of the mother and child. What do you see? What do their gestures make you think of?
  2. Remind yourself of the artwork's title. How do you interpret the title's meaning?
  3. Why do you think the artist chose to stand on a tree stump?



# Carlee Fernandez



Carlee Fernandez is a California-based artist who specializes in sculpture and photography. She often uses her own body to recreate scenes from historical iconography or popular culture. This photograph, *Hues from Brown to Pink*, depicts the artist posing on a wood stump in the common gesture of a Christian saint or heroic statue. A baby is strapped tightly to her chest to represent the maternal sacrifice of motherhood. The photograph was made as part of a series of works dedicated to the artist's young son, Xavier.

# Alison Saar

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Alison Saar

(American, b. 1956)

*Terra Firma*, 1991

Wood, tin, tar, found  
objects

SBMA, Museum purchase with  
funds provided by the  
Twentieth-Century Art  
Acquisition Fund and the SBMA  
Friends of Contemporary Art in  
celebration of the Museum's  
50th Anniversary, 1992.20

© Alison Saar





# Alison Saar

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1. Why do you think Saar made this sculpture to lay on the ground?
2. Look closely at the work, describe the texture you see. How might that have been created?
3. How does Saar honor individuals who are homeless through this sculpture? What commentary does this offer on the way we perceive homelessness?



# Alison Saar



The work of Los Angeles-based artist Alison Saar addresses a range of experiences related to the African diaspora, femininity, and cultural and social identity. Carved with a chainsaw, *Terra Firma* depicts a life-size, prone figure painted in earthen colors and clad with metal sheathing collected from tin roofs of urban demolition sites. The resulting sculpture recognizes the persistence of poverty and homelessness, becoming a powerful totem for humanity.



# Compare + Contrast



DISCUSS: What are the similarities and differences between these two artworks?

# Compare + Contrast



DISCUSS: How does the position of the artworks (vertical vs. horizontal) convey meaning?

# Art + Social Justice



This presentation was created by the Education Department at the Santa Barbara Museum of Art in 2020 in collaboration with Santa Barbara-based high school teachers.

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