

Omotayo Banjo – *Refusal*/Response Transcript

00:00:00,060 --> 00:00:06,920

There are many pieces that
gave me food for thought

00:00:06,920 --> 00:00:08,978

in this exhibit.

00:00:09,480 --> 00:00:12,615

But none that made me think as deeply
as the piece *Refusal*.

00:00:13,170 --> 00:00:17,154

And when I think about the piece
Refusal, I think about how.

00:00:18,030 --> 00:00:21,440

We are in what feels like
precarious times right now.

00:00:22,600 --> 00:00:25,824

With the stability of our
Democratic government being

00:00:25,824 --> 00:00:30,430

questioned. With waning trust in
our leaders and in one another's

00:00:30,430 --> 00:00:35,870

good nature. In times like these
it's easy to pick a side,

00:00:35,870 --> 00:00:40,028

preferably one that seems to
guarantee our safety and that of

00:00:40,028 --> 00:00:42,296

our family and our loved ones.

00:00:43,980 --> 00:00:49,821

In times like these it's easy to
stay silent while some

00:00:49,821 --> 00:00:54,600
injustices are being normalized
and others are being racialized.

00:00:55,810 --> 00:00:59,100
It's much more convenient to
shrug our shoulders and say,

00:00:59,100 --> 00:01:02,719
well, if it doesn't affect me,
then it's not my problem.

00:01:04,450 --> 00:01:06,090
It's easy to hate.

00:01:07,300 --> 00:01:11,080
It's easy to retort with the
same amount of venom that spewed

00:01:11,080 --> 00:01:14,860
on us because, well, it feels
better and makes us feel more

00:01:14,860 --> 00:01:18,640
justified. And at times it feels
like it's the only source of

00:01:18,640 --> 00:01:19,900
power that we have.

00:01:21,410 --> 00:01:26,282
It's easy to give into the
chaotic tide and be swept away

00:01:26,282 --> 00:01:31,154
into the isms, which give us a
faint sense of superiority over

00:01:31,154 --> 00:01:35,214
one another. Which privileges

our fears of one another over

00:01:35,214 --> 00:01:37,244

our need for one another?

00:01:39,470 --> 00:01:45,333

But I believe, and I think this
is was really prominent in the

00:01:45,333 --> 00:01:48,720

exhibit throughout. That love
overcomes all that.

00:01:50,350 --> 00:01:51,889

Love takes courage.

00:01:52,830 --> 00:01:53,970

Love is work.

00:01:54,960 --> 00:01:56,430

Love is hard.

00:01:57,210 --> 00:01:59,478

Love is hard work.

00:02:00,020 --> 00:02:04,322

Love stands against the
tides, folds its arms while

00:02:04,322 --> 00:02:08,624

everyone else is saluting
itself to its opposite. And

00:02:08,624 --> 00:02:13,882

even when it is ostracized
for period of time, love will

00:02:13,882 --> 00:02:16,272

always get the final word.

00:02:17,520 --> 00:02:20,304

And this is what Refusal
meant to me.

00:02:21,360 --> 00:02:24,055
It challenges me to stand up for

00:02:24,055 --> 00:02:26,080
truth, no matter the cost.

00:02:27,930 --> 00:02:29,590
To stand up for love.

00:02:30,440 --> 00:02:31,910
Even if I should stand alone.