

Easter Egg - THE PHOTO OF ENTOMBED DAVID

The photo of Michelangelo's *David* entombed in bricks, haunted me the first time I saw it in the documentary, *The Rape of Europa* (a film about the protection of artworks in World War II Europe). This single image moved my sketches of a boy and his stone lion into their story. I was struck by the contrast between WWII and today—the same hallway, the same placement of sculptures—but one resembling a graveyard with meticulous masonry encasing the art. The essence of what haunted me had more to do with the Italian citizens, and how despite living in wartime conditions—scarce food, curfews at night for fear of being bombed, fear of soldiers (Italian Blackshirts, Nazis and Allies)—they took such care of their artistic treasures. Reflecting on my own culture and my own current time period, I'm not convinced that we would prioritize artwork the same way.