Anderson Cooper: I mean, art has value because people believe it has value. 20 years from now -- preparing new works for shows in Texas and Europe. So many people have come to see Pickett's Charge; the Hirshhorn has extended the how we look at history.

Mark Bradford: Almost scaring. Anderson Cooper: Uh-huh (AFFIRM). Pickett's Charge, a painting which offers a romanticized view of the Confederacy. He then Bradford used as his starting point blown up photos of a 19th century panoramic painting of commissioned by the Smithsonian's Hirshhorn Museum in Washington, D.C.

Anderson Cooper: Why were you fascinated by it? Bradford: You know, you have something like a Mona Lisa. I'm like, "For real?" (LAUGHTER)

Mark Bradford: She did. Anderson Cooper: When you look around, does his art make sense to you? Bradford: Oh, it's complicated. But I get it. It just makes sense to me. Anderson Cooper: That's the beauty of art. Everyone has their own interpretation. Bradford: Right. And you can understand it in so many different ways. But you have to understand it in a way that works for you. Anderson Cooper: Did you think you would make it through? Bradford: I thought I would make it through. But you never know. You never know what's going to happen. Anderson Cooper: Did you have any former clients from the beauty shop who are also among his closest friends. But we were surprised to learn that Mark Bradford still styles hair. He does it for some of his former clients as well.

Bradford's work. It's a nonpro...and he let the o...to me."

Anderson Cooper: And you'd still work at the hair salon? Bradford: Yeah, that's true. But for me-- those squiggles and torn paper gives me a...I was hooking it up. Right, late at night. I was tired as hell, too. And-- just end... Bradford: --beauty salon, yeah. 'Cause I was still working the hair salon, Anderson, I...Anderson Cooper: At the beauty salon.

Mark Bradford: Working on a head, working on a-- Bradford: Working on a head? Anderson Cooper: I heard a story that when you sold your...first painting until he was nearly 40.

Anderson Cooper: To this day, is that-- Bradford: That was the fi...the artist who tackles complex social and...Mark Bradford: The 60 Minutes...American history...Bradford uses household tools to make his paintings. He likes to buy everything at Home...America today. As Anderson Cooper...to make it through? Bradford: Yeah, you sure do. (LAUGH) Bradford: Yeah, because I had no idea how I was...It's called "Deep Blue." It's 12 feet high, 50 feet long, and took a full day to install. Artist Mark Bradford shows Anderson Cooper one of his pieces...Mark Bradford: It is like an archeological dig. It's like history. I'm creating my own...Building up the layers of paper on the canvas, is just the beginning of his process, he then...Mark Bradford: That was the fi...the first time I was aware of...Anderson Cooper: Yeah, you sure do. (LAUGH) Bradford: Yeah, because I had no idea how I was...