

## **Ain't No Mountain High Enough**

**The first step I take when making art is to question what it will be about, and how to achieve that without it being literal. I decided that I wanted to portray endurance, stability, perseverance; things we always need. I like for my art to resonate with the viewers, leaving them with the feeling of the theme without being overt. Mountains symbolize these things for me.**

**This artwork is painted with encaustic. Encaustic is a mixture of beeswax and damar resin with pigment added. It's an ancient form of painting, and the colors of the encaustic paintings that have been discovered have endured throughout the ages.**

**In late winter my husband left for a month-long trip, and I stayed home painting and singing along to "Ain't No Mountain High Enough" and decided on that song title as my show title. I had no idea how prophetic that would be. My artwork took on new meaning as I listened to reports that Covid 19 was spreading around the world and creeping closer. Fortunately, my husband returned home before borders were closed.**

**Many of us have been pretty isolated, keeping ourselves from being infected, and staying away from friends and family to help protect them. Though we've been separated, we are can persevere, and can still love and care for those who we can't be with. I hope that these abstracted mountains can be a reminder that nothing can separate us from those we care about.**

**Joyce Watts Coolidge, 2020**

Listen baby, ain't no mountain high,  
Ain't no valley low, ain't no river wide enough baby  
If you need me call me no matter where you are,  
No matter how far; don't worry baby  
Just call my name; I'll be there in a hurry  
You don't have to worry,  
Oh baby there ain't no mountain high enough,  
Ain't no valley low enough,  
Ain't no river wide enough  
To keep me from getting to you babe  
Remember the day I set you free  
I told you you could always count on me darling  
From that day on, I made a vow,  
I'll be there when you want me,  
Some way, some how  
Oh baby there ain't no mountain high enough,  
Ain't no valley low enough,  
Ain't no river wide enough  
To keep me from getting to you babe  
Oh no darling  
No wind, no rain  
Or winters cold can stop me baby, na na baby  
'Cause you are my goal  
If you're ever in trouble;  
I'll be there on the double  
Just send for me, oh baby, ha  
My love is alive  
Way down in my heart  
Although we are miles apart  
If you ever need a helping hand,

I'll be there on the double  
Just as fast as I can  
Don't you know that there  
Ain't no mountain high enough,  
Ain't no valley low enough,  
Ain't no river wide enough  
To keep me from getting to you babe  
Don'tcha know that there  
Ain't no mountain high enough,  
Ain't no valley low enough,  
Ain't no river wide enough  
Ain't mountain high enough  
Ain't no valley low enough

Songwriters: Valerie Simpson / Nickolas Ashford  
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