Art World

The Studio Museum in Harlem Is Expanding Its Closely Watched Residency Program to Include a Mentoring Role for a Midcareer Artist

Artist Jacolby Satterwhite will take up the new position in 2020-21.

Caroline Goldstein, September 10, 2020

Clockwise from left: Genesis Jerez, Widline Cadet, Texas Isaiah, and Jacolby Satterwhite. Courtesy of the Studio Museum.

The Studio Museum in Harlem’s artist-in-residence program is renowned for identifying talented emerging artists and helping them achieve wider recognition. This year, the program, which will take place digitally, is expanding to include a mid-career mentoring resident in addition to the usual three residents.

Joining the program in 2020–21 are Texas Isaiah, Genesis Jerez, and Widline Cadet, as well as Jacolby Satterwhite in the mid-career role. Satterwhite, who
enjoys a level of institutional support already, will work in a mentoring capacity to the other residents.

The residency program is the hallmark of the Studio Museum, and has helped launch the careers of artists of African and Latinx descent since its inception in 1968. Arthur Jafa, Kerry James Marshall, Senga Nengudi, Simone Leigh, and Carrie Mae Weems are all among its notable alumnae.

The addition of a fourth artist is the latest twist in a program that has been evolving over time. Its emphasis on painters was upended in 2019 with the appointment of the internet-based artist E. Jane and musician and performance artist Elliot Reed (along with painter Naudline Pierre), and this year’s selection is similarly diverse.

Texas Isaiah and Wildline Cadet are both photographers who delve into themes of identity through portraiture. Genesis Jerez is a painter who works in mixed media, and Satterwhite is a genre-bending video artist who incorporates digital avatars, live performance, and immersive installations. He has previously collaborated with Solange and had a solo show at Brooklyn art space Pioneer Works in 2019.

The program went off-site in 2018 as the Studio Museum’s building began undergoing a $122 million renovation. Now, the program has become more flexible in terms of studio space, which will continue even as the lockdown throws a wrench in artists’ plans.
“It’s a year to experiment,” associate curator Legacy Russell told the New York Times, emphasizing the importance of supporting artists during these turbulent times.