

ARTIST STATEMENTS

# 14 Black Artists on Life in America Right Now

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August 12, 2020

*The **Artist Statements** project is an ever-evolving creative tribute to the agonies and the ecstasies of Black American life—from police brutality and civil rights activism to the close bonds of community. At a powerful moment of reckoning both across the country and around the world, it serves as a living document, regularly reflecting poignant new imagery and texts from leading Black contemporary artists.*

## Jacolby Satterwhite

*To accompany the release of their latest album, "Notes on a Conditional Form," The 1975 and director Ben Ditto commissioned 15 artists to respond to 15 tracks. The animator Jacolby Satterwhite was one of those artists, tapped to create a video for the song "Having No Head."*

Proceeding with my studio practice amidst massive civil unrest and a pandemic is a challenge that has reset my vision and intentions tremendously. After visiting and recording a few protests in Brooklyn, the only thing I could execute at a time like this is a reimagined safe space and a tribute to Breonna Taylor. This digital memorial can be seen in my video for The 1975's song "Having No Head." The short animated film is an alternative universe and recreational park where post-human black femme bots have superior autonomy and immunity in a natural landscape/park. The other figures wearing gold hazmat suits are headless and lack immunity. Lately, I've shifted my interest to modeling recreational park landscapes in response to my research of Manet's painting *The Luncheon on the Grass*. The painting is considered the start of Modernism, and was controversial for depicting a female nude as the bourgeoisie and non-divine. Because 2020 has presented a major global paradigm shift, I feel like we are finally entering a new collective historical movement and theoretical shift as drastic as the dawn of early Modernism. Therefore, digitally reimagining & re-animating *The Luncheon on the Grass* has become my main motif for pieces like "Having No Head" and other projects I'm currently producing—a gesture that welcomes the new movement. —*Jacolby Satterwhite*