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Jacolby Satterwhite's Kinetic Mixed-Media Creations

BY KEVIN MCGARY | NOVEMBER 4, 2014 4:30 PM

The artist's work is kaleidoscopic, weird, and totally genius.



From left: Jacolby Satterwhite in one of the many bodysuits he's made and wears during performances; the artist's digital image: Satellites (feed), 2014.*Credit From left: Photography by Myles Pettengill for Step and Repeat at the Geffen Contemporary at MOCA/Courtesy of the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; Courtesy of Jacolby Satterwhite and OHWOW Gallery*

Eccentricity was inevitable for Jacolby Satterwhite, who grew up in South Carolina with a mother who dreamed of "becoming a famous inventor on the Home Shopping Network," and two "flamboyant dancer-slash-fashion-designer brothers." The New Yorkbased artist stood out at this spring's Whitney Biennial with "Reifying Desire 6,"a Boschian mix of performance, digital art and painting. His first solo show in L.A. opens this month at OHWOW gallery and draws inspiration from many sources, or "archives," as he calls them, such as drawings made by his mother, which he uses to mine his own past. In addition to photographs and sculptures, the exhibition contains the first in a new series of narrative videos called "Prelude to En Plein Air," an homage to naturalistic painting mixed with Satterwhite's maximalist aesthetic. "If I was the High Renaissance before," he says, "this show is my Baroque steez."