

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Queens Museum Presents American Artist: My Blue Window
Video, installation, and new media by American Artist highlights the bias
encoded in policing technology.

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Exhibition Dates: October 6, 2019 - February 16, 2020



Image: American Artist, still from *2015, 2019*, Single-channel HD video, 21:38 minutes.

Queens, NY (September 2019) – The first museum solo exhibition by Brooklyn-based interdisciplinary artist American Artist will be held at the Queens Museum. *My Blue Window* presents an immersive multimedia installation in which American Artist explores anti-Blackness as it operates algorithmically within technological systems.

American Artist uses video, installation, new media, and writing to reveal historical prejudices embedded in contemporary culture and technology. *My Blue Window* focuses on predictive policing technologies, artificial intelligence tools intended to dispatch officers to areas deemed high-risk crime zones before incidents are even reported. The exhibition highlights the collective bias encoded within such seemingly neutral or scientific tools. With its title invoking the divide between the Blue and Black Lives Matter movements, American Artist connects this phenomenon to the legacy of slavery as an ever-present condition of racialized society in the U.S. *My Blue Window* is American Artist's first solo museum presentation.

American Artist changed their name legally in 2013. Through this act, American Artist claims Blackness as an attribute of an "American artist" while paradoxically becoming invisible on the Internet, where Googling "American Artist" does not lead to any more information about this particular artist.

Sophia Marisa Lucas, Assistant Curator at the Queens Museum, said: "American Artist's practice deals with the relationship between selfhood and digital systems. Their work renders visible the algorithms that 'know us' and monitor us, asserting that these sophisticated mechanisms of surveillance not only record us, but actually participate in cultivating our identities. *My Blue Window* articulates the predictive capability of algorithms as a powerful force that furthers the legacy of slavery in the criminal justice system."

"I think the best way to understand how high technology is anti-Black is to consider how the United States is anti-black," American Artist noted in a recent interview. "The United States is foundationally anti-black and continues to extract labor and resources from black people through incarceration and debt among many other practices. To me it's impossible to consider an entire epoch of development that occurred in a bubble of almost entirely white American men in California [Silicon Valley], exuding anything other than anti-blackness."

About American Artist

American Artist (b. 1989), Altadena, CA, lives and works in Brooklyn, NY) attended the Whitney Independent Study program as an artist. Artist has participated in residencies at Abrons Art Center, Pioneer Works, and Eyebeam. They have exhibited at The Kitchen in New York, the Studio Museum in Harlem, and the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, and have participated in group shows internationally. They have published writing in *The New Inquiry* and *New Criticals* and have had their work featured in *Mousse*, *ARTnews*, *AQNB*, and *Huffington Post*. Artist is a co-founder of the arts and politics publication *unbag*.

American Artist is a recipient of the 2018-2019 Queens Museum/Jerome Foundation Fellowship for Emerging Artists. Recipients of the prize were selected by a five-person selection panel consisting of Lumi Tan, Curator at The Kitchen, New York; Anthony Elms, Daniel and Brett Sundheim Chief Curator at The Institute of Contemporary Art at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia; the Queens Museum's Director of Exhibitions, Hitomi Iwasaki; QM Assistant Curator Sophia Marisa Lucas; and QM Assistant Curator for Public Programs, Lindsey Berfond. American Artist lives and works in Brooklyn, NY.

About the Queens Museum/Jerome Foundation Fellowship for Emerging Artists

The Queens Museum-Jerome Foundation Fellowship for Emerging Artists was established to help emerging visual artists in New York City. Two artists are selected to receive stipends of 20,000 USD each, the opportunity to develop and exhibit a project at the Queens Museum, and professional development support from Queens Museum curators and other programming staff members.

Funding and Support

The Queens Museum/Jerome Foundation Fellowship Program for Emerging Artists in New York City is generously supported by the Jerome Foundation. Major funding for the Queens Museum is generously provided by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, the Lambert Foundation, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and the Shelley and Donald Rubin Foundation. The official hotel sponsor of the Queens Museum is Boro New York.

About the Queens Museum

The Queens Museum in Flushing Meadows Corona Park features contemporary art, events of hyperlocal and international impact, and educational programs reflecting the diversity of Queens and New York City. Changing exhibitions present the work of emerging and established artists, both local and global, that often explore contemporary social issues, as well as the rich history of its site. In November 2013, the Museum reopened with an expanded footprint of 105,000 square feet, a soaring sky lit atrium, a suite of daylight galleries, nine artist studios, and flexible event space. The Museum works outside its walls through engagement initiatives ranging from multilingual outreach and educational opportunities for adult immigrants, to a plethora of community led art and activism projects. The Museum's educational programming connects with school children, teens, families, seniors as well as those individuals with physical and mental disabilities. The Queens Museum is located on property owned in full by the City of New York, and its operation is made possible in part by public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. Visit www.queensmuseum.org. Follow us at [@queensmuseum](https://twitter.com/queensmuseum).

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