

Artist Profile – Jacolby Satterwhite

b. 1986 Columbia, SC; lives and works in New York City

At the age of eleven Satterwhite received his first personal computer and began working with technology. He spent much of his youth painting, playing video games, and building websites. Satterwhite attended the Maryland Institute College of Arts for his BFA, the Skowhegan School for Painting and Sculpture, and the University of Pennsylvania for his MFA. It was at the University of Pennsylvania that he began incorporating video and 3D animation with his experience painting. Satterwhite has received numerous awards including the Fine Arts Work Center Fellowship, the Art Matters Grant, and the Louis Comfort Tiffany Grant.

Satterwhite works with video, performance, painting, sculpture, animation, drawing, and printmaking to create works that speak to themes of memory, personal history, labor, consumption, identity, sexuality, and his mother. Although Satterwhite uses many forms of medium, he is best known for his digital works. He uses software to create detailed animations and live action films of real or imagined worlds that are often surreal.

A large influence on his works are his mother's diagrams, his mother had schizophrenia and created drawings and diagrams of household and ordinary objects that were influenced by consumer culture, medicine, and fashion. Satterwhite uses her drawings as a reference and uses related themes to create his own works. Satterwhite's goal is to challenge conventions of Western art through a personal and political lens, and he does this by the issues he references in his digital works. Satterwhite is interested in the narrative between past, present, and future, and how that process relates to a shared experience.

In Satterwhite's videos and animations he often uses avatars of himself, along with other people, that are participating in various actions. Often there is movement from the background, text handwriting on the screen, and a soundtrack comprised of hard-to-understand voices with music. His videos and 3D animations take you around this virtual world and show viewers what the avatars are doing in each space of this universe. A large component of Satterwhite's work is dancing, in his videos both Satterwhite and the other avatars are typically dancing, he believes dancing is the best form of personal expression. Viewers are also able to find different elements of Satterwhite's mother's drawings in his videos whether it's her actual drawing that Satterwhite made 3D or the text she had written next to her drawing.

Examples of Satterwhite's work include *How Lovly is me Being as I am* (1); an example of his sculptural work based on the language of his mother, A still from *Country Ball* (2), and a still from *The Matriarch's Rhapsody* (3).

Online Sources:

<https://www.miandn.com/artists/jacolby-satterwhite>

<https://moranmorangallery.com/artists/jacolby-satterwhite/>

<http://jacolby.com/home.html>

