

## John Isiah Walton

I've written and placed the statement for each piece in the order you saw them in the last email. All works are stretched, two works have frames (red state & master T).

The "Black Paintings," a series Walton began in 2017, address issues of identity including visibility and invisibility, presence and absence, figure, and void. On canvases painted black, layers of neon-hued acrylic and oil stick depict scenes ranging from the mundane to the controversial.

His neo-expressionist works are internationally recognized for their commentary on race, class, identity, and current events through his irreverent, frenetic, and sometimes absurdist style. Influenced by internet aesthetics, Black identity, pop culture, and Louisiana history, Walton's subjects are often unconventional and sometimes shocking. In the tradition of Basquiat, his work frequently has hidden meanings and symbols, and his choppy brushwork endows the work with the energy and intensity that the artist is known for. Rooted in concern about the social, economic, political, and cultural structures at play in contemporary life, Walton's best-known series encourages discomfort as a vehicle for discussion.

### **Exit 240A**

#### **2019, Oil on canvas. 48x64**

The first interstate sign I memorized mostly due to it being the exit to home in my early childhood.

Virtual Reality is a realm of conciseness for the center figure. Referencing the "Virtual Boy" headset designed by Nintendo as a clairvoyant instrument that guides the youthful self portrait of myself from the logo of the Bunny Bread factory located 8 mins from the exit on Downman Rd. I lived in the Goose section of the Eastern part of the city as a young boy until my family eventually moved to the Michoud part of Eastern New Orleans Jr year of high school. During those last years of high school Six Flags theme park would take residence 5 minutes from where I lived, that's why I have placed the 6 Flags above the ragged "Tweety Bird" doll in the right panel, a premonition of the awful state the theme park would be in Post Katrina.

### **I was thinking**

#### **2021, Acrylic and oil pastel on canvas. 48x64**

Ideas of rural Louisiana during a time when creole language was a dominant way of communicating. The main subject of this piece is inspired by the fictional Disney character Bell, the idea behind of using her character as a reference was to ease the audience into recognizing a familiar face." Mòtápé jonglé" translates from creole to English as "I was thinking". What is this person thinking about? Where is she going? She's definitely walking pass the sugarcane crops which grows in the New Iberia parish of Louisiana, a place where my partner is from in reality. Did she forget something or is she coming to a moment of realization?

### **Trip Advisory**

#### **2020, oil on canvas. 48x36 inches**

Breaking the ties of social deep patterning (controlled thought) by consuming psilocybin mushroom, this engagement initiated activates the psychodelic trip.

The year 2020 has humanity checking temperatures electronically to reduce the chances of others being affected by Covid 19. Big Dipper and Little Dipper is there for those who can see the North Star giving the viewer the option to follow the drinking gourds. 8 hour trip text represents the time that was required for a full day of work, now it's spent feeling lost in space. Pressing GO is a trip navigating the viewer closer to the key hole which is the triangle mind. The mind, emotions and body form a triangle of energies that the ego senses as itself.

## **Red October**

### **Acrylic on canvas , (2021). 16x16**

The fourth painting in my "Virtual Boi" series, inspired by the mega-hyped Air Yeezy 2 "Red October" by Kanye marks the end of his collaborative relationship with Nike. The vibrant red colorway would become highly influential in the sneaker industry, as a number of all-red-everything looks hit a countless number of models from various brands in the months and years following its release in 2014.

Below are the top 4 indicators that can help you determine if you have a real vs fake Air Yeezy 2 Red October:

1. Check the pyramids on the side of the sneakers. ...
2. Analyze the pyramids on the cage of the Yeezys. ...
3. Verify the tongue area of the Yeezys. ...
4. Inspect the toe box area of the sneakers.

## **Boss Status**

### **Acrylic on canvas, 2021. 16x20**

Elon Musk image floats over a virtually inspired map of Claiborne ave located in New Orleans . The title "Boss Status" has a double meaning , on Claiborne ave there's a clothing store that has been there since the 1990's called "Boss Status" the name of the store promote the idea of looking good and feeling like a boss after purchasing a few pieces of clothing. Elon Musk design for this work of art is inspired from the Mega Man X final in game boss named Sigma. Although he has been destroyed countless times, Sigma's programming always survives and finds a new form, ready to menace the world once again waging war on humanity.