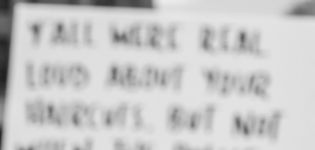


# N<sup>↑</sup>2020

**COMMUNITY REFLECTIONS**

Online at [FristArtMuseum.org/N2020](https://FristArtMuseum.org/N2020)

March 3–August 1, 2021



This online initiative showcases creative expressions made by an array of Nashville artists in response to the historic events that occurred in 2020. Guest curator and North Nashville native Woke3 has collaborated with photographers, videographers, dancers, spoken word artists, and musicians in his community to reflect on the destruction of the March 3 tornado, the impact of COVID-19, the urgent calls for racial justice, and a contentious presidential election. Together, the components of N2020 offer insight into the artists' experiences, both individually and collectively, and encourage viewers to recognize our commonalities and our differences.



Twigz (feat. J. Reggaerica). **Field Work**, 2020. Video. Courtesy of the artist. © Twigz

Cover: DaShawn Lewis. **May 30, 3:28 p.m.**, 2020. Photograph. Courtesy of the artist. © DaShawn Lewis

Our community is at the forefront of this exhibition. We want people to “go within” introspectively, to acknowledge our commonalities and differences as areas of opportunity to build thriving and sustainable communities.

It is our goal to touch as many lives as possible by establishing common ground through artistic expression. We want more people to think inclusively as we cultivate ground for all to share how 2020 has affected them as community members, artists, business owners, etc., and to support people shouting “We Need Change” through their respective art forms. That is where we begin the work.

Woke3  
#WithN2020



Photo: Keep3



wokethree.com

Where is your fire? Does it lie in your tongue, setting a blaze when you speak?  
Or is it trapped, wreaking havoc beneath your feet!  
Where is your fire? Did you pass it on, keep it warm for the generations to come??

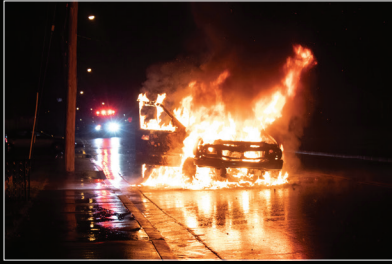


**Within 2020** (video still)

Karimah

Running time: 14 minutes, 45 seconds.

© Karimah. For a full list of participating collaborators, please see film credits.



Melodic and captivating, fire a means of purification, could these flames be a sign of what Nashville soon will be facing.

Woke3  
January

Winds whistling, bringing a cool breeze  
the swaying of trees, picking up speed.  
The lull before the storm  
Destruction on the horizon as Nashville slept in.  
Paralyzing fear, sirens penetrating the ear, but the tornado already here  
Touched down, ripping through what took decades to build  
Soon the damage to be revealed  
Devastation and Disappointment filled the air.  
Kinda surreal, like a scene from a movie  
as people walked the streets, in disbelief  
A truth hard to bear



at a crossroads, a path that used to be clear  
now filled with uncertainty and fear  
Obstacles lay and wait  
Heavy burden on the road that once paved the way.

Keep3  
Gone with the Wind, March 3



Now awake the after math, more real  
309 people injured and 25 killed  
Mom and Pop shops destroyed  
What they've worked a lifetime for.



Keep3  
**Gone with the Wind, March 3**

Businesses no longer standing, some demolished  
And North Nashville, barely being acknowledged  
The news heavy out East and other parts of town  
But over here, barely covered ground  
Open wounds, leaving the community exposed  
Disdain and bitterness continue to grow

Nowhere to go some refused to leave  
their home shattered glass and the roof gone.  
This was their life, their safe haven  
and in one night all of that taken.  
Surrounded by Darkness, 70,000 without power.



Keep3  
**Gone with the Wind, March 3**

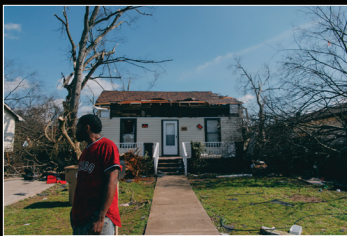
Outages for miles  
NES said it would be a while, but little did they know, this  
community a beacon of HOPE. Illuminating in the darkest of  
places in this a newfound purpose.

Bruised but not broken spirit high.  
Thankful, just to be alive.  
Sometimes it takes things to fall apart to show how we can really help  
each other.  
How strong you'd have to be, to shoulder this alone.  
But collectively working we can build our home!  
Leaving...



.....little messages, a reminder you must believe  
we can move mountains with the faith of a mustard seed  
Sometimes the picture, bigger than us  
Resting in the hand of whom we trust  
And

Keep3  
**Gone with the Wind, March 3**



In the midst of chaos, you must have a strong foundation  
Holding on with determination  
Still some hesitation  
Speaking signs of no trespassing  
Do not ENTER without asking

LeXander Bryant  
**N. 23rd, March 3**

Now, more vulnerable than ever  
being preyed on by the crafty and clever.  
Guards up, discernment on alert,  
who is here to help, who is here to hurt?  
North Nashville already a target.  
What was slow and steady, now officially put on the market.



Feelings of neglect, hopelessness and despair  
The irony of the signs left  
Almost as if our drive being put to the test

Keep3  
**Gone with the Wind, March 3**



Keep3  
Gone with the Wind, March 3

Your Perception, well that's your reality  
Sometimes one gains a clear perspective after a calamity

Searching for clarity, it's clear that we will have to go to work  
The resilience is what North Nashville is known for.

No time to sit and pity  
Pulling up our bootstraps to save the city



Keep3  
Gone with the Wind, March 3

No more time to come and spectate  
We will let you know now you're coming the WRONG way



Keep3  
Gone with the Wind, March 3

We cleaned so much, we had to be stopped  
So FEMA could assess the damage that had been done  
The people working together as one



Keep3  
Gone with the Wind, March 3

Now in darkness, that's how we grow  
You couldn't recognize the light, if you've never seen it before  
Soon as the power restored  
Just one more thing to be thankful for. A small reminder that  
we got this  
Lenses of transparency



DaShawn Lewis  
**CommUNITY Revitalization,**  
 March 7, 4:57 p.m.

Sowing seeds of humanity  
 Growing the tree of resiliency  
 It was the community who answered the call  
 Different organizations working for the body of it all.



DaShawn Lewis  
**Helping Hands, McGruder**  
**Family Resource Center, March**  
 6, 4:51 p.m.

Gideon sent an Army, with reinforcements  
 As donations poured in the people put that work in.  
 A long way to normal that's for certain, but the outpour made one  
 thing clear, this is our home and we ain't leaving here.



LeXander Bryant  
**April 6**

The History, The Culture, The Love...  
 don't sell out NORF smiling opportunist knocking on doors  
 Their tongue marinated with gentrification  
 making offers with no real plans of implementation For the  
 people by the people  
 It's time we speak up, cause only WE can save us....



**Field Work** (video still)  
 Twigz (feat. J. Reggaerica)  
 Running rime: 3 minutes, 4 seconds  
 © Twigz. For a full list of participating  
 collaborators, please see film credits.

Picking up the pieces, a long process  
 Trying to go back to normalcy, in the process  
 What seemed to be a promising road, now hindered progress.  
 Because soon after the tornado, Nashville  
 got its first positive test.  
 COVID claiming jobs, essentially laying off half the population  
 No warning, no signs, not the slightest indication  
 A new normal, to be established  
 No gatherings, no large crowds  
 Businesses, Restaurants, Churches, Schools now all closed down.



DaShawn Lewis  
 Whitsett Park, April 1, 12:23 p.m.

No time to play  
 These grounds no longer safe

Stay at HOME and Shelter in place  
 hard to deal with  
 When one isn't properly equipped  
 Some quite frankly just not used to it.



DaShawn Lewis  
 March 14, 6:08 p.m.

It seems panic and fear lead to desperation  
 Stores once fully stocked; shelves now vacant  
 Heavy precautions, extra sanitation  
 Hoarding for a few, now added stipulations  
 If we only took what we needed

Toilet paper, scarce, now a hot commodity  
 Taking more and more in larger quantities  
 COVID bring about a new reality  
 Most, everything now virtually.



DaShawn Lewis  
 Frontline, April 24, 8:49 a.m.

Only essential businesses opened, hospitals and grocery stores  
 Now being revealed the essential heroes  
 Those on the front line, for pennies on a dime  
 No true protection from the virus  
 Showing up every day, to protect us.  
 The new normal, I suppose  
 Mask and gloves, now a permanent part of our wardrobe....



These symptoms synonymous with I can't breathe  
another murder by the hands of the police.  
Confined to our home, forced to watch  
with no distractions  
As the police kill another unarmed black man.  
His knee digging into the groove of his neck  
The one who swore to serve and protect



DaShawn Lewis  
May 30, 3:28 p.m.

This feeling all too familiar, we have been here before!  
Say his name!! George Floyd!!!



DaShawn Lewis  
"Wade in the Plaza," June 15,  
6:12 p.m.

It's a new generation  
combating the same old racism.  
With conviction and passion  
Nashville answered the call for action



DaShawn Lewis  
4th Ave. N. and Deaderick St.,  
June 4, 5:31 p.m.

Joining cities across America, protesting  
Hand and hand together Bonded by the  
struggle, it's clear all we have is each other.





DaShawn Lewis  
6th Ave. N. and Deaderick St.,  
June 4, 5:45 p.m.

Remembering 8:46, and he lay  
protesters do the same, as they demonstrate  
a real powerful display  
When black and white begin to relate  
Marching for Justice, kneeling for peace  
To put an end to police brutality



DaShawn Lewis  
June 4, 6:11 p.m.

An end to a system that was never created with blacks in mind  
A system keeping us enslaved by design  
Do you understand what it means to be Black in America!  
Why we must tell you Black Lives Matter, why we have value!



DaShawn Lewis  
August 22, 5:46 p.m.

Will you hear us now? Will you listen?  
No longer are we asking for permission!  
Young and Fearless,



Lesa Dowdy  
"I Will Breathe" Rally, May 30

Nashville Feel like Selma,  
like Ferguson, like KING.



Teens 4 Equality's, called for a protest, expected a small crowd and thousands showed up.  
No more time for silence, it's time to speak up!

Kept Frozen  
May 30



No Justice, No peace  
Our voice, a deadly weapon  
The only thing they can't take from our possession.  
And yet they still try.

Kept Frozen  
May 30



Too many names, to fill the page

Lesa Dowdy  
"I Will Breathe" Rally, May 30



Why are we the only people expected to just take it? Turn the other cheek,  
as another black man lays lifeless in the streets  
Mad as hell, aren't you angry? Aren't you tired?

LeXander Bryant  
Metro Boomin, May 30



Kept Frozen  
May 30

Ask Yourself, When they see us  
Do they really see us  
Or what the media often portrays  
Validation, to treat us this way. Why some may think we deserve it!



Kept Frozen  
May 30

Our existence, our unity, a threat to their power Armed forces, in that  
they feel power Shielded, hidden by protection  
Force their only weapon



DaShawn Lewis  
May 30, 7:44 p.m.

Now it's a battle  
Right Versus Wrong  
The line has been drawn Which side are you on?  
No longer will we stand by,



DaShawn Lewis  
May 30, 5:02 p.m. ("I Will  
Breathe" Rally, Nashville, TN)

This system, insurmountable  
Time to hold the police accountable



DaShawn Lewis  
June 4, 6:48 p.m.



DaShawn Lewis  
R.I.P. Gustavo, June 24,  
6:57 p.m

In the midst of this, Nashville lost a young teen Gustavo, only 16  
A construction site he should have never been on.  
He should have been protected, rest in power  
You won't be forgotten.



DaShawn Lewis  
May 30, 3:51 p.m.

The American dream, the black man's nightmare  
Shackled to this idea of freedom, that is not there.



Kept Frozen  
May 30

Until we are all free, we have work to do.



LeXander Bryant

COVID numbers on the rise, mental health, and suicide.  
 Note to self:  
 sometimes you need a reminder to stay alive. No matter how  
 unconventional the method  
 What matters is the message



LeXander Bryant  
**Juneteenth Ride, June**



LeXander Bryant  
**FRE-REQ-UI-SITE, June 12**

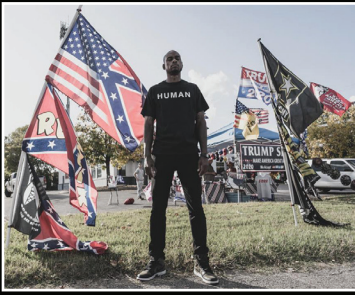
This may not have been the year that you were hoping, but for this  
 year, you were chosen  
 You can sit back, reflect but don't run and hide  
 Remember to enjoy the ride.



**VOTE** (video still)  
 Curry of Bead and Cowrie and The  
 Conscious Collective  
 Running time: 5 minutes, 34 seconds  
 © The Conscious Collective. For a full list  
 of participating collaborators, please see  
 film credits.

Black votes on the rise. Your voice matters  
 The power of the battle  
 Fresh start or a sequel  
 The fate lies in the hands of the people  
 Nashville danced to the polls, record numbers  
 Turned out to make a difference  
 And a difference it made!





DaShawn Lewis  
October 22, 5:12 p.m.

Surrounded by hypocrisy, it's time we take a Stand.  
We too deserve a say of what happens in this land.  
We are the heroes of our own story  
And soon we will see the glory



DaShawn Lewis  
In Memory Of, June 15,  
6:09 p.m.

With a little sun light, rain and cultivation  
We begin to see the fruits of our preservation



DaShawn Lewis  
In Memory Of, June 15,  
6:39 p.m.

Planted, remember to stay rooted  
The moment, all that matters is what you do with it.



DaShawn Lewis  
Just the day before we . . . , E. S.  
Rose Park, March 22, 5:49 p.m.

Someone is counting on you, to fulfill your goal, your purpose  
So when aiming for your goal do it with purpose, be intentional on purpose.



Christmas Day, a bomb exploded downtown  
Just as we let our guard down.  
So unexpected, a van left undetected  
Why? Why now? The irony in it all, the year starting with fire and ending the same.



The scene feeling like overseas, a third world country  
Rubble and debris, adorn the Nashville streets  
In this, a possible sign of what's to come in 2021

Mark Humphrey/AP  
**December 25**

Tornado, COVID, death unemployment, sickness, we survived it  
together, onward we must go,  
our work not yet finished

"Freedom is a journey, and on Feb 13 1960 here in Nashville we  
started that Journey, and that journey cannot end, because freedom is  
not a destination it is strictly a place where you continue  
to push for the best in humanity."



A revolutionary, a civil rights leader, a rider for freedom, an EXAMPLE. We lost a  
legend this year, though he wouldn't want us to shed tears, he'd want us to LIVE.  
Continue the fight for freedom and Liberation. His legacy, our responsibility!!!

Photographer unknown  
**Kwame Lillard**  
Courtesy of African American  
Cultural Alliance Nashville

Don't fear the fire, you must become it. Embrace the heat, don't run from it.

2020, perfect vision, maybe not the year you had in mind  
Could it be our vision, actually blind?  
Forced to sit still, in this we found struggle, resistance  
Everything that was supposed to break us, brought us close to who we really are,  
This Road not easy, challenging and hard.  
God leveled the playing field,  
this year so many truths revealed  
From the Genesis of your Revelation  
This not our final destination.

So will you let the fire burn you or shine light within? Because after the purification comes strength!

·  
WITHIN 2020

—Karimah



**The Great Debate** (video still)

Kyrstin Young, in collaboration with

Angel Adams, executive producer

Running time: 17 minutes, 59 seconds

© Kyrstin Young. For a full list of participating  
collaborators, please see film credits.

Organized by the Frist Art Museum, with guest curator Woke3

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