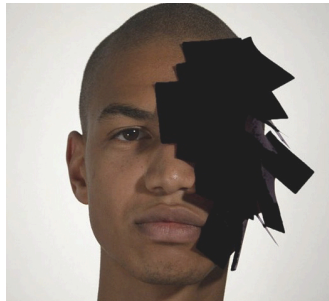


D'Addario, John. "Marginalized, erased, re-created: 'Bodies of Knowledge' looks at how history is written," *NOLA.com*, 10 July 2019.



Marginalized, erased, re-created: 'Bodies of Knowledge' looks at how history is written

BY JOHN D'ADDARIO | JUL 10, 2019



Wilmer Wilson, "Black Mask." Courtesy of New Orleans Museum of Art, 2019.

It's said history is written by the winners: those with the power and resources to create an "official" narrative.

But a new show of contemporary art at the New Orleans Museum of Art challenges that assumption.

Instead, "Bodies of Knowledge" takes the work of 11 international artists — ranging from photography and sculpture to video, film, and performance — to examine how the languages of art can create alternative histories of individuals and groups that have been erased, ignored, marginalized or otherwise neglected in an institutional context.

It's a cerebral concept for a summer group show, which usually tend to be easy on the brain. Credit NOMA curators Katie Pfohl and Allison Young for assembling a group of works engaging enough to enjoy without feeling like you're attending a compulsory summer school session on cultural expression and identity politics.

Wilmer Wilson IV's "Black Mask" is another self-portrait, this time in the form of a video in which the artist similarly obscures his features with a series of black sticky notes. If that description makes it sound like little more than a facile art school project, the visual experience of watching an individual "erasing" themselves and disappearing in real time is mesmerizing — and quietly chilling.