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## Black Joy Represented in William Scott's Art



Left: William Scott's "Untitled" (2013). Right: the artist's "Untitled" (2018). Courtesy of the artist, Creative Growth and Ortuzar Projects

By Thessaly La Force

I had the occasion of meeting the San Leandro, Calif.-based artist William Scott last year when I visited Creative Growth, the Oakland nonprofit that provides a professional studio environment, gallery exhibitions and representation for artists with developmental disabilities. Scott is self-taught, and he frequently references figures in pop culture — from Frankenstein's monster to Janet Jackson to Darth Vader — in a wholesome and sci-fi-inflected textual and visual vernacular that is distinctly his own. His new show, "[It's a Beautiful Day Outside](#)," featuring drawing, painting, sculpture and original video, will be on view this

month at the TriBeCa gallery Ortuzar Projects; it's the first exhibition of his work in New York City since he showed at White Columns 11 years ago. If 2020 is a year of reckoning, then Scott's pieces — which convey unbridled optimism and Black beauty — are powerful reminders of what we need more of in this world. They also make me think of the smile that crossed the face of David Byrne — who is one of Creative Growth's most devoted supporters and a fan of Scott's work — after he greeted the artist at the nonprofit's fund-raiser last year. [ortuzarprojects.com](http://ortuzarprojects.com).