

## ARTNEWS

# BOWDOIN COLLEGE MUSEUM COMMISSIONS R. LUKE DUBOIS PORTRAIT OF CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST DERAY MCKESSON

BY Robin Scher

The Bowdoin College Museum of Art announced today that it has asked New York-based artist R. Luke DuBois to make a portrait of DeRay Mckesson, the Black Lives Matter activist (and Bowdoin alumnus) who is running to be mayor of Baltimore. The work will form part of DuBois's upcoming solo exhibition at the museum, which runs March 31 through September 4. It is titled "Now."

The new portrait will draw on video footage, data and language drawn from Mckesson's online presence. (He is a rather robust user of Twitter, through which he provides live updates of protests and meetings with politicians, engages critics, and offers musings like, "My sister said the show *Gotham* is good. I'll add it to the queue." and "Today has been one of those days. I've earned ice cream tonight.")



DeRay Mckesson Via Twitter

In a statement the museum's co-director, Anne Collins Goodyear, said:

*"We are proud to bring 'R. Luke DuBois – Now' to Bowdoin College, which is made all the more meaningful by DuBois's groundbreaking portrait of DeRay Mckesson. As a Bowdoin alumnus making an international impact on contemporary society through his political activism, the commission is doubly important as both a witness to our present moment as a nation and as a part of Bowdoin's legacy, and we're honored that it will remain here at the BCMA as part of our permanent collection."*