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VULTURE

The New Whitney Biennial Made Me See Art History in a New Way

by Jerry Saltz

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As with any group show like this, the best strategy is to sort out what you don't like and focus on what might be here for you. Right off the fifth-floor elevator, the show touts its credentials in the form of Kota Ezawa's lyrical animated National Anthem, assembled by rephotographing his watercolors of NFL footage of Colin Kaepernick kneeling in mournful observation of the national anthem. Seeing these images stripped of all the bile projected on Kaepernick (he never played again) and with only the soft strains of the anthem as witness, viewers are left with how extraordinarily brave this moment was.