

## **Greenfield Peace Writing Scholarship 2019**

**First Place**

**Jack Hill**

**Westview High School**

""Spirited Away""

Brief chat at red light, bout' stirring story./  
Living a young life, yet squeezed between/  
old town Philly and financial district./

Quits quips with ladies, Markus runs before/  
yellow blinking light. Makes safely over,/  
pant hands overhead >> we then chat briefly./

uniforms look on, Man has a mission/  
not the Black Op's kind, one in real danger,/  
Hands up, DON'T SHOOT. Black Lives Matter, too./

""Colorful Building""

Beneath serene blue lies the palaces of my dreams/  
ready-made for green yuppies; apartment rent/  
Piles to four-grand a month amid golden demands./  
Ain't never a silver-lining playbook so rigged/  
as Portland metro's real-estate market./  
Some greying heads shake with sad, sad, long, gloomy faces./  
Don't forget that brown folks, too, lived here once before.../  
Gentrification, eh? The blackest urban hell./

""Visit to Detroit""

Stumptown manufacturing,  
The one that got away;  
Out it went in time,  
For dot-com burst  
Intel death.  
End it,  
Here.

Do you see the black girl smiling from eye to eye wearing the straw hat? That's Bobbie. She is studying sociology at a community college after finishing private school on a scholarship. She's pretty great.

My models are my friends. I told them I chose them because they were beautiful. I wasn't lying, they each possess a beauty that escapes the eyes of the indiscriminate beholder.

The way I see it, by being young at heart, I always keep myself ready for the role of the artist.

What exactly is the role of the artist you ask?

As Toni Cade Barbara said, "the role of the artist is to make the revolution irresistible."

We live in a time today when everybody is seen by and converges towards so many different identities and parts of who we are... it cannot all match up.

In my life, personal experience and intersectionality is everything to me.

Intersectionality and the ability to record them with my camera means everything to me because it becomes particularly handy when we are dealing with death. With instances of racialized violence and structural discrimination. With times people are silenced and marginalized who do not have a voice.

I take all of my experiences and the fact that I am a person of color and I am a young person who feels like he has something to say, who definitely have something to say. I take everything I have and try to convert it to pieces that will speak to a boarder audience.

Through visual arts, we can talk to people across space, time, language and culture. We use color. We use imagery. We use epithets of emotions to convey messages and speak to people heart to heart.

Through visuals, we can communicate in ways that no other mediums can. That is the role of the artist. The role of the artist—my role—is to communicate with those who can't speak or don't know the language of pop culture or politics.

In America today, we can use visuals to connect with each other and create more understanding around divisive topics.

I use who I am and what I can create to tell a story. I hope it will become part of the larger American story.

The biggest questions for you is: how are you going to use your story moving forward.

Are you going to create a conversation? Are you going to make waves? Are you going to foster understanding? Are you going to carve out opportunities?

I know I am.