











WHY WE NEED





Guest Editor PHARRELL WILLIAMS

- WITH -



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THE ARTIVISTS

A painting can change the way you see the world. But the 15 men and women shown here are betting that art can change the world itself. Introducing America's most urgent creative movement

PORTFOLIO BY DUSTIN AKSLAND

JUSTIN BRICE GUARIGEIA



OCCUPY MUSEUMS

Photographed on Manhattan's High Line, overlooking Hudson Yards

The five-member collective Occupy Museums was founded in the activist crucible of Zuccotti Park during Occupy Wall Street. The group of artists (from left: Noah Fischer, Tal Beery, Imani Jacqueline Brown, Kenneth Pietrobono, and Arthur Polendo) designs projects and actions that examine the ties between money and culture. The members believe that for many artists, who operate on the lower end of the pay scale but find they increasingly need a \$100,000 MFA degree to get their foot in the door, the burden of student loans is onerous. Their collective project Debtfair, which they launched in 2012, was one of the most prominent elements at the recent Whitney Biennial; it highlighted works by 30 artists strained by circumstances like Puerto Rico's financial crisis or payments for New York University graduate degrees. Occupy takes a holistic view of economic inequality, mining its intersection with racism, misogyny, and gentrification. "Shedding light on these extremes helps us raise important questions about the contradictions at the core of our society and economy," Fischer says. —G.F.