

ERIN ELIZABETH ADAMS

COMMENTS SECTION

ALL BLACK LIVES MATTER

My art practice has always included activism as part of my social practice. In the summer of 2020 this was especially true, due to the Black Lives Matter protests that took place all summer, set off by the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis, MN on May 25th 2020.

The “All Black Lives Matter” march organized by a Black Advisory Board made up of Black LGBTQ+ leaders and organizations, took place on June 14th, on a week normally reserved for the Gay Pride Parade and was attended by over 50,000 protesters. The street mural and protest march were in direct response to racial injustice, systemic racism, and all forms of oppression particularly towards the LGBTQ+ communities. Our artists’ team was employed in collaboration with the city of Los Angeles and many organizations to execute the massive street mural with the help of hundreds of volunteers. The mural was originally 750 feet long x 30 feet high, located at the famous intersection of Hollywood Blvd and Highland Ave in Hollywood, California.

BACK TO SCHOOL I, II, & III

BACK TO SCHOOL I, II, & III were shot on campus at the University of California, Santa Barbara, before and during the Coronavirus pandemic from 2019–2020. In *BACK TO SCHOOL III*, the work centers around Erin as she performs a ritualistic imagined journey of returning to school safely at UCSB for the Fall quarter. Adams travels within a 6-inch wide plastic water walking bubble, which references the notion of safe (social) distancing from others, due to the risk of Covid infection. Erin is on her trusty skateboard “Arrow,” which appeared in other videos of the *BACK TO SCHOOL* series, and is a common method of transportation on campus. The sound track of “Ave Maria” is played in remembrance of all the lives that had been lost worldwide to the pandemic at that time (over 20 million).