When the video of jogger Ahmaud Arbery being shot circulated the internet in May 2020, Aaron Hazel '07 painted two portraits.

The first was from a photo of Arbery grinning in a tuxedo. The second was of Travis and Gregory McMichael, two of the men later charged with murdering Arbery.

Hazel tearfully painted Arbery, a person of color like himself. In the past, he'd tried to emotionally distance himself from similar stories, but Arbery's death compelled him to take action.

Then, he reconnected with the artist who created unrecognizable posters in paintings of the dead not intended to sell. He painted George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Elijah McClain. He painted Sean Monterrosa, shot by police who mistook a hammer for a gun, and Walter Wallace Jr., a man with bipolar disorder killed by Philadelphia police.

In The Paint

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