

Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

SURVEILLANCE: The Public Examines Black Resilience and is Dissatisfied

Ashaki M. Jackson · Wednesday, February 10th, 2016

If you watch enough footage you grow
 comfortable with a narrative:
 the Black body will die
 You begin to see it coming
 certain as morning You become footage
 critic and note where zoom and panning would be helpful
 to the story
 You ask the screen why the Black
 body doesn't get up
 These deaths are viewed repeatedly
 You still question *was it murder* The footage confuses
 the Law with the Soldier in Active Combat or the Hit Man
 The officer confuses his role
 You watch again All
 shots are loud Who else heard?
 You think of God
 in the seconds before the Black body falls
 [forward or backward] You sit in a moment
 of atheism You ask the screen where is the Black body's god
 as if it is missing God is there demanding
 that the Black body get up Like you
 it is disappointed
 that the black body too is human

For 10 weeks, we will feature one poem per week from *Surveillance*, the new chapbook forthcoming from Writ Large Press. These poems by Ashaki M. Jackson explore police killings of Blacks captured on video and the public's consumption of these videos. Previous poems: [1](#), [2](#)

This entry was posted on Wednesday, February 10th, 2016 at 9:29 am and is filed under [Poetry](#). You can follow any responses to this entry through the [Comments \(RSS\)](#) feed. You can leave a response, or [trackback](#) from your own site.

