



Boots Riley, promoting his film, *Sorry to Bother You*, with actors Lakeith Stanfield, Tessa Thompson, Jermaine Fowler, Terry Crews & Steven Yeun, gives a nice shout out to my book, and the relationship between art and organizing:

“...I think we are always told, we go on TV, and it’s like, ‘Let your voice be heard!’ And that’s enough. And it’s not. It’s not enough to put out a Tweet. It’s not enough to even just stand on a corner and say something. There are things that we have to do in order to organize ourselves in order to make change. Art has a place in it. Art has a place in that conversation. But if artists subtract themselves from those actual movements, then we start answering the wrong questions. Because we are not in those grassroots movements to know what those questions are. There’s this book—and I am not going to quote the author right—but it is called *9.5 Theses on Art and Class*. It came out a few years ago, an art critic did it. And in it he uses examples to show that artists often have great motivations. They want to say something! But

being disconnected changes things. So, for instance, there was this big art installation around the time of the anti-war movement against the invasion of Iraq, the bombing of Iraq. The whole thing was bodies laid around, and blood and guts, and that kind of stuff. Because the artist believed that the way to get people against the war was to let people know there was carnage. Because [the artist] had that question that they came up with on their own. But anti-war movement people were like, 'No, that's not the problem. Everyone knows that the war is fucked up. They just don't think they can do anything about it.' So there is a different question that needs to be answered by the artist, and artists just thinking that they can have the answer and be subtracted from actual movements makes you say the wrong thing; you've in that loop but you are detracting from that movement though you are a part of it. So art has a place but it has to be connected...



See it here (around minute 34:00):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=51OJkpk9W2E>