

# Rob Pruitt

## Biography

Rob Pruitt was born in Washington D.C. in 1964 and studied at the Corcoran College of Art and Design in Washington D.C. and Parsons School of Design in New York. He lives and works in New York.

Since the early 1990s, Rob Pruitt's risk-taking investigations into American popular culture have taken many forms. From his notorious Cocaine Buffet (1998) and glitter portraits of Pandas or the significant Suicide Paintings series, Pruitt's works are a surreal and extravagant interpretation of the pop world, a kaleidoscopic look towards mass culture by exploring the multiples aspects and the paradoxes of our present time.

Throughout his career, Rob Pruitt has fine-tuned his ability to express nuanced ideas about culture and society through the re-interpretation of common objects and materials, all filtered through a sense of humour and irony. With his Mask series, the artist continues his pursuit of depicting the complexities of personality and emotions. The facial gestures indeed are cut into the canvas with a razor - destructive and creative at the same time, these gestures are married to an accumulation of gradients, patterns, and prints to create a character

### Solo exhibitions

#### 2025

2025 - Moon Cycles, MASSIMODECARLO Pièce Unique , Paris, F

#### 2024

2024 - Holiday, MASSIMODECARLO, Milan, I

2024 - Help Me Lift You Up, Air de Paris, Paris, F

#### 2023

2023 - B&W Narcissus, MASSIMODECARLO Pièce Unique, Paris , F

2023 - The Golden Hour, 303 Gallery, New York, USA

#### 2022

2022 - New Faces, 303 Gallery, New York, USA

2022 - No Longer Endangered, but Vulnerable, MASSIMODECARLO, Hong Kong, HK

2022 - Panda-Monium in Beijing, MASSIMODECARLO, Beijing, PRC

#### 2021

2021 - These are the days of our lives , 303 Gallery, New York, USA

#### 2020

2020 - Masks, Massimo De Carlo, Milano, I

2020 - The John Armleder and Rob Pruitt Show, Massimo De Carlo, VSpace,

#### 2019

2019 - The Obama Paintings, Rebuild Foundation, Chicago, USA

## **2017**

2017 - I Père Lachaise Cemetery, Rod Bianco, Oslo, N  
2017 - Rob Pruitt: The Church, curated by Daniel Baumann, Kunsthalle Zurich, Zurich, CH  
2017 - You Get The Face You Deserve, Air de Paris, Paris, F  
2017 - You Get The Face You Deserve, Air de Paris, Paris, F

## **2016**

2016 - Hong Kong Panda, Massimo De Carlo, Hong Kong, HK

## **2015**

2015 - Therapy Paintings, Massimo De Carlo, London, UK  
2015 - The Obama Paintings and The Lincoln Monument, MoCAD, Detroit , USA

## **2014**

2014 - Struktur & Organismus, Mühldorf, A  
2014 - Multiples personalities, Gavin Brown's Enterprise, New York , USA

## **2013**

2013 - The Suicide Paintings, Massimo De Carlo, London, UK  
2013 - Rob Pruitt: An American Folk Artist, Aspen Art Museum, Aspen, USA  
2013 - Us, Art Unlimited, Art Basel, Basel, CH  
2013 - The Last Panda, Gavin Brown's enterprise at 436 W. 15th St., New York, USA

## **2012**

2012 - Flea Market. Rob Pruitt, Monnaie de Paris, Paris, F  
2012 - History of the World, Kunstverein Freiburg, Friburgo, D  
2012 - Faces: People and Pandas, Massimo De Carlo, Milano, I

## **2011**

2011 - ROB PRUITT, Dallas Contemporary, Dallas Texas, USA  
2011 - The Andy Monument, Public Art Fund, New York, USA  
2011 - The Andy Monument, Air de Paris, Paris, F

## **2010**

2010 - Pattern and Degradation, Gavin Brown's Enterprise & Maccarone, New York, USA  
2010 - iPaintings, Franco Noero Gallery, Torino, I  
2010 - Pop Touched Me, Gavin Brown's Enterprise, New York, USA. Catalogue

## **2009**

2009 - Rob Pruitt Presents the First Annual Art Awards, The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, USA  
2009 - ProjectSpace, Franco Noero Gallery, Torino, I  
2009 - Look What I've Done: Rob Pruitt Works 1989 - 2009, Massimo De Carlo, London, UK. Catalogue

## **2008**

2008 - iPhotos, Gavin Brown's Enterprise, New York, USA  
2008 - Davos Dilemma, Académie de France, Roma, I  
2008 - iPhone Photos, Power House Memphis, Tennessee, USA  
2008 - Master Artist in Residence Exhibition, Atlantic Center for the Arts, New Smyrna Beach Florida, USA

## **2007**

2007 - Rob Pruitt's Flea Market, Gavin Brown's Enterprise, London, UK

## **2006**

2006 - Rob Pruitt, Gavin Brown's Enterprise, New York, USA  
2006 - Bergdorf Goodman Window Display, sponsored by New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York, USA

## **2004**

2004 - Paris in Tokyo, Gallery Side 2, Tokyo, J  
2004 - Paris in Rome, Roma Roma Roma, Roma, I

## **2003**

2003 - Surreal Estate, Gavin Brown's Enterprise, New York, USA

## **2002**

2002 - Rob Pruitt, Air de Paris, Paris, F

## **2001**

2001 - Pandas and Bamboo, Gavin Brown's Enterprise, New York, USA  
2001 - 101 Art Ideas You Can Do Yourself, Contemporary Art Center, Cincinnati, USA

## **2000**

2000 - Flea Market, Gavin Brown's Enterprise, New York, USA  
2000 - Psychic Predictions for the New Millennium & Thing to do with Lemons, Cabinet Gallery, London, UK

## **1999**

1999 - 101 Art Ideas You Can Do Yourself, Gavin Brown's Enterprise, New York, USA

## **Group exhibitions**

## **2024**

2024 - 303 Gallery: 40 Years, 303 Gallery, New York, USA  
2024 - West Bund Art & Design, Shanghai, PRC

## **2023**

2023 - Ridiculously Yours! Art, Awkwardness And Enthusiasm, HALLE FÜR KUNST Steiermark, Graz, A  
2023 - Ridiculously Yours! Art, Awkwardness And Enthusiasm, Deichtorhallen , Hamburg, D

## **2022**

2022 - Ridiculously Yours! Art, Awkwardness and Enthusiasm, Bundeskunsthalle, Bonn, D  
2022 - Art Basel Hong Kong, Hong Kong Convention Center, Hong Kong, PRC  
2022 - West Bund Art & Design, Shanghai, PRC

## **2021**

2021 - Winter of discontent, 303 Gallery, New York, USA  
2021 - Villa Chiuminatto, Villa Chiuminatto, Torino, I

## **2019**

2019 - People, Jeffrey Deitch, Los Angeles, USA  
2019 - From Day to Day, De La Cruz Collection, Miami, USA

## **2016**

2016 - The Pagad, curated by Rita Selvaggio, Massimo De Carlo, Milano, I  
2016 - Progressive Praxis, de la Cruz Collection, Miami, USA  
2016 - Self, Massimo De Carlo, London, UK

## **2015**

2015 - You've Got to Know the Rules...to Break Them, de la Cruz Collection, Miami, USA

## **2014**

2014 - ArtLovers: Histoires d'art dans la collection Pinault, Grimaldi Forum, Monaco, MC  
2014 - Three Blind Mice, Museum Dhondt Dhaenens, Deurle, B. Catalogue  
2014 - Beneath the Surface, de la Cruz Collection, Miami, USA  
2014 - HOME/SCULPTURE, Massimo De Carlo, London, UK  
2014 - Painter's Painters: Gifts from Alex Katz, High Museum of Art, Atlanta, USA

2014 - GIRLS, Galerie Perrotin, Paris, F  
2014 - Empire State, Galerie Thaddeus Ropac, Paris , F

### **2013**

2013 - The Shadows Took Shape, The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, USA  
2013 - Looking at Process, de la Cruz Collection, Miami, USA  
2013 - Empire State. Arte a New York oggi, curated by Alex Gartenfeld e Norman Rosenthal, Palazzo delle Esposizioni, Roma,  
2013 - An-Americana, Académie de France, Roma, I  
2013 - The Cat Show, White Columns, New York, USA

### **2012**

2012 - Funny, The FLAG Art Foundation, New York, USA  
2012 - Works From the Collection, de la Cruz Collection, Miami, USA  
2012 - Arthur Rainbow, Air de Paris, Paris, F  
2012 - CARA DOMANI - Opere dalla Collezione Ernesto Esposito, curated by Caroline Corbetta, MAMbo, Bologna, I  
2012 - R4, Special FIAC Project, Paris, F,  
2012 - Infinite Jest, Dundee Contemporary Arts, Dundee, UK

### **2011**

2011 - Number Five: Cities of Gold and Mirrors, Julia Stoschek Collection, Dusseldorf, D  
2011 - Grisaille, Luxembourg & Dayan, New York, USA

### **2010**

2010 - At Home/Not at Home: Works from the Collection of Martin and Rebecca Eisenberg, Center for Curatorial Studies Bard-Hessel Museum, Annandale-on-Hudson, USA  
2010 - It's All American, New Jersey MoCa, New Jersey, USA

### **2009**

2009 - Mapping the Studio: Artists from the Francois Pinault Collection, curated by Alison Gingeras, Francesco Bonami, Punto della Dogana/Palazzo Grassi, Venezia, I. Catalogue  
2009 - The Living and the Dead, Gavin Brown's enterprise, New York, USA  
2009 - Sold Out, Tate Modern, London, UK  
2009 - Whaddaya Wanna Be, a Flower?!, Alexander and Bonin, New York, USA

### **2008**

2008 - Pretty Ugly, curated by Alison Gingeras, Gavin Brown's enterprise & Maccarone, New York, USA  
2008 - Who's Afraid of Jasper Johns?, curated by Urs Fischer, Gavin Brown, Tony Shrafazi Gallery, New York, USA  
2008 - The Station, Art Basel , Miami, USA  
2008 - Malcolm Mc Laren - Musical Paintings, Schiebler Mitte, Berlin, D  
2008 - Depreciation and Devastation, Passerby, New York, USA  
2008 - Sunshine, Rental Gallery, New York, USA

### **2007**

2007 - She was Born to be my Unicorn, Smith-Stewart, New York, USA

### **2006**

2006 - The Gold Standard, MoMA PS1, New York, USA  
2006 - The Inside Game, Portland Art Center, Portland, USA  
2006 - Celebrity, Sixtyseven Gallery, New York, USA  
2006 - The Name of the Show is not "Gay Art Now", Paul Kasmin Gallery, New York, USA  
2006 - Survivor, Bortolami Dayan, New York, USA  
2006 - Strictement Confidentiel. A partir de la collection Gensollen., Centre International d'art et du paysage, Ile de Vassiviere, F

### **2005**

2005 - Interstate, curated by Adam McKewen, Nicole Klagsbrun Gallery, New York, USA  
2005 - Seeing Double: Encounters with Warhol, Andy Warhol Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, USA  
2005 - 100 Artists See God, curated by John Baldessari e Meg Cranston, Contemporary Art Center of

Virginia, Virginia Beach, USA

2005 - General Ideas: Rethinking Conceptual Art 1987-2005, CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts, San Francisco, USA

2005 - The Finale Floor Show, Objectif Exhibitions, Antwerp, B

2005 - Trade, White Columns, New York, USA

2005 - Pruitt & Early: Drunk Vs. Stoned, Gavin Brown's enterprise, New York, USA

## **2004**

2004 - No More Reality, Nils Staerk Contemporary Art, Copenhagen, DK

2004 - For All, Vestfossen Kunstlaboratorium, Vestfossen, NL

2004 - Open, Arcadia University Art Gallery, Glenside, USA

## **2003**

2003 - Inaugural Exhibition, Gavin Brown's enterprise, New York, USA

2003 - Summer Group Show, China Art Objects Gallery, Los Angeles, USA

2003 - Following and to Be Followed (coming back), Le Consortium, Dijon, F

2003 - ...Still or Sparkling?, John Connelly Presents, New York, USA

2003 - Bright Lights, Big City, David Zwirner Gallery, New York, USA

## **2002**

2002 - De Gustibus, curated by Achille Bonito Oliva e Sergio Risaliti, Palazzo delle Papesse Centro Arte Contemporanea, Siena, I. Catalogue

2002 - Something, Anything, curated by Nayland Blake, Matthew Marks Gallery, New York, USA

2002 - Spot the Difference, Galerie Van Gelder, Amsterdam, NL

2002 - Shanghai Biennale, Shanghai Art Museum, Shanghai, PRC

## **2001**

2001 - The Americans New Art, Barbican Gallery, London, UK

2001 - Two Friends and So On, curated by Jonathan Horowitz e Rob Pruitt, Marc Foxx, Los Angeles, USA

2001 - The Silk Purse Procedure, Arnolfini and Spike island, Bristol, UK

2001 - Salon, Delfina Project Space, London, UK

2001 - Vantage Point, Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin, IRL

## **2000**

2000 - Greater New York, MoMA PS1, New York, USA. Catalogue

2000 - New York Projects, Delfina, London, UK

2000 - Protest and Survive, Whitechapel Art Gallery, London, UK

2000 - Cool-Aid, Greenenafali Gallery, New York, USA

2000 - Two Friends and So On, curated by Jonathan Horowitz e Rob Pruitt, Andrew Kreps Gallery, New York, USA

2000 - Sentimental Education, curated by David Rimanelli, Deitch Projects, New York, USA

2000 - Post-POP, Post-PUNK, Museum of Contemporary Art, Washington DC, USA

## **1999**

1999 - Free Coke, Greenenafali Gallery, New York, USA

1999 - Village Disco, Cabinet Gallery, London, UK

1999 - Neither/Nor, curated by Bill Arning, Grand Arts, Kansas City, USA

1999 - Enter Yes, No, Don't Know, Andrew Kreps Gallery, New York, USA

## **1998**

1998 - Home and Away, curated by Kristy Bell, Gavin Brown's Enterprise, New York, USA

1998 - Superfreaks; Post Pop and The New Generation, Part 1: Trash, Greene Naftali, New York, USA

1998 - Sassy Nuggets, Andrew Kreps Gallery, New York, USA

1998 - Hey, You Never Know, curated by Kenny Schachter, New York, USA

## **1997**

1997 - Sreentest, curated by Tom Borghese, Oasis Performance Series, New York, USA

1997 - Thriller, 303 Gallery, New York, USA

1997 - Recent Acquisitions, Art Institute of Chicago, III Deitch Projects, New York, USA

1997 - Inside Out Art Fair, curated by Kenny Schachter, New York, USA

1997 - Utopian Art Fair, Hotel 17, New York, USA

**1996**

1996 - Circus of the Stars, Hotel 17, New York, USA

**1995**

1995 - In a Different Light, curated by Nayland Blake, Lawrence Rinder, University Art Museum, Berkeley, USA

1995 - Alternative Art Fair, Hotel 17, New York, USA

1995 - Photocollages, Le Consortium, Dijon, F

1995 - It's Only Rock and Roll, curated by David S. Rubin, Travelling Exhibition, USA

**1993**

1993 - Teddy & Other Stories, Claudio Bottello Arte & Galleria In Arco, Torino, I

1993 - In Search of Self, Duke University Museum of Art, Durham, USA

1993 - Fortryck, Galleri Enkeshuset, Stockholm, S

1993 - Under 30', Galerie Matropol, Wien, A

1993 - Translations, Center for Contemporary Art, Varsavia, PL

**1992**

1992 - Tattoo Collection, Air de Paris & Urbi et Orbi at the Jennifer Flay Gallery, Parigi, F; Galerie Daniel Buchholz, Köln; Andrea Rosen Gallery, New York; CRDC, Nantes, F

1992 - Avantgarde und Kampagne, curated by Jurgen Harten, Kunsthalle, Düsseldorf, D. Catalogue

1992 - How It Is, Tony Shafrazi Gallery, New York, USA

1992 - Objects, Castelli Graphics, New York, USA

1992 - Molteplce Culture, curated by Liam Gillick, Roma, I

**1991**

1991 - The Store, Richard Bennett Gallery, Los Angeles, USA

1991 - New Generation: New York, Carnegie Mellon Art Gallery, Pittsburg, USA

1991 - New Work by Gallery Artists, 303 Gallery, New York, USA

1991 - Louder, curated by Kathryn Hixon, Gallery 400, Chicago, USA

1991 - Selections, FAE Musée D'art Contemporain, Losanna, CH

1991 - No Man's Time, Villa Arson, Nice, F

**1990**

1990 - Brut '90, White Columns, New York, USA

1990 - Paintball, 303 Gallery, New York, USA

1990 - Total Metal, Simon Watson, New York, USA

1990 - Stuttering, Stux Gallery, New York, USA

**1989**

1989 - Group Show, American Fine Arts Co., New York, USA

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## 2021

Massaccesi, Erica. "Maschere e ironia. La mostra di Rob Pruitt a Milano", *Artribune*, January 3, 2021.

## 2020

"Le maschere di Rob Pruitt in mostra a Milano", *Living*, December 2020.

"Le maschere di Rob Pruitt in mostra a Milano", *Passion Design*, December 2020.

## 2018

"Rob Pruitt "American Quilts 2018" at Massimo De Carlo, London", *Mousse Magazine*, July 2018.

## 2017

Higgs, Matthew . "Rob Pruitt", *Artforum*, December 2017.

Phillips, Kaitlin. "Rob Pruitt: The Church", *Artforum*, 2017.

## 2016

"Il Giubotto (d'Artista) a NY Protegge la Ricerca", *La Repubblica (il venerdì)*, 18 March 2016, 67.

"Rob Pruitt: Therapy Paintings", *Time Out*, January 2016.

## 2015

"Rob Pruitt Responds to Our Wacky Word Prompts for His 50th Birthday", *Artnet*, 5 May 2015.

McEwen, Adam e Urs Fischer. "Ars is a Translator, Art is a Friend", *Mousse*, May 2015.

Meris, Fabrizio e Gloria Maria Cappelletti. "Rob Pruitt", *Flair*, May 2015, pp. 67-68.

## 2013

"Rob Pruitt", *Modern Painters*, May 2013, p. 33.

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Waters, Florence. "Rob Pruitt The suicide paintings", *ArtReview*, December 2013, p.128.

## 2012

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Douglas, Sarah. "Bearly There", *The New York Observer*, March 19 2012.

Jovanovic, Rozalia. "Let's Make a Deal", *The New York Observer*, May 28 2012.

Lima, Ben. "How Deep Does Rob Pruitt's Work at the Dallas Contemporary Really Cut?", *D Magazine*, January 5 2012.

Milligan, Lauren. "Choo Art", *British Vogue*, April 13 2012.

Rappolt, Mark. "Rob Pruitt: History of the World", *Art Review*, n. 61, September 2012, p 149.

Solway, Diane. "In to the Wild", *W Magazine*, January 2012.

Thornton, Sarah. "Why buy art?", *The Economist*, June 22 2012.

## 2011

"24 Questions for Artist: Rob Pruitt", *Artinfo.com*, March 29 2011.

"Look Book", *New York Magazine*, April 4 2011.

Allen, Emma. "Work of Art' Recap, Episode 3: Rob Pruitt Judges Pop Art", *The New York Observer*, October 27 2011.

Fox, Dan. "Downtown, No Finer Place for Sure...", *Frieze.com*, April 2011.

Haden-Guest, Anthony. "Comeback Kids", *The Art Economist*, 2011.

Randolph, Eleonor. "The Andy", *The New York Times*, May 14 2011.

Smith, Roberta. "Andy Warhol Commemorated in Chrome on Union Square", *NYtimes.com*, March 31 2011.

## 2010

"Capture: Cuddling Pandas at Art Basel", *Interview Magazine*, June 17 2010.

"In Basel: New Jersey State of Mind", *Art in America*, June 15 2010.

Cashdan, Marina. "The Rebirth of Rob Pruitt", *The Huffington Post*, October 4 2010.

Kastner, Jeffrey. "Rob Pruitt", *ArtForum*, December 2010.

Kennedy, Randy. "A Penitent Reflects on the Wilderness", *The New York Times*, September 15 2010.

O'Brien, Glenn. "Rob Pruitt", *Purple*, February 2010 2010.

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Smith, Roberta. "Rob Pruitt: Pattern and Degradation", *The New York Times*, October 8 2010.

Walter, Benjamin Smith. "Rob Pruitt: Pattern and Degradation", *Mousse Magazine*, Summer 2010.

## 2009

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Egan, Maura. "Art Awards I And the nominees are...", *The Moment NY Time Magazine*, September 23 2009.

Franco, James. "Interview with Rob Pruitt", *Interview*, October 2009.

Gartenfeld, Alex. "Rob Pruitt, Master of Ceremonies", *Interview*, October 28 2009.

Jones, Laura K.. "It's a Hard Pop Life", *Artnet Magazine*, October 2009.

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Spector, Nancy. "Best in Show", *V Magazine*, October 2009.

Taylor, Kate. "At the Museums, Screen Test", *The New Yorker*, November 2 2009.

## 2008

"Work of Art: New Work by Rob Pruitt", *Pluk Magazine*, 2008.

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Halle, Howard. "An I for an Eye", *Time Out New York*, September 2008, pp. 70.

## 2007

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Gleadell, Colin. "Art Sales: Frieze Art Fair", *Telegraph UK*, October 9 2007.

Higgins, Charlotte. "A Fleamarket at Frize? This is Fun", *The Guardian Art*, October 10 2007.

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## 2006

Colman, David. "Smitten With a Plain Jane", *The New York Times*, September 24 2006.

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## 2005

- Comita, Jenny. "Northern Exposure", *W*, 2005, pp. 458-464.  
Gingeras, Alison. "Purple News", *Purple Fashion*, n. 3, 2005, pp. 34.  
Maekawa, Akane e Ryuko Tsushin. "A Peacock Hill Family Album", *Zing Magazine*, n. 505, July 2005, pp. 62-63.

## 2004

- "My Pop", *Artforum*, n. 2, October 2004, pp. 255.  
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## 2003

- "Little House on the Prairie", *ArtReview*, June 2003, pp. 25.  
"Review", *Village Voice*, June 11-17 2003, pp. 90.  
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Wilson, Michael. "Bright Lights, Big City", *Frieze*, November-December 2003, pp. 101-102.

## 2002

- Colman, David. "House of 8 Gables, Back in Black", *The New York Times, House & Home*, 2002, pp. 1-F5.  
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## 2000

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Griffin, Tim. "A Man, a Plan, a Panda", *Time Out New York*, March 1-8 2000, pp. 51-52.  
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Hackworth, Nick. *Evening Standard London*, November 6 2000.  
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## 1999

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## 1998

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- Thorson, Alice. "But Seriously...or Not", *The Kansas City Star*, July 4 1998.

# Public Collections

## **France**

FRAC Poitou-Charentes, Angoulême

## **Italy**

Pinault Collection, Venezia

## **Japan**

Aishti Collection, Beirut

Taguchi Art Collection, Kanagawa

## **Switzerland**

Syz Collection, Geneva

## **United States of America**

De La Cruz Collection, Miami

Hoggard Wagner Art Collection, New York

Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Chicago

Rubell Family Collection, Miami

The Andy Monument, Union Square, New York

The Brant Foundation, Greenwich