

# 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.

His work has been included in numerous museum solo exhibitions, including a recent exhibition at Rebuild Foundation, Chicago (2019); Kunsthalle Zurich, curated by Daniel Baumann, Zurich (2017); Brant Foundation, Greenwich, (2015); a mid-career retrospective at Aspen Art Museum, Aspen (2013); Dallas Contemporary, Dallas (2011); Museum of Contemporary Art, Detroit (2015); Kunstverein, Freiburg (2012); Le Consortium, Dijon (2002); and group shows such as: From Day to Day, de la Cruz Collection, Miami (2019); The Shadows Took Shape, The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York (2013); Pop Life, Tate Modern (2009); Mapping the Studio, Punta Della Dogana/Palazzo Grassi, Venice (2009). In 2009, he debuted the Rob Pruitt's Annual Art Awards at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, an award show for the art world fashioned after the Oscars. In 2011, he was commissioned by the Public Art Fund to install The Andy Monument, a highly polished chrome sculpture of Andy Warhol (replete with shopping bags) in New York's Union Square, near the site of Warhol's Factory.

### Solo exhibitions

#### 2023

2023 - Forthcoming, 303 Gallery, New York, USA

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

#### 2022

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

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

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

#### **2022**

2022 - Art Basel Hong Kong, Hong Kong Convention Center, Hong Kong, PRC  
2022 - West Bund Art & Design, Shanghai, PRC

#### **2021**

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

## **2004**

- 2004 - For All, Vestfossen Kunstlaboratorium, Vestfossen, NL
- 2004 - No More Reality, Nils Staerk Contemporary Art, Copenhagen, DK
- 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 Diferrence, 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, Dublino, 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, Greenaftali 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, Greenenaftali 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 - Molteplice 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 Musee 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