

KOPLIN DEL RIO
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ROBERT A. PRUITT

Born 1975
Houston, Texas

Education

2003 MFA, University of Texas at Austin
2003 Skowhegan School of Painting & Sculpture, Skowhegan, ME
2000 BFA, Texas Southern University, Houston, TX
1999 Tougaloo Art Colony, Jackson, MS

Awards

2019 The Rubell Family Collection/ Contemporary Art Foundation
2015 Bemis Center for Contemporary Art A.I.R
2014 Idea Fund Grant
2013 Joan Mitchell Foundation Artist Grant
William H. Johnson Prize
Artist of the Year, Houston Art Fair
2009 Art Matters Travel Grant
2007 Creative Capital Foundation Grant (Otabenga Jones)
Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Fellowship Grant
2004 Artadia Artist Grant
1999 The Arch and Anne Giles Kimbrough Fund Award, Dallas Museum of Art
Emerging Artist Grant, Cultural Arts Council of Houston

Solo Exhibitions

2021 *Ad Infinitum*, Salon 94, New York, NY (September)
2020 *Guest Minister*, Oxbow, Seattle, WA
Robert Pruitt: Studies (Online exclusive), Koplín Del Río, Seattle, WA
ZONAMACO Arte Contemporáneo - Foro, with Koplín Del Río, in Mexico City, Mexico
2019 *The Banner Project: Robert Pruitt*, Boston Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA
Robert Pruitt: The Majesty of Kings Long Dead, Koplín Del Río, Seattle, WA
2018 *Robert Pruitt: Devotion*, California African American Art Museum, Los Angeles, CA
2017 *ROBERT PRUITT: BENEDICTION*, Ulrich Museum of Art, Wichita, KS
ROBERT PRUITT: PLANETARY SURVEY: New Drawings, Koplín Del Río, Seattle, WA
2016 *Robert Pruitt: New Work*, Visual Arts Center, University of Texas at Arlington, Arlington, TX
Escape Velocity, Robert L. Ringel Gallery, Stewart Center Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN
2015 *Robert Pruitt: Flight Risk*, Koplín Del Río Gallery, Culver City, CA
The Mosaic Project: Robert Pruitt & Shadra Strickland, Pennsylvania College of Art & Design, Lancaster, PA
Omohle Ntsudu Omnyama, Gallery MOMO, Johannesburg, South Africa
2013 *Fantastic Sagas*, Koplín Del Río, Culver City CA
Robert Pruitt: Women, Studio Museum Harlem, New York, NY
2012 *Robert Pruitt*, Bakersfield Museum of Art, Bakersfield, CA
2011 *The Souls of Black Folk*, McKinney Art Center, Dallas, TX

- New American Voices*, Fabric Workshop Museum, Philadelphia, PA
Them From After the End of the World, Koplín Del Río, Culver City CA
- 2010 *The Forever People*, Hooks-Epstein Gallery, Houston, TX
- 2008 *Two Tears in a Bucket: Considering The Alcubierre Metric*, Mary Goldman Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2006 *Quiet as Kept*, Clementine Gallery, New York, NY
Perspectives 154: Robert Pruitt, Contemporary Art Museum, Houston, TX
Symmetrical Patterns of Def, (Otabenga Jones and Associates), Clementine Gallery, NY
- 2004 *I call my brother sun because he shines like one*, Clementine Gallery, New York, NY
Cold Kuts and Fresh Beef, Galveston Art Center, Galveston, TX
Round 18 of Artists' Installations, Project Row Houses, Houston, TX

Group Exhibitions

- 2022 *Prints from the Brandywine Workshop and Archives: Creative Communities*, Special Exhibitions Gallery, Harvard Art Museums, Cambridge, MA (Mar 4 - July 31, 2022)
Us Them We | Race Ethnicity Identity, Worcester Art Museum, Worcester, MA (Feb 19 - June 19, 2022)
A Movement in Every Direction: Legacies of the Great Migration, Mississippi Museum of Fine Arts, Jackson, MS- April 2022; Will travel to the Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, MD- Oct 30, 2022- Jan 29, 2023; Brooklyn Museum of Art, Mar 3-June 25, 2023; California African American Museum, Aug 5, 2023 - Mar 3, 2024
- 2022- *Men of Change: Power. Triumph. Truth.* Exhibition coordinated by the Smithsonian Institution/
 2019 National tour: Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History (Oct 9 – Jan 2, 2022); African American Museum, Dallas, TX (June 26- Sept 12, 2021); California African American Museum, Los Angeles, CA (Mar 27 - May 30, 2021); Washington State History Museum, Tacoma, WA (Dec 21, 2019 – Mar 15, 2020); National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, Cincinnati, OH (Aug 17 – Dec 1, 2019)
- 2022- *Collection Highlights*, Rubell Museum, Miami, FL
- 2021 *Assembly*, Blanton Museum of Art, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX (Dec 11, 2021 - May 8, 2022)
Black American Portraits, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA, (Nov 7, 2021–Apr 17, 2022)
The Dirty South: Contemporary Art, Material Culture and Sonic Impulse, Curated by Valerie Cassell Oliver, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, VA (May 22 - Sept 6, 2021), Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art (Mar 12 - Jul 25, 2022)
Art Finds A Way, Norton Museum of Arts, West Palm Beach, FL (Jan 2 - May 31, 2021)
- 2021- *For a Dreamer of Houses*, Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, TX (Mar 15, 2020 - July 4, 2021)
- 2020 *Textures: The History & the Art of Black Hair*, Kent State University Museum, Kent, OH (Oct 1, 2020 – Aug 29, 2021)
- 2020 *Portraiture: A Private Room*, Salon 94, New York, NY
Great Force, Institute for Contemporary Art, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA
Perennial, Koplín Del Río Gallery (Pop-up exhibition), Los Angeles, CA
Men of Steel, Women of Wonder: Modern American Heroes in Contemporary Times, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, AR
Black Refractions | Highlights from the Studio Museum in Harlem, The Museum of the African Diaspora, San Francisco, CA (January 15 – April 14, 2019); Gibbes Museum of Art, Charleston, SC (May 24 – August 18, 2019); Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, MI (September 13 – December 8, 2019); Smith College Museum of Art,

- Northampton, MA (January 17 – April 12, 2020); Frye Art Museum, Seattle, WA (May 9 – August 2, 2020); Utah Museum of Fine Arts, Salt Lake City, UT (August 28 – December 13, 2020)
- The Banner Project*, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA
- Cheers to 50!*, Hooks Epstein Gallery, Houston, TX
- 2018 *People Get Ready | Building A Contemporary Collection*, Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University, Durham, NC (through January 6, 2019)
- WOMAN*, Koplín Del Río, Seattle, WA
- We The People*, Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum, Mesa, AZ
- Out of Africa*, Art Village Gallery, Memphis TN
- MLK50: Beyond the Balcony*, Art Village Gallery, Memphis TN
- 2017 *LIBERTY.*, Prographica/KDR, Seattle, WA
- Anachronism and Liberation*, Asteroid Tiger Strike, Philadelphia, PA
- Z IS FOR ZIGZAG: DIRECTIONS AROUND NORTHERN MANHATTAN*, Sugar Hill Children's Museum of Art & Storytelling, New York, NY
- IMPRESSIONS: AFRICAN AMERICAN ARTISTS AND THEIR CONNECTION TO AFRICAN ART*, Mesa College Art Gallery, San Diego, CA
- How Far Have We Come*, Koplín Del Río Gallery on Artsy (online exhibition),
- 2016 *Indivisible: Spirits in the Material World*, curated by William Cordova, Prizm Art Fair, Miami, FL
- Time + Space: Futures*, Bemis Center, Omaha, NE
- IDENTITY*, Koplín Del Río Gallery, Seattle, WA
- 2015 *New Editions*, Tamarind Institute, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM
- 2013 *Wunderkammer: Miniatures and Curiosities*, Koplín Del Río, Culver City CA
- The Shadows Took Shape*, The Studio Museum Harlem, New York, NY
- 2012 *Self Possessed: Examining Identity in the 21st Century*, Koplín Del Río, Culver City, CA
- HX8(Houston Times Eight)*, Station Museum of Contemporary Art, Houston, TX
- 2011 *Stargazers*, Elizabeth Catlett in conversation with 21 contemporary artists, Bronx Museum, Bronx, NY
- 2010 *Hangin' Together*, Koplín Del Río Gallery (Guest Curated by Kerry James Marshall)
- Drawing for Projection*, SITE Santa FE Biennial, Santa Fe, NM and P.S.1/MoMA, New York, NY
- 2008 *S & M: Shrines and Masquerades in Cosmopolitan Times*, NYU, Steinhardt Galleries, New York, NY
- 2007 *New Works: 07.1*, curated by Debra Singer, Artpace, San Antonio, TX
- Sweet Sweetback's Badasssss Song*, Von Lintel Gallery, New York, NY
- 2006 *Whitney Biennial*, (both individually and as part of Otabenga Jones and Associates), Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY
- Black Alphabet*, The Zacheta Gallery, Warsaw, Poland
- Frequency*, The Studio Museum, New York, NY
- The Texas Prize Exhibition*, ArtHouse, Austin, TX (catalog)
- Texas Artadia Recipients*, Diverseworks, Houston, TX
- Art on Paper*, The Weatherspoon Art Museum, Greensboro, NC
- Black Alphabet*, the Zacheta Gallery, Warsaw, Poland
- Intersections: Shifting Identity in Contemporary Art*, John Michael Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan, WI
- Interstellar Low Ways*, Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, IL
- ...but I was cool*, Aljira Center for Contemporary Art, Newark, NJ
- 2005 *Double Consciousness: Black Conceptual Art Since 1970*, Contemporary Art Museum Houston, Houston, TX
- Perspectives 144: Amalgama*, Contemporary Art Museum Houston, Houston, TX (as part of Otabenga Jones and Associates)
- 2004 *Farm to Market*, ArtPace, San Antonio, TX

- Texas Prime*, Diverseworks, Houston, TX
SuperSalon, Samson Projects, Boston, MA
 2003 *Miniatures*, Hooks-Epstein Gallery, Houston, TX
The Big Show, (first prize), Lawndale Art Center, Houston, TX
Splat Boom Pow! The Influence of Cartoons in Contemporary Art, Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston, TX
Come Forward: Emerging Art in Texas, Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, TX
 2002 *Soul Sonic Lustre Silk*, Houston Community College, Houston, TX
The Big Show, Lawndale Art Center, Houston, TX
Process, Creative Research Lab, Austin, TX
The Debt, The Old School, Austin, TX
22 to Watch: New Art in Austin, Austin Museum of Art, Austin, TX
Safety Gear, D Ramos Studios, Austin TX
 2001 *Umfrumnat tre'*, Doty Fine Arts Building, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX
An Adult Fantasy in Visuals, Studio 107, Austin, TX
 2000 *Our New Day Begun: African American Artists Entering the Millenium*, LBJ Library and Museum, Austin, TX
Love Letters, Commerce Street Artists Warehouse, Houston, TX
 1999 *Strange Fruit*, Diverse Works Art Space, Houston, TX
Proper Hygiene, 820 Sampson, Houston, TX
Huh What?!, Texas Southern University Library Art Gallery, Houston, TX
Third Annual Citywide African American Artists Exhibition, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX
 1998 *Fresh Beginnings*, The African American Museum, Dallas, TX
 HBCU Invitational, Benedict College, Columbia, SC
 1996 *Preventions*, Project Row Houses/Community Artists Collective, Houston, TX

Collections

Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA
 Blanton Collection, TX
 Minneapolis Institute of Art, MN
 Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY
 Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, MA
 Arkansas Arts Center, Little Rock, AR
 Nasher Museum of Art, Duke University, Durham, NC
 Studio Museum of Harlem, NY
 Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, TX
 University Museum, Texas Southern University, Houston, TX
 Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX
 US Embassy, Zimbabwe
 Boston Museum of Fine Art, Boston MA
 Portland Art Museum, Portland, OR
 Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, PA
 Rhode Island School of Design Museum, Providence, RI
 Harvard Art Museums, Cambridge, MA

Residencies

- 2021 The Hermitage Artist Residency, Englewood, FL
 2020 Oxbow, Seattle, WA
 Guest Curator, *Drawing the Ghost*, Koplin Del Rio Gallery, Seattle, WA
 2019 The Rubell Family Collection/ Contemporary Art Foundation.

- 2016 Joan Mitchell Foundation Artist in Residence, New Orleans, LA
- 2015 Tamarind Institute, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM
Gallery MOMO, Johannesburg, South Africa
Bemis Center for Contemporary Art A.I.R
- 2014 Tamarind Institute, Albuquerque, NM
- 2012 Brandywine Workshop, Philadelphia, PA
- 2011 Fabric Workshop Museum, Philadelphia, PA
- 2007 ArtPace Residency, San Antonio, TX

Bibliography

- 2020 Knickerbocker, Kelly. "Role Models: Black men inspire through Smithsonian exhibit visiting Tacoma", Real Change News, January 8, 2020.
"5 artists tell us the hardships—and benefits—of creating in isolation", Document, June 12, 2020
- 2019 Liskey, Edward. "Smithsonian exhibition inspires with history of revolutionary African American Men", Union Bulletin, December 19, 2019
Edge, Lisa. "Majestic Figures: Artist Robert Pruitt invites viewers into a Black celestial sovereignty", Real Change News, August 14, 2019
Keimig, Jasmyn. "The Majesty of Kings Long Dead is Imperative Viewing", The Stranger, August 12, 2019
Weber, Jasmin. "Seven Artists and Curators Reveal a Cherished, Overlooked Black Artist", Hyperallergic, February 28, 2019
Huerta, Veronica. "The Revolutionizing, Hypnotic, Afro-futuristic Art of Nina Chanel Abney and Robert Pruitt", Medium, February 2, 2019
Ollman, Leah. Review: "African American identity, front and center in Robert Pruitt's first major L.A. museum show", L.A. Times, January 19, 2019
Metoyer, Niza. "Robert Pruitt | CAAM", Flaunt Magazine, January 8, 2019
- 2018 "Best of 2018: Our Top 15 Los Angeles Art Shows", Hyperallergic, December 18, 2018
Caldwell, Ellen C. "Robert Pruitt: Devotion", Riot Material, December 17, 2018
Gerwin, Daniel. "The Potent Realism of Robert Pruitt's Black Portraiture", Hyperallergic, December 4, 2018
"Robert Pruitt's 'Devotion' at California African American Museum", Blouin Artinfo, November 2018
"Robert Pruitt", Wall Street International Magazine, October 26, 2018
Little, Colony. "Pay Attention to the Loaded Details in Artist Robert Pruitt's Powerful Images of Devotion", Artnet News, October 18, 2018
Onyewuenyi, Ikechukwu. "'Robert Pruitt: Devotion' Preview", Artforum, September 2018
Drew, Kimberly. "Tina Knowles Lawson on Her Black Art Collection, Beyoncé, Solange, and Creativity", Vanity Fair, September 2018
Cotter, Holland. "A Good Year for Younger Artists, Immigrant Citizens and Outrage", New York Times, September 6, 2018
Howe, Brian. "In Contemporary Showcase People Get Ready, The Nasher's Progressive Vision Snaps into Blazing Focus", Indy Weekly, September 6, 2018
McGrath, Katherine. "Tina Knowles Lawson on Why Beyoncé and Solange Grew Up Surrounded by an Incredible Art Collection", Architectural Digest, August 6, 2018
- 2017 Edge, Lisa. "Celestial Figures: Robert Pruitt's portraits disrupt media narratives of black lives", Real Change, March 1, 2017

- Breslaw, Cathy. "IMPRESSIONS: AFRICAN AMERICAN ARTISTS AND THEIR CONNECTION TO AFRICAN ART", Vanguard Culture, February 8, 2017
 "San Diego Mesa College Art Gallery Presents IMPRESSIONS", Broadway World, San Diego, February 2, 2017
- 2016 Agresta, Michael. "Ward Matters: Robert Pruitt's Art Vividly Portrays the Lives and Dreams of the People who have long called Houston's Rapidly Gentrifying Neighborhoods Home", Texas Monthly, December 2016
 Mader, Elisa. "IDENTITY: A Visual Artifact", AEQAI, March 2016
- 2015 Gerwin, Daniel. "Drawing an Afro-Future with the Past and Present", HYPERALLERGIC, Dec. 1, 2015
 Mizota, Sharon. "Critic's Choice: Robert Pruitt: Futuristic portraits gain a real edge", LA Times, Nov. 10, 2015
 Will, Rachel. "Robert Pruitt's New Works Juxtapose African Culture and Space Objects", Artsy, Nov. 1, 2015
 Word, Tanekeya. "Interview: Robert Pruitt", Saint Heron, March 16, 2015
- 2013 Rosenberg, Karen. "Women Inspired to Mix and Match", Drawings by Robert Pruitt at the Studio Museum in Harlem, The New York Times, August 8, 2013
 Cembelast, Robin. "Reinventing the African American Portrait", ARTnews, August 1, 2013
 Ulysse, Gina Athena. "Immeasurable Inspiration: On Robert Pruitt's Women", The Huffington Post, July 26, 2013
 Roffino, Sara. "25 Questions for Afrofuturist Artist Robert Pruitt", BLOUINARTINFO International, July 18, 2013
 Tschida, Anne. "Robert Pruitt and His Fun Serious Art", Knight Foundation, April 5, 2013
- 2012 Boyd, Robert. "Robert Pruitt: This Rejection of the Conqueror", the Art Museum of Southeast Texas, Glasstire, February 5, 2012
- 2011 Ollman, Leah. "Robert Pruitt at Koplín Del Río", Los Angeles Times, Art Reviews, August 19
 Mizota, Sharon, Robert Pruitt, ARTNews Magazine, Art Reviews, November 2011.
- 2007 Gajkowski-Hill, Sarah. "Perspectives 154: Robert Pruitt", Arts Houston Magazine, February 2007
 Goodard, Dan R. "Caught Between Two Cultures", San Antonio Express-News, Sunday, April 22, 2007
 Gupta, Anjali. "Glenn Kaino + Robert Pruitt + Katja Strunz", Art Papers, May/June 2007
 Salmon, Lori. "Robert Pruitt", ArtUS, March-April, 2007
 Wolff, Elaine. "The Art Capades: We Shall (Eventually) Overcome (One Way Or Another)", San Antonio Current, March 22-April 3, 2007
- 2006 Baldwin, Rosecrans. "Quiet As Kept", Interview with Robert Pruitt, The Morning News, December 2006
 Cotter, Holland. "The Collective Conscious", The New York Times, Sunday March 5, 2006 (as part of Otabenga Jones and Associates)
 Golden, Thelma, and Christine Kim. "Frequency, The Studio Museum of Harlem", New York Times, Chrissy, and Phillip Verne. Day for a Night, Whitney Biennial, Whitney Museum of Art
 Kerr, Merrily. "Otabenga Jones and Associates, Symmetrical Patterns of Def", Time Out New York, February 2-8, 2006 (as part of Otabenga Jones and Associates)
 "Goings On About Town: Robert Pruitt", New Yorker, December 25, 2006
- 2005 Cassel Oliver, Valerie, and Franklin Sirmans. "Double Consciousness, Black

Conceptual Art Since 1970", Contemporary Arts Museum of Houston

- 2004 Schwendener, Martha. "Robert Pruitt at Clementine", Time Out New York, August 5-12
"Robert Pruitt at Clementine", The New Yorker, August 9 & 16
Psylos, Steven. "Robert Pruitt", New York Press, August 3
- 2003 Weaver, Suzanne. et al. "Come Forward: Emerging Art in Texas", Dallas Museum of Art