

PRESS RELEASE

Rob Pruitt*New Faces*

June 10 – July 29, 2022

303 Gallery, New York



303 Gallery is pleased to present a new exhibition by Rob Pruitt, featuring his latest series of Face paintings. Pruitt began making Face paintings in 2010, with the idea to convey human emotion using the most reductive, minimalist means possible. The first Face paintings were based on quick line drawings of faces transcribed over large, gradient fields of color. In a deliberate break from previous projects of Pruitt's, such as the Panda paintings, the Face paintings spring directly from the artists mind and hand, with no reliance on found imagery.

The color palettes of the Face paintings often stem from familiar cultural and psychological associations – red for anger, blue for depression. Other works in the series have more nuanced, personal associations. Gender and age, however, as conveyed through the line drawings, is always ambiguous. What is important to Pruitt is to convey distinct personality and emotion, not familiar, caricatured identity. No two Face paintings are the same size, and they are all titled with names, adding further to their individuality.

In this new series, Pruitt employs aspects of cartoon drawing in the depiction of facial features. Contrasting colors are used to fill in shapes delineating hair, eyes and mouths, a development informed by Pruitt's Cut-out Mask paintings made during the Covid lockdown. Cut-out like jack-o-lanterns, the Mask paintings employed dimensionality and pattern to create theatrical effects suggestive of puppetry. With the restrictions of their antecedents lifted, the new Face paintings take inspiration from current youth culture, in its extravagant embrace of color – hair in particular – and fluid expression of gender identity. The paintings are all titled with gender neutral names, reflective of the current cultural moment.

About the artist

Rob Pruitt's work is characterized by a fearless embrace of the present, social responsibility, and protean versatility. His output ranges from glitter canvases of panda bears, 2,922 paintings of President Obama painted one per day for each day in office, an eBay charity Flea Market, a Hollywood-style art awards ceremony, and an ongoing daily Instagram calendar of personal and public events.

Rob Pruitt (b. Washington D.C., 1964) has shown internationally since the early 1990's, with exhibitions at Rebuild Foundation, Chicago (2019); Kunsthalle Zurich, Zurich (2017); the Brant Foundation in Greenwich (2015); Aspen Art Museum (2013); Dallas Contemporary (2011); Museum of Contemporary Art, Detroit (2015); Freiburg Kunstverein (2012); Le Consortium, Dijon (2002); and group shows at Palazzo delle Esposizioni, Rome (2012); Tate Modern (2009); Punta Della Dogana/Palazzo Grassi, Venice (2009). In 2011, Public Art Fund commissioned Pruitt's Andy Monument, a chrome-plated, seven-foot-tall statue of Andy Warhol, in New York's Union Square. He lives and works in New York City.

CONTACT

For more information on Rob Pruitt please contact: Cate Higgins, cate@303gallery.com.

For all press inquiries, please contact Sarah St. Amand, sarah@303gallery.com.

Image: **Rob Pruitt**, *Finley*, 2022, Acrylic, enamel, and flocking on linen, 62 1/8 x 54 1/8 inches (157.8 x 137.5 cm) © Rob Pruitt, courtesy the artist and 303 Gallery, New York.