

Rob Pruitt

Panda-Monium in Beijing

MASSIMODECARLO is delighted to present Panda-Monium in Beijing, Rob Pruitt's first presentation in mainland China and continuation of his current solo exhibition at the Hong Kong gallery.

Pruitt's vocabulary is straightforward, minimalist, and above all, highly relatable. Drawing on everyday iconography with the frankness of youth, he confronts the viewer with the paradox of modern-day existence: one where the line between hope and dystopia is harder and harder to grasp.

The presentation at the Beijing space brings together Pruitt's well known Panda paintings along with his paintings of faces.

The Panda paintings celebrate this world of contradictions: on the one hand the bright, colorful glittery portraits of these animals in their natural habitat, depicted in glitter to enhance their innocence and endearing expressions; on the other, they are a stark reminder of the tensions and dangers that we are grappling with both increasing environmental catastrophes, as well as the precarity of our current geopolitical order. Vulnerability after danger should not be mistaken for safety.

In his new painting series of faces, Pruitt continues his pursuit of depicting the complexities of personality and emotion through simple means. The facial gestures are stylized and painted on the canvas with enamel and flocking, these gestures are married to an accumulation of gradients and patterns to create a character.

Throughout his career Rob Pruitt has fine-tuned his ability to express nuanced ideas about culture and society through re-interpretation of common objects and materials, all filtered through a sense of humor and irony.

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.

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.