

## Coby Kennedy, Bio

Coby Kennedy is known for his powerful depictions of life in America that focus on challenging cultural realities. His work upends popular stereotypes and archetypical imagery in service of a bold, speculative, Afrofuturist vision. His sculpture, *Kalief Browder: The Box* was included in the *Kindred Arts Monumental Tour*. Born and raised in Washington, DC in an arts and academia family, Kennedy has transformed an unflinching confrontation with both history and current events into a set of fantastical scenarios and characters that elevate our most challenging narratives to the level of mythology. With a background in industrial auto design, he embraces multiple materials that graphically embody the content of his works, including metal, fiberglass and bulletproof Kevlar. Acknowledging the reality that, "...we (humans) are really good at finding reasons and innovative ways to kill each other," his works explore everything from gentrification to racist violence to light & dark skin colorism within the Black community. His current body of abstract sculptural work reflects his experience as a new parent, with a focus on generational power and protection. A graduate of Columbia University's Fine Art MFA and Pratt Institute's Industrial Design BA programs, the artist and industrial conceptual designer has completed residencies at The Watermill Center, Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Red Bull Arts Detroit, and Anderson Ranch Arts Center. Kennedy is the recipient of the Civil Society Institute Fellowship and One World Award, and has exhibited work domestically and internationally, in Japan, South Africa and Italy.



## Coby Kennedy

b. 1977

Lives and works in New York, NY

### EDUCATION:

2016 MFA, Columbia University, New York, NY

1999 BA, Industrial Design, Pratt Institute, New York, NY

### SOLO AND TWO-PERSON EXHIBITIONS:

2023 *Cultured: Works by Coby Kennedy and Brendan Lee Satish Tang*, C24 Gallery, New York, NY

2021 *Kalief Browder: The Box*, Pioneer Works Garden, Brooklyn, NY  
*Jimmy Crow and the Imaginary Thug*, Superchief Gallery, New York, NY

2017 *Skin of the Thug*, Gallery MOMO, Cape Town, South Africa

2015 *American Virtue*, Superchief Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

2014 *Early Works*, Exit Room Gallery, New York, NY

2013 *In The service Of A Villain: Prelude*, Joseph Gross Gallery, New York, NY

2008 *Coby Kennedy*, Ogilvy & Mather, New York, NY

### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS:

2022 *Our Wake Up Call For Freedoms*, Utah Museum of Contemporary Art, Salt Lake City, Utah

*Monumental Tour* (Arthur Jafa, Coby Kennedy, Christopher Myers, and Hank Willis Thomas), Los Angeles, CA

2021 *Monumental Tour* (Arthur Jafa, Coby Kennedy, Christopher Myers, and Hank Willis Thomas), Philadelphia, PA  
*Street Life*, C24 Gallery, New York, NY

*Tethered//Unlockable*, Superchief Gallery, New York, NY

2019 *Harlem Perspectives II*, FACTION Art Projects, New York, NY

*Empire of Mythology*, Ruth S. Harley University Centre Gallery, New York, NY

2018 *There Will Never Be a Gallery Big Enough*, Superchief Gallery, New York, NY  
*I met God and She is... WOMAN in the ART(s)*, Ideal Glass Gallery, New York, NY

2017 *A Continent Beyond*, Gallery MOMO, Cape Town, South Africa  
*52A 7th Avenue*, Gallery MOMO, Johannesburg, South Africa  
*Selling the Shadow*, Gallery MOMO, Cape Town, South Africa

- 2016 *For Freedoms*, Jack Shainman Gallery, New York, NY  
*Kennedy & Udondian*, Robert Blumenthal Gallery, New York, NY  
*Vestiges*, Red Bull House of Art, Detroit, MI
- 2015 *Flux*, Art in Flux Harlem, New York, NY
- 2014 *Crossroads Mural*, Metropolitan Branch Trail, Washington, D.C.
- 2013 *Message In A Bottle*, QF Gallery - Scope Special Projects, Miami, FL  
*Every Which Way But Loose*, artMRKT Hamptons, QF Gallery, Easthampton, NY  
*Black Power*, Superchief Gallery, New York, NY
- 2012 *Survey of Urban Contemporary Art*, Joseph Gross Gallery, New York, NY
- 2011 *The Black Portrait*, Rush Arts, New York, NY  
*Black Market*, TT Underground, New York, NY
- 2010 *Quantum Spectrum*, MCLA G51 Gallery, North Adams, MA  
*In the Service of a Villain*, ReBar Gallery  
*Afropunk Festival*, Afropunk live painting, New York, NY  
*Words, Beats & Life Inc.*, Washington, D.C.
- 2009 *BK-MIA*, ArtBasel Miami, Ad Hoc Gallery, Miami, FL  
*Afropunk Festival*, Afropunk live painting, New York, NY  
*Words, Beats & Life Inc.*, Washington, D.C.
- 2008 *Calligraffiti*, ProArts Gallery, Oakland, CA
- 2009 *303rd Collective*, Dumbo Loft Gallery, New York, NY  
*Shiva, Love Your Server*, IBM Online  
*Cool Breeze*, IBM Online
- 2003 *Off the Record*, Skylight Gallery, New York, NY

## RESIDENCIES:

- 2022 The Watermill Center, The Hamptons, New York
- 2018 Anderson Ranch Residency, Snowmass Village, CO
- 2016 Gallery MOMO, Johannesburg, South Africa  
Red Bull Arts, Detroit, MI
- 2012 Vermont Studio Center Residency Fellowship, Johnson, VT
- 2011 Skowhegan Artist Residency, Skowhegan, ME

## AWARDS:

- 2012 Civil Society Institute Fellowship, Vermont Studio Center
- 2010 Gold Camera Award, US International Film & Video Festival
- 2009 One World Award, International Quorum of Motion Picture Producers, Zurich Switzerland