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Todd Gray

American 1962

When Todd Gray was a child, his mother had him fill out a book that asked him to name his favorite book, food, etc. At the age of 6, he wrote down that his favorite color was “psychedelic.” Todd points out that he was born in the heyday of the bright and bold visuals of pop and op art — and that aesthetic stuck with him.

If he meets someone at a party, he simply describes himself as “a contemporary pop artist who works three dimensionally.” But his sculptural assemblages of painted-wood boxes delve into the legacies of iconic artists from the 1960s. He combines Andy Warhol’s Campbell’s soup cans and Brillo pad boxes, Roy Lichtenstein’s comic-book graphics, Robert Indiana’s numbers, polka dots, stripes, and splats with today’s social-media culture of happy-face emojis and hashtags.

Todd, who has lived in Los Angeles most of his life, earned a degree in clinical psychology from UCLA and then traveled for a year. “When I got back, I realized I didn’t want to listen to people’s problems for the rest of my life,” he says. “I did a lot of soul searching and decided to devote myself to something I enjoy. I concluded that being an artist was going to be my identity. “I started painting on canvas,” he continues. “My work was very colorful, very opaque, and visually three-dimensional. I remember saying that one day my work would come off the canvas; and in no time at all, I started painting cubes for geometric sculptures.”

Whether he is making a wall sculpture, a tower, or a coffee table, Todd starts with the form, stacking boxes until he has something “balanced and pleasing to the eye.” At times, he draws upon a list of ideas he wants to pursue and makes the concept (e.g., Wonder Woman) fit the form. “Fortunately, what I do has a broad range. I can make a small pedestal or a tower, build furniture or a playground. I look at the boxes as being five-sided canvases,” he says, pointing out that one side faces a wall, bottom surface, or side of another box. His smallest pieces fit on tables; the largest (with some 50 boxes) measures 12 feet wide. All are made with half-inch birch plywood.

Todd sources his boxes from himself. That is, he owns a cabinet company (his business and studio share a building), and he has staff and art assistants that relieve him of the labor of box construction, sanding, priming, and spray finishing, which frees him to create, paint, and assemble. “I work on multiple pieces at a time,” he says. “As I have gotten older, I have learned how to delegate responsibilities so I can stay in the lane that supports what I do best. By doing less, I can do more.” Todd says the best compliment is “for somebody to say my work is really smart.”

His greatest skill beyond art, he claims, is “overcoming chronic anxiety and living happily in this world on a daily basis.”

ARTIST’S STATEMENT

I was born in the same year that pop art (as fine art) came into the spotlight of the world and their images have had profound effects on my life and my art. The clean lines, bright colors and powerful energy were very strong influences on me. I always loved the simplicity in which pop art communicates large ideas through the simplest of means. My canvas is simple geometric cubes...very similar to the ones I grew up playing with as a child. I paint with bold colors and clean lines, on simple geometric forms and combine them with powerful design and well thought out imagery. My intention is to create my own unique and recognizable visual language. Something that is not easy to do in today’s world.

Exhibitions

Solo Exhibitions

2019 (upcoming)

'Pop Geometry', Anderson Museum of Art, Anderson, IN
'Pop Geometry', Swope Museum of Art, Terre Haute, IN
Skidmore Contemporary Art Gallery, Santa Monica, CA

2018

"Pop Geometry" Butler Museum of American Art, Youngstown, Ohio
"Pop Geometry" Fort Smith Art Museum, Fort Smith, Arkansas
"Pop Geometry" Hardin Center for Cultural Arts Chan Gallery, Gadsden, Alabama

2017

"Pop Geometry" Missouri State University Art and Design, Brick City Gallery, Springfield, Missouri
"Pop Geometry" The Goddard Museum, Ardmore, Oklahoma

2015

"Pop Geometry" Skidmore Contemporary Art Gallery, Santa Monica, California

1993

Martin Lawrence Galleries (11 throughout the U.S.)
Suzanne Brown Gallery, Scottsdale, Arizona

1992

Martin Lawrence Galleries (11 throughout the U.S.)
Suzanne Brown Gallery, Scottsdale, Arizona

1991

Peter Lembcke Gallery, San Francisco, California
Suzanne Brown Gallery, Scottsdale, Arizona
Andre Zarre Gallery, New York City, New York

1990

Schwartz Cierlak Gallery, Santa Monica, California
Suzanne Brown Gallery, Scottsdale, Arizona

1989

Wilshire Pacific Gallery, Los Angeles, California
Schwartz Cierlak Gallery, Santa Monica, California **Group Exhibitions**
Selected

2018

HL Fine Art, Seoul, Korea
Eden Fine Art Galleries, London, England
Eden Fine Art Galleries, New York, New York (SoHo & Madison Avenue)
Eden Fine Art Galleries, San Francisco, California
Eden Fine Art Galleries, Tel Aviv & Jerusalem, Israel
A Gallery, Palm Desert, California
Coda Gallery, Palm Desert, CA

2017

Bel-Air Fine Art, Geneva, Switzerland, St. Moritz
Eden Fine Art Galleries, New York, New York (SoHo & Madison Avenue)
Eden Fine Art Galleries, San Francisco, California
Eden Fine Art Galleries, Tel Aviv & Jerusalem, Israel
A Gallery, Palm Desert, California

2017

Eden Fine Art Galleries, London, England

2016

Bel-Air Fine Art, Geneva, Switzerland, St. Moritz
Eden Fine Art Galleries, New York, New York (SoHo & Madison Avenue)
Eden Fine Art Galleries, San Francisco, California
Eden Fine Art Galleries, Tel Aviv & Jerusalem, Israel
A Gallery, Palm Desert, California

2015

A Gallery, "Pop Geometry" (group show), Palm Desert, California
Skidmore Contemporary Art, "Pop Geometry" One Man Show, Santa Monica, California
Skidmore Contemporary Art, "A working progress group show," Santa Monica, California Art Mkt SF, Skidmore Contemporary Art, San Francisco, California

1997

Dick Kleinman Gallery, Cleveland, Ohio
Acme Fine Art, San Francisco, California
Katie Gingrass Gallery, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
A Gallery, 'Assemblage', Todd Gray & Craig French
Palm Desert, California
Vail Village Arts, Vail, Colorado
Windsors Gallery, Miami, Florida
Village Gallery, Scottsdale, Arizona

1996

Solomon Dubnick Gallery, 'Sculptural Furnishings 4'
Sacramento, California
Nan Miller Gallery, 'The Best of Both Worlds'
Rochester, New York
Richard Russell Gallery, New Orleans, Louisiana
Windsor's Gallery, Miami, Florida
Vail Village Arts, Vail, Colorado
Village Gallery, Scottsdale, Arizona
A Gallery, Palm Desert, California
Acme Fine Art, San Francisco, California
Katie Gingrass Gallery, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

1995

A Gallery, Palm Desert, California
Windsor's Gallery, Miami, Florida
One World Gallery, Las Vegas, Nevada

1994

Sherwood Gallery, Laguna Beach, California
Westervelt Fine Art, Laguna Niguel, California
Elaine Sternberg Gallery, Chicago, Illinois
One World Gallery, Las Vegas, Nevada
A Gallery, Palm Desert, California
Suzanne Brown Gallery, Scottsdale, Arizona
Windsor's Gallery, Miami, Florida

1993

Tokyo International Art Show, Tokyo, Japan
Posner Gallery, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Gallery of Functional Art, 'Magnetism- Force Follows Function'
Santa Monica, California
Sherwood Gallery, Laguna Beach, California
Westervelt Fine Art, Laguna Niguel, California
Pauline Hirsch Gallery, 'Fusion 93- The Artist's Role in Rebuilding L.A.', Los Angeles, California Elaine Sternberg Gallery, 'Todd Gray and Mark Beam'
Chicago, Illinois
One World Gallery, Las Vegas, Nevada

Devorzon Gallery, Los Angeles, California
A Gallery, Palm desert, California
Suzanne Brown Gallery, Scottsdale, Arizona
Madeline Michaels Gallery, Lahaina, Maui
Posner Gallery, 'Oh Come All Ye Playful', Santa Monica, California

1992

Devorzon Gallery, Los Angeles, California CG Rein Galleries:
Minneapolis, Minnesota
Santa Fe, New Mexico
Houston, Texas
Suzanne Brown Gallery, Scottsdale, Arizona
Diane Nelson Gallery, 'Winter Show',
Laguna Beach, California
A Gallery, Palm Desert, California

1993

Tokyo International Art Show, Tokyo, Japan
Posner Gallery, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Gallery of Functional Art, 'Magnetism- Force Follows Function' Santa Monica, California
Sherwood Gallery, Laguna Beach, California
Westervelt Fine Art, Laguna Niguel, California
Pauline Hirsch Gallery, 'Fusion 93- The Artist's Role in Rebuilding L.A.' Los Angeles, California
Elaine Sternberg Gallery, ' Todd Gray and Mark Beam' Chicago, Illinois
One World Gallery, Las Vegas, Nevada
Devorzon Gallery, Los Angeles, California
A Gallery, Palm desert, California
Suzanne Brown Gallery, Scottsdale, Arizona
Madeline Michaels Gallery, Lahaina, Maui
Posner Gallery, 'Oh Come All Ye Playful' Santa Monica, California

1992

Devorzon Gallery, Los Angeles, California CG Rein Galleries:
Minneapolis, Minnesota
Santa Fe, New Mexico
Houston, Texas
Suzanne Brown Gallery, Scottsdale, Arizona
Diane Nelson Gallery, 'Winter Show', Laguna Beach, California
A Gallery, Palm Desert, California

1991

Peter Lembcke Gallery, 'Summer Show', San Francisco, California
A Gallery, Palm Desert, California
Diane Nelson Gallery, 'Summer Show', Laguna Beach, California
Parks Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
CG Rein Galleries
Minneapolis, Minnesota
Santa Fe, New Mexico
Houston, Texas
Diane Nelson Gallery, 'Salon Show', Laguna Beach, California
Spectrum Gallery, 'Todd Gray and Nancy Henderson' Palm Desert, CA
Sherwood Gallery, Laguna Beach, California Andre Zarre Gallery, New York City, New York
Schwartz Cierlak Gallery, Santa Monica, California

1990

Diane Nelson Gallery, 'Color Five', Laguna Beach, California
Spectrum Gallery, 'Bruzzi's', Palm Desert, California
Andre Zarre Gallery, 'New Yorkers and Outsiders' New York City, NY
Sherwood Gallery, Laguna Beach, California
Schwartz Cierlak Gallery, 'Summer Show' Santa Monica, California
Suzanne Brown Gallery, Scottsdale, Arizona

Patton Duval Gallery, Los Angeles, California

1989

Andre Zarre Gallery, 'Wood, Metal, Stone' New York City, New York

Brand Gallery, 'Dealers Choice- Selections from Art Dealers Association of California', Glendale, California

Spectrum Gallery, Palm Desert, California

Patton Duval Gallery, Los Angeles, California

Schwartz Cierlak Gallery, Santa Monica, California

Suzanne Brown Gallery, Scottsdale, Arizona

Art Expressions Gallery, San Diego, California

1988

Schwartz Cierlak Gallery, 'Tryptychs by Eight Artists' Santa Monica, California

Suzanne Brown Gallery, Scottsdale, Arizona

Patton Duval Gallery, Santa Monica, California

Selected Collections

Lifescan Corporation/Johnson & Johnson, Milpitas, CA

Hughes Aircraft, Fullerton, CA

Silicon Graphics, Mountainview, CA

H & R Bloch, Palm Desert, CA

Texas Children's Hospital, Dallas, Texas

Brown and Bain, Phoenix, Arizona; Palo Alto, California

BDO, Los Angeles, California

Time, Inc., New York City, New York

Toyota of California, Newport Beach, CA

Shufro, Rose, Ehrman, New York City, New York

William Smith Associates, San Diego, California

AFS Corporation, Arlington, Virginia

Century Centre, Irvine, California

Metropolitan Life Insurance Corporation

Wilson's House of Suede and Leather, Minneapolis, Minnesota

I. Magnin Department Stores, California