



Paul Rousso

(American, 1958 -)

NYT Arts & Leisure 05-07-17

Mixed media on hand sculpted Styrene
123 x 210 cm / 48.4 x 82.7 inch

BIOGRAPHY

(Paul Rousso)



Paul Rousso
by David P. Sprouse

Paul Rousso, a native of Charlotte, North Carolina was born in 1958. He attended the Cleveland Institute of Art in Ohio before being sidelined by a too-close encounter with a power saw. Rousso's period of convalescence turned into a months-long stint in New York City, where he found work as a member of an interior design team drawing plans for the home of Robert De Niro. After completing his B.F.A. in 1981 at California College of the Arts in Oakland, California, Rousso was hired by Warner Brothers as a scenic painter for films. He went on to serve as an art director and illustrator for Revlon, Clairol, Condé Nast, and Bloomingdale's before becoming a fulltime artist.

Artworks and technique

With influences ranging from Dr. Seuss to Roy Lichtenstein, Rousso casts his pop art sensibilities on a 21st century scale. Advances in technology have enabled him to delve into the heat-tempered sculpting of the world's ephemera in surprising ways. Through exaggerations of size, Rousso places such familiar items as a crumpled-up ten-dollar bill or a bubble gum wrapper on the same relative plane as the viewer. Intricately detailed renderings at such outsized dimensions as four to five feet in size force the viewer into the role of studied observer. It is in this way that Rousso's art speaks to the conversion of physical objects and the effect of that transformation on the viewer. Again, "all this stuff is going away," and Rousso wants you to take a good long look.

From his "painting with paper" collages to his latest creations of wildly outsized and convoluted sculptures of money and candy wrappers, Paul Rousso has sought to flatten the dimensional and elevate the flattened: "There are many shades from one end of the spectrum to the other, but everything has an opposite. My work is about finding what comes next." For Rousso, a good deal of what's next involves a process of crumpling, folding, tearing, gluing, and re-composing – turning the printed pages of a single Vogue magazine into a sculpted wall hanging, for example, or transforming every printed note of every Beatles' song into a massive jumble of texture on canvas.

Message

The ink and paper era is drawing to a close. "All this stuff," as artist Paul Rousso puts it, "is going away." That "stuff" is no less than the paper-based underpinnings of modern civilization. Texts, images, sheet music, currency – the paper document is being displaced by its transformation into so many bits of binary code, digitized for the screen and everywhere at once. Yet paper documents are themselves an expression of something else entirely. An artist sketches a two dimensional impression of a flower; a novelist commits an imagined conversation to paper – meaning is imbued within a separate medium, altered yet understood.

LITERATURE

Selected Publications

2015 - Art Style Magazine, Winter-Spring
2015 - Southpark Magazine, June
2013 - Detroit Free Press, September 25
2013 - The Battle Creek Enquirer, September 26
2013 - The Charlotte Observer, October 5
2011 - The Charlotte Observer, April 20
2011 -

EXHIBITIONS

Selected Exhibitions:

2018 - Art New York, USA
2018 - Art Palm Beach, USA
2017 - Art Miami, USA
2017 - PAN Amsterdam, the Netherlands
2017 - Modern Masters, SmithDavidson Gallery, Miami, USA
2017 - Times Suspended II, SmithDavidson Gallery, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
2017 - Art New York, New York City, USA
2017 - Time Suspended, Miami Country Day School, Miami, USA
2016 - Art Miami, USA
2016 - PAN Amsterdam, The Netherlands
2016 - Mix and Match Exhibition, SmithDavidson Gallery Amsterdam, The Netherlands
2016 - Art New York, New York, USA
2016 - Palm Beach Show, West Palm Beach Convention Center, USA
2015 - Art Miami, Miami, USA
2015 - PAN Art Fair, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
2015 - Art New York, New York City, USA
2015 - LA Art Show, Los Angeles, USA
2014 - Scope Miami, Miami, USA
2014 - Scope New York, New York City, USA
2014 - LA Art Show, Los Angeles, USA
2013 - Art Miami, Miami, USA
2013 - Scope Basel, Basel, Switzerland
2013 - Scope New York, New York City, USA
2013 - Art Baltimore, Baltimore, USA
2013 - Art Wynwood, Miami, USA
2013 - ArtPrize, Grand Rapids, USA
2012 - 2012 Regional Artist Project Grant (RAPG) recipient
2012 - ArHamptons, Bridgehampton, USA
2012 - Boston International Art Fair, Boston, USA
2012 - LA Art Show, Los Angeles, USA
2011 - The Butterfly Project, Holocaust Memorial. Sculpture for the Foundation of Shalom Park
2011 - Scope Basel, Basel, Switzerland
2011 - Scope New York, New York City, USA
2011 - Scope Miami, Miami, USA
2007 - Public painting for the Foundation of Shalom Park
2005 - Charlotte Bobcats Basketball Arena, A commission of six individual works of art for the new Arena.
1997 - Charlotte International Airport, Charlotte, USA
1997 - NC Spirit Square Arts Center, Charlotte, USA
1994 - Solo Exhibition, Carillon Building, Charlotte, USA
1992 - Spirit Square Arts Center, Charlotte, USA
1991 - Solo, Lincolnton Cultural Center, Lincolnton, USA