

PRESS RELEASE

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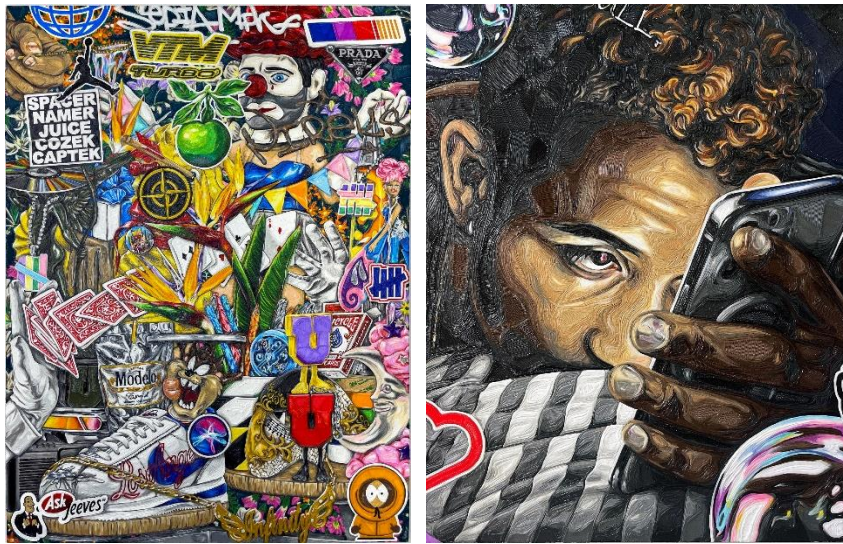
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SEATTLE ART MUSEUM PRESENTS SOLO EXHIBITION FOR AWARD-WINNER ANTHONY WHITE

Densely composed, molten-plastic paintings now on view by
winner of the 2021 Betty Bowen Award



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SEATTLE, WA - The Seattle Art Museum (SAM) presents *Anthony White: Limited Liability* (August 5, 2022-January 29, 2023), the solo exhibition of the winner of the 2021 Betty Bowen Award, which honors a Northwest artist for their original, exceptional, and compelling work. Anthony White creates densely packed compositions crammed with products, name-brand logos, and digital icons that mark our increasingly intertwined analog and digital lives.

For *Limited Liability*, White has created eight new works. These dizzyingly exuberant still lifes and portraits explore why certain consumer objects and ideas are idealized. The artist painstakingly “paints” the surfaces with PLA (a melted biodegradable plastic, primarily used for 3D printing), creating an intriguingly coarse texture that interplays with the seeming sheen of the plastic products he represents. Works such as *WAYBACK MACHINE* and *'TIL THE END OF TIME* trigger a sense of nostalgia for the recent past, as the symbols and objects that once shaped our collective and individual identities—early Super Mario games, flying toaster screensavers, Ask Jeeves, and Napster—are now already obsolete and upgraded with new models.

Limited Liability sees White exploring new formats, including two long rectangular paintings in a more somber key comprising a friend’s portrait and a self-portrait as well as an oversized belt-buckle shape depicting horses both real and symbolic. The smallest painting hangs above them all at the entrance: An Energizer Bunny seen behind a cracked cell phone screen, questioning the relentless pursuits of capitalism.

“White’s plastic material aligns seamlessly with his subject matter,” says Catharina Manchanda, Jon and Mary Shirley Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art. “He seduces you with these brightly colored paintings that speak to the ways in which our identities are being shaped by our material

desires and endlessly magnified on social media platforms. You will be dazzled by the artist’s virtuosity and the richness of his images before the great emptiness at the heart of this construct becomes apparent.”

Head to SAM’s YouTube channel to watch a tour of White’s studio in Seattle’s Chinatown-International District. He also talked about his artistic practice in relation to another show currently on view at SAM, *Alberto Giacometti: Toward the Ultimate Figure*.

ABOUT ANTHONY WHITE



Anthony White (b. 1994) is a Seattle-based artist. Recent exhibitions include *Queer Visibility: Dean Sameshima & Anthony White* at the Henry Art Gallery, Seattle and solo shows at Greg Kucera Gallery, Seattle and PUBLIC Gallery, London. In 2019, White was the recipient of SAM’s Kayla Skinner Special Recognition Award, and in 2020 he won the Neddy at Cornish Painting Award.

ABOUT THE BETTY BOWEN AWARD

Betty Bowen (1918–1977) was a Washington native and enthusiastic supporter of Northwest artists. Her friends established the annual Betty Bowen Award as a celebration of her life and to honor and continue her efforts to provide financial support to the artists of the region. Since 1977, SAM has hosted the yearly grant application process by which the selection committee chooses one artist from the Northwest to receive an unrestricted cash award, eligible to visual artists living and working in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho.

Image credits: *WAYBACK MACHINE*, 2022, 48 x 36 inches, PLA on panel, Courtesy of Greg Kucera Gallery and Artist. *HYPNOSIS*, 2022, 32 x 80 inches, PLA on panel, Courtesy of Greg Kucera Gallery and Artist. Portrait of Anthony White, Photo: Chloe Collyer.

ABOUT SEATTLE ART MUSEUM

As the leading visual art institution in the Pacific Northwest, SAM draws on its global collections, powerful exhibitions, and dynamic programs to provide unique educational resources benefiting the Seattle region, the Pacific Northwest, and beyond. SAM was founded in 1933 with a focus on Asian art. By the late 1980s the museum had outgrown its original home, and in 1991 a new 155,000-square-foot downtown building, designed by Venturi, Scott Brown & Associates, opened to the public. The 1933 building was renovated and rededicated as the Asian Art Museum in 1994, and it reopened on February 8, 2020 following an extensive renovation and expansion. SAM’s desire to further serve its community was realized in 2007 with the opening of two stunning new facilities: the nine-acre Olympic Sculpture Park (designed by Weiss/Manfredi Architects)—a “museum without walls,” free and open to all—and the Allied Works Architecture designed 118,000-square-foot expansion of its main, downtown location, including 232,000 square feet of additional space built for future expansion. The Olympic Sculpture Park and SAM’s downtown expansion celebrated their tenth anniversary in 2017.

From a strong foundation of Asian art to noteworthy collections of African and Oceanic art, Northwest Coast Native American art, European and American art, and modern and contemporary art, the strength of SAM’s collection of approximately 25,000 objects lies in its diversity of media, cultures, and time periods.