



Jeff Koons
(American, born 1955)

Biography

Jeff Koons was born in York, Pennsylvania in 1955. He studied at the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. He received a BFA from the Maryland Institute College of Art in 1976. Koons lives and works in New York City.

Since his first solo exhibition in 1980, Koons's work has been shown in major galleries and institutions throughout the world. His *Celebration* sculptures were the subject of exhibitions on the rooftop of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and at the Neue National galerie in Berlin. Château de Versailles opened its doors to a living artist for the first time with Jeff Koons: Versailles, where a selection of his works were presented within the Grand Apartments. The Whitney Museum of American Art has presented the most comprehensive survey of Koons's career, Jeff Koons: A Retrospective (through October 19, 2014), which traveled to the Pompidou Centre Paris and to the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao in 2015.

Koons earned renown for his public sculptures, such as the monumental floral sculpture *Puppy* (1992), shown at Rockefeller Center and permanently installed at the Guggenheim Bilbao. Another floral sculpture, *Split-Rocker* (2000), previously installed at the Papal Palace in Avignon, Château de Versailles, and Fondation Beyeler Basel. Jeff Koons has received numerous awards and honors in recognition of his cultural achievements. Notably, Koons received the Governor's Awards for the Arts "Distinguished Arts Award" from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts; President Jacques Chirac promoted Koons to Officier de la Legion d'Honneur.

Most recently, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton honored Koons with the State Department's Medal of the Arts for his outstanding commitment to the Art in Embassies Program and international cultural exchange. Koons has been a board member of The International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children (ICMEC) since 2002, and co-founded the Koons Family International Law and Policy Institute with ICMEC; for the purpose of combating global issues of child abduction and exploitation and to protect the world's children.

Rising to prominence from the East Village scene of 1980s New York, Jeff Koons stands as one of the most recognizable artists of the late 20th and early 21st centuries. Koons combines the legacy of Marcel Duchamp's readymade, the Pop aesthetic of Andy Warhol, and the industrial embrace of Minimalism to create works that elevate the low-brow and kitsch to a scale of monumentality worthy of the art historical canon. Whether it's the massive, shining balloon animals of the "Celebration" series or the pristine porcelain statuary of Michael Jackson and his pet monkey, Bubbles, Koons's works are immediately recognizable, even if their sincerity remains unclear.

Selected Collections

ARKEN Museum for Moderne Kunst, Ishøj, Denmark
Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia
Art Institute of Chicago, Illinois, USA
Astrup Fearnley Museet, Oslo, Norway
Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, USA
City of Sacramento, California, USA
Contemporary Art Donnaregina Museum, Naples, Italy
Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, USA
Des Moines Art Center, Des Moines, USA
Frac Nouvelle-Aquitaine MÉCA, Bordeaux, France
Groninger Museum of Art, Groningen, The Netherlands
Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao, Spain
Deutsche Guggenheim Berlin, Berlin, Germany
Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C., USA
Joslyn Art Museum, Omaha, USA
Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, Wolfsburg, Germany
Leeum Samsung Museum of Art, Seoul, Korea
Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), Los Angeles, USA
Museo Jumex, Mexico City, Mexico
Museu Coleção Berardo, Lisbon, Portugal
Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
Museum Brandhorst, Munich, Germany
Museum für Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt, Germany
Museum Ludwig, Cologne, Germany
Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, USA

Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, USA
Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo, Japan
Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art in Nusantara (Museum MACAN), Jakarta, Indonesia
Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA
Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, USA
Nasher Sculpture Center, Dallas, USA
National Galleries of Scotland, Edinburgh, Scotland
National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia
Norton Museum of Art, West Palm Beach, USA
Rubell Museum, Miami, USA
Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, USA
Staatsgalerie Stuttgart, Germany
Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Tate Gallery, London, England
Telfair Museum of Art, Savannah, USA
Vanhaerents Art Collection, Brussels, Belgium
Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, USA
Wolfsburg Kunstmuseum, Germany
Art Bridges Foundation, Bentonville, USA
The Brant Foundation, Greenwich Connecticut, USA
The Broad Art Foundation, Santa Monica, USA
The Rubell Family Collection and Contemporary Arts Foundation, Miami, USA
Dannheisser Foundation, New York, USA
Deste Foundation for Contemporary Art, Athens, Greece
Eli Broad Family Foundation, Los Angeles, USA
Fondation Louis Vuitton pour la création, Paris, France
Fondazione Prada, Milan, Italy
Foundation Asher Edelman, Lausanne, Switzerland
Foundation Daniel Templon, Paris, France
Francois Pinault Foundation for Contemporary Art
Fundación Federico Jorge Klemm, Buenos Aires, Argentina
Glenstone, Potomac, Maryland, USA
Jordan Schnitzer Family Foundation, Oregon, USA
Lannan Foundation, Los Angeles, USA
V-A-C Foundation, Venice, Italy
Victor Pinchuk Foundation, Kyiv, Ukraine