

SOHN FINE ART

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POPS PETERSON

Born

Lives and works in Stockbridge, MA

In 2015, Berkshire-based artist and writer Pops Peterson debuted *Reinventing Rockwell*, a series of artworks reimagining mid-century illustrations by Norman Rockwell in a manner reflective of today's times and social issues. Celebrating America's rich diversity and embracing Rockwell's sense of humanity, Peterson has created images that

envision social change and express his desire for a positive, inclusive, and just world.

His artwork, "Freedom from What? (I Can't Breathe)" has travelled across the world in *Norman Rockwell: Reimagining Freedom*. In 2020, the traveling exhibition came to a close at the Norman Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge, MA. In conjunction with that show, the Museum also featured a solo exhibition of Peterson's work, *Rockwell Revisited*.

The Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination named Peterson its first Artist in Residence for which he lectures annually at the Fair Housing and Civil Rights Conference. His artwork, "Freedom from Shame," inspired the Massachusetts Office on Disability's statewide art competition, "Breaking Barriers," which was presented in the Massachusetts State House in 2017.

Pops Peterson is also known for his multimedia presentations about his artistic journeys as well as the arts and civil rights. He has been presented at high schools and colleges as well as such community arts institutions as The Spencertown Academy, The Foundry, and The Norman Rockwell Museum. His latest presentation, "The Making of a Protest Artist," explores the nature of protest art through history.

His work has been featured in multiple publications including the New York Times and The Boston Globe. He has been featured in television and radio segments of CBS Sunday Morning, NPR and Boston's WCVB-TV "Chronicle". Launched at the High School of Music and Art in New York, Peterson's artistic education continued at Pratt Institute and Columbia University. His writings have been published in Andy Warhol's Interview, Essence, The Village Voice and The New York Times, and he has authored stage plays and screenplays for television and film.

CURRICULUM VITAE

MULTIMEDIA PRESENTATIONS / PUBLIC SPEAKING

Featured Artist – Conversation, New Pathways Social Justice Conference: Scholarship & Arts in Action with Angela Davis (2021)

Featured Artist – Conversation, Norman Rockwell Museum Gala (October 17, 2020)

The Making of a Protest Artist, Fair Housing and Civil Rights Conference, Springfield, MA (October 1, 2020)

A Conversation with Timothy Standring, Stephanie Plunkett and Pops Peterson, Denver Art Museum, Denver, CO (July 20, 2020)

The Making of a Protest Artist, The Foundry, West Stockbridge, MA (January 24, 2020)

Reinventing Rockwell, An Evening with Pops Peterson, Spencertown Academy, Spencertown, NY (February 3, 2019)

Reinventing Rockwell, The Hartford School of the Arts (May 22, 2019)

Reinventing Rockwell, New Haven Highschool of the Arts (May, 16, 2019)

Arts & Civil Rights, 12th Annual Fair Housing and Civil Rights Conference (May 6, 2019)

Breaking Barriers, The Massachusetts State House by the Massachusetts Office on Disability, Boston, MA (November 14 – 24, 2017)

Rockwell Revisited and the Four Freedoms, Henry Ford Museum (2018)

Arts and Civil Rights – Van Der Zee to Rockwell and Beyond, Norman Rockwell Museum (August 6, 2016)

Reinventing Rockwell, The Lenox Club, Lenox, MA (March 13, 2018)

Arts and Civil Rights, Norman Rockwell Museum, Stockbridge, MA (August 6, 2016)

Reinventing Rockwell, Norman Rockwell Museum, Stockbridge, MA (July 30, 2015)

Breaking Barriers, Massachusetts State House

EXHIBITIONS

Solidarity, Sohn Fine Art, Lenox, MA (October 2020 – January 2021)

Rockwell Revisited, Norman Rockwell Museum, Stockbridge, MA (October 2020 – May 2021)

Reimagining Freedom, Denver Art Museum, Denver, CO (2019 - 2020)

Enduring Ideals: Rockwell, Roosevelt & the Four Freedoms, Georgetown University (April 2019)

Rockwell Revisited and the Four Freedoms, Henry Ford Museum (October 13, 2018 – January 13, 2019)

Press for Progress, Colonial Theatre, Pittsfield, MA (March 8 – April 29, 2018)

Enduring Ideals: Rockwell, Roosevelt & the Four Freedoms, The Roosevelt House (2018)

Breaking Barriers, The Massachusetts State House by the Massachusetts Office on Disability, Boston, MA (November 14 – 24, 2017)

Four Freedoms March, Protest Demonstration, Pittsfield, MA (January 7, 2017)

Slide Luck, Stonover Farm, Lenox, MA (July 19, 2015)

Mythological Pittsfield, Hotel on North, Pittsfield, MA (2015 – Present)

Reinventing Rockwell, Sohn Fine Art, Lenox, MA (February - March 2015)

New Frontiers in Pop Art, Lauren Clarke Gallery, Great Barrington, MA (July 12 – August 31, 2014)

Artists United, High School of Music and Art, New York, NY (August 2014)

PRESS

NPR – *Off the Path : From New York to Boston* (2020)

Boston Globe – *Do Norman Rockwell paintings carry an urgent message for the 21st-century America?* (October 22, 202)

CBS Sunday Morning - Discussing "Reinventing the Four Freedoms" with Anna Werner (September 2, 2018)

The New York Times – *Reimagining Norman Rockwell's America* (November 25, 2018)

Boston ABC Affiliate WCVB-TV – *Chronicle* (August, 2018)

Berkshire Record - Feature profile by Christopher McDermott (March 23-29, 2018)

The Berkshire Edge – *Pops Peterson: Art as a Force For Social Change* by Hannah Van Sickle. (March, 31, 2018)

Nonprofit Center of the Berkshires – Recipient of the 2018 Berkshire Nonprofit Awards (2018)

Berkshire Magazine – *The Art of It: Freedom From What?* (May, 2018)

The Berkshire Eagle – *#PressForProgress* by Hannah Van Sickle (March 9, 2018)

Huffington Post – *A Very Norman Rockwell Holiday at the Red Lion Inn* by Madeline Weinfield (December 20, 2017)

The Berkshire Edge – A rave review of Reinventing Rockwell by Scott Christianson and Tamar Gordon

NBC NewsChannel 13 Albany - Pops by Dan Brazille on NBC affiliate, WNYT's (March 7, 2015)

The Artful Mind – Cover story title (February, 2015)

Berkshire Magazine – *Modern Rockwell* (August, 2015)

Berkshire Week/Shires of Vermont – *A New Runaway: Remaking Norman Rockwell* by Kate Abbott (March 5-11, 2015)

NBC NewsChannel 13 Albany - Pops Peterson interviewed by anchor, Dan Brazille (July 12, 2014)

Rural Intelligence Blog – *The Rural We: Maurice Pops Peterson* (Jun 27, 2014)

Heirloom Meals Podcast - With host Carole Murko (broadcast on NPR and on Stitcher Radio)

The Artful Mind – *New Frontiers in Pop Art* (July, 2014)

PUBLICATIONS / BLOGS

Simon and Schuster – *Rereading America* (2017)

Advice Blog – *Come to Papa* (2013 - 2014)

AWARDS

Civil Rights Award, 9th Annual Fair Housing and Civil Rights Conference (May 30, 2015)