

Galerie

Next Big Thing: Coby Kennedy

The New York artist, whose latest works are on view at C24 Gallery through December 23, surveys centuries of perseverance in Black America with a unique, visceral language

BY JACOBA URIST
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Installation view of Coby Kennedy's exhibition at C24 Gallery.
PHOTO: COURTESY OF C24 GALLERY



The artist in front of a 2023 work.
PHOTO: COURTESY OF C24 GALLERY

Utilizing stretched and mounted bulletproof Kevlar, oxidized rust, and tinted resin, Coby Kennedy surveys centuries of perseverance in Black America with a unique, visceral language. “I found it to be more efficient to tell huge parts of the story through the materials themselves,” says Kennedy, whose new works are on view at C24 Gallery in New York through December 23.

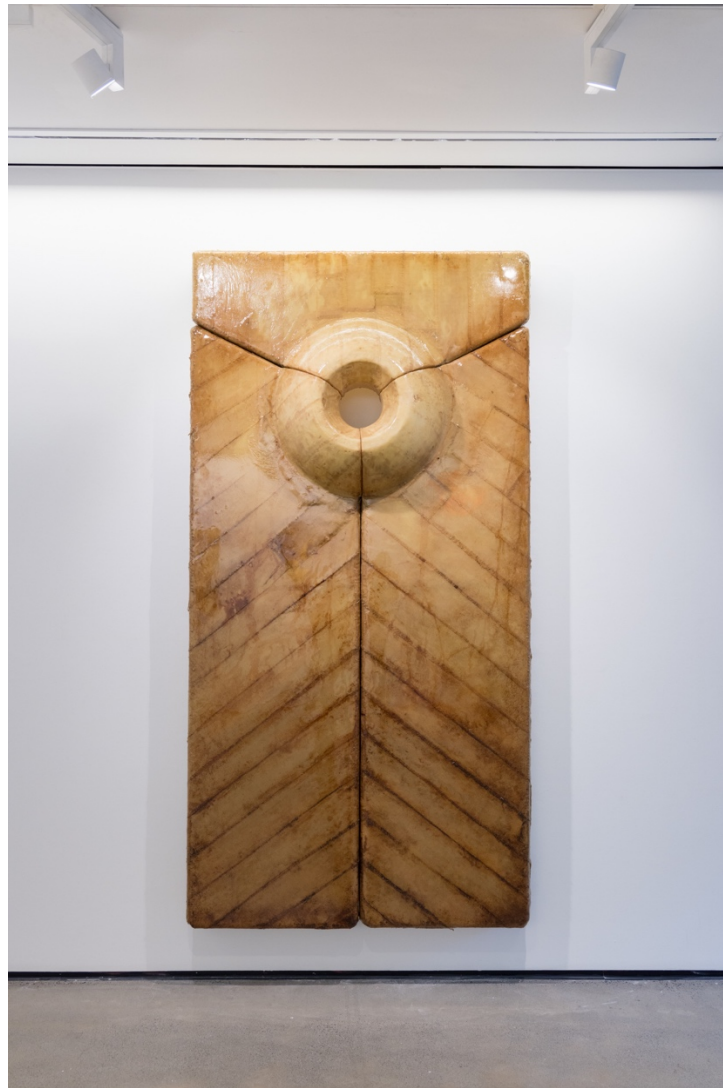
Past life: “As a kid, I grew up on *Blade Runner* and *Miami Vice*, and so I was very interested in industrial design. I wanted to live in the future,” recalls Kennedy, who worked in Japan for Honda for almost a decade. “I was doing concept cars, houseboats, robots, cars that would become your friend, AI. I was literally designing the future.”



Coby Kennedy's Untitled (2023)
PHOTO: COURTESY OF C24 GALLERY

“A futurist, Coby has an unyielding commitment to confronting the pressing concerns of our era, creating a captivating tapestry, weaving across the boundaries of time and space”

HANK WILLIS THOMAS



Coby Kennedy, *Untitled*(2023)
PHOTO: COURTESY OF C24 GALLERY

Public impact: Last spring, Kennedy teamed up with Hank Willis Thomas to transform the Multi-Modal Facility at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago with a public art commission. Titled *Reach*, the colossal sculpture features two outstretched hands that could signify either separation or coming together.



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