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Tim Okamura



Born in Edmonton, Canada, Tim Okamura earned a B.F.A. from the Alberta College of Art and Design and an M.F.A. from the School of Visual Arts in New York. Now based in New York, he is known for blending traditional oil painting with collage and mixed media. His portraiture explores themes of identity, representation, and community.

Okamura has received numerous honors, including a Fellowship in Painting from the New York Foundation for the Arts and nine selections for the BP Portrait Award Exhibition at London's National Portrait Gallery. In 2015, he was recognized at the White House for his work addressing social justice issues.

Education

1996-99	New York Academy of Art, New York, NY
1993	M.F.A., School of Visual Arts, New York, NY
1991	B.F.A., Alberta University of the Arts, Calgary, Canada

Selected Solo Exhibitions

2024	<u>Support System</u> , Blumka Contemporary, New York, NY
2023	<u>Onna Bugeisha: Warriors of Light</u> , The August Wilson African American Cultural Center, Pittsburgh, PA
2023	<u>The Message II</u> , Christian Marx Gallery, Düsseldorf, Germany
2019	<u>The Message</u> , Meijler Art at Scope Art Fair, Miami, FL
2018	<u>Recent Work</u> , Christian Marx Gallery, VOLTA Basel, Switzerland
2018	<u>Love, Strength & Soul</u> , Packer Collegiate Institute, Brooklyn, NY
2017	<u>My Music at Work</u> , Liquidity Gallery, Okanagan Falls, British Columbia, Canada
2017	<u>Begin Transmission</u> , Peter Robertson Gallery, Edmonton, Canada
2016	<u>Recent Work</u> , Soho House, New York, NY
2016	<u>Work in Progress</u> , Red Bird Gallery, New York, NY
2014	<u>Love, Strength & Soul</u> , Yeelen Gallery, Miami, FL
2014	<u>Her Story</u> , Douglas Udell Gallery, Vancouver, Canada
2014	<u>Survey 2009-2014</u> , National Arts Club, New York, NY

- 2013 This Story Has Not Yet Been Told..., The Robert and Sallie Brown Gallery and Museum, The Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, NC
- 2012 Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens, Douglas Udell Gallery, Edmonton, Canada
- 2011 Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens, Lyons Wier Gallery, New York, NY
- 2011 Recent Work, VOLTA New York, Lyons Wier Gallery, New York, NY
- 2009 Brooklyn Walls: hopechangedreams, Douglas Udell Gallery, Vancouver, Canada
- 2008 Women in White / Bushwick Walls, Douglas Udell Gallery, Edmonton, Canada
- 2006 Urban Portraits + Brooklyn Mythology, Axis Art, Calgary, Canada
- 2005 Urban Portraits + Brooklyn Mythology, Delgado-Tomei Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
- 2003 New Urban Portraits + Bricks, Locks, & Obstacles, Kanvas Gallery, NY, NY
- 2002 Recent Work, Northsix Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
- 2001 Urban Portraits, The Cutting Room, New York, NY

Two Person Exhibitions

- 2016 Goddess, with Barron Claiborne, Gallery Josephine, Martha's Vineyard, MA
- 2015 Begin Transmission, with Chris Marshall, Be Electric Studio, Brooklyn, NY
- 2014 Recent Work, with Jerome Lagarrigue, White Room, Liquid Art System, Capri, Italy
- 2009 Love, Strength & Soul, with TheKidBelo, Show & Tell Gallery, Toronto, Canada
- 2007 Brooklyn Mythology: The First Nations Cycle, with TheKidBelo, Axis Contemporary Art, Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2026 Artists Unite America, Grand Central Station, New York, NY
- 2025 Everyday People, NAACP Collection, Art Basel, Miami
- 2025 Primary Voices in a Secondary World, NADA Gallery, New York, NY
- 2023 Spike Lee: Creative Sources, Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY
- 2023 Future. Forward. Freedom., Ed Varie Gallery, New York, NY
- 2023 Recent Work, Volta Art Fair, Christian Marx Galerie, Basel, Switzerland
- 2022 Go Brooklyn Go Brooklyn, The Brooklyn Collective, Charlotte, NC
- 2021 Coup D'État, The Brooklyn Collective, Miami, FL
- 2021 Dreaming Together, New York Historical Society and Asia Society Museum, New York, NY
- 2020 2020 Vision, Southampton Art Center, Southampton, NY
- 2019 Still I Rise, Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art, North Adams, MA
- 2019 Respect, Casita Maria Center for Arts & Education, Bronx, NY

2018 [Painting the Figure Now](#), Wausau Museum of Contemporary Art, Wausau, WI

2018 [The Outwin: American Portraiture Today](#), Ackland Art Museum, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC

2018 [Fresh Paint](#), Meijler Art, The Steinhardt Museum of Natural History, Tel Aviv, Israel

2017 [Scope Art Fair](#), Meijler Art, Miami Beach, FL

2017 [The Outwin: American Portraiture Today](#), Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, MO

2017 [Special Project: VOLTA](#) New York, New York, NY

2017 [Art Karlsruhe](#), Christian Marx Gallery, Karlsruhe, Germany

2016 [Liberty and Justice for Some](#), Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

2016 [Art for Rights](#), Amnesty International, Los Angeles, CA

2016 [Duets: A Comparison of Realities](#), Fort Works Art, Fort Worth, TX

2016 [About Face with Amy Sherald](#), Ebony G Patterson & Rozeal, Creative Alliance, Baltimore, MD

2016 [Urban Dawn Vol. II](#), The Loft, Beirut, Lebanon

2016 [The Outwin: American Portraiture Today](#), Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery, Washington, DC

2015 [Scope Art Fair](#), Miami, Mika Gallery, Miami, FL

2015 [ACT/ART EXHIBITION](#), East Wing of the White House, Washington, DC

2015 [Sublime: Harlem](#), 345 Gallery, New York, NY

2015 [Urban Development](#), Castle Fitzjohns Gallery, New York, NY

2015 [The Outwin: American Portraiture Today](#), Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery, Washington, DC

2015 [Implicit Bias](#), Joan Hisaoka Healing Arts Gallery, Washington, DC

2015 [Power, Protest, & Resistance: The Art of Revolution](#), Rush Arts Gallery, New York, NY

2015 [Trophy Art](#), Azart Gallery, New York, NY

2015 [Spring Preview](#), Douglas Udell Gallery, Edmonton, Canada

2015 [International Salon of June](#), LAC, Machala, Ecuador

2015 [Jumping the Line](#), Artiz Group in Harlem, New York, NY

2015 [Light of the Ancestors](#), Pepco Edison Place Gallery, Washington, DC

2015 [Artists Gaze: Seeing Women in the 21st Century](#), Sirona Fine Art, Hallandale Beach, FL

2014 [Scope Art Fair](#), Miami, Castle Fitzjohns Gallery, Miami, FL

2014 [Istanbul Contemporary Art Fair](#), White Room / Liquid Art System, Istanbul, Turkey

2014 [CONTEXT Art Fair, Miami Beach](#), White Room / Liquid Art System, Miami, FL

2014 [Identity](#), Snap! Orlando, Orlando, FL

2014 [Behind Narrative](#), One Art Space, New York, NY

2014 [For the Time Being](#), Koki Arts, Tokyo, Japan

2014 [Fixation](#), Zhou B Art Center, Chicago, IL

2014 [MIA in MIA](#), Lyons Wier Gallery, New York, NY

2013 [Art Miami](#), Lyons Wier Gallery, Miami, FL

2013 [Round Zero](#), The Art Director's Club, New York, NY

2013 [Body Politic](#), The National Arts Club, New York, NY

2013 [From Motion to Stillness](#), Zhou B Art Center, Chicago, IL

2012 [Scope Art Fair](#), Miami, Evan Lurie Gallery, Miami, FL

2012 [Toronto International Art Fair](#), Lyons Wier Gallery, Toronto, Canada

2012 [The Box That Rocks](#), Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts, Brooklyn, NY

2011 [Pulse International Art Fair](#), Lyons Wier Gallery, Miami, FL

2011 [BP Portrait Awards Exhibition](#), National Portrait Gallery, London, UK

2011 [Here and Now](#), Lyons Wier Gallery, New York, NY

2010 [Pulse International Art Fair](#), Lyons Wier Gallery, Miami, FL

2010 [BP Portrait Awards Exhibition](#), National Portrait Gallery, London, UK

2010 [The Gentrification of Brooklyn: The Pink Elephant Speaks](#), Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts, Brooklyn, NY

2009 [BP Portrait Awards Exhibition](#), National Portrait Gallery, London, UK

2008 [BP Portrait Awards Exhibition](#), National Portrait Gallery, London, UK

2007 [Toronto International Art Fair](#), Toronto, Canada

2006 [BP Portrait Awards Exhibition](#), National Portrait Gallery, London, UK

2005 [BP Portrait Awards Exhibition](#), Scottish National Portrait Gallery, Edinburgh, Scotland

2005 [Figuratively Speaking: Seven Painters](#), Delgado-Tomei Gallery, Brooklyn, NY

2005 [BP Portrait Awards Exhibition](#), National Portrait Gallery, London, UK

2004 [BP Portrait Awards Exhibition](#), Aberdeen Art Gallery, Aberdeen, Scotland

2004 [Commissioned / Non-Commissioned](#), Chung-Cheng Gallery, St. John's University, Queens, New York

2004 [BP Portrait Awards Exhibition](#), National Portrait Gallery, London, UK

2003 [After Matisse / Picasso](#), P.S.1/MoMA, Queens, NY

2002 [Fresh 2002](#), Artspace Gallery, Calgary, Canada

2002 [BP Portrait Awards Exhibition](#), National Portrait Gallery, London, UK

2001	<u>Face Value: Portraits for the New Century</u> , The Chrysler Building, New York, NY
2001	<u>BP Portrait Awards Exhibition</u> , National Portrait Gallery, London, UK
1999	<u>Volte Face: Portraits</u> , 450 Gallery, New York, NY
1999	<u>Portrait and Figurative Exhibition</u> , Williamsburg Art & Historical Center, Brooklyn, NY
1996	<u>10th Anniversary Exhibition</u> , James McMullan Gallery, Edmonton, Canada
1992	<u>Endangered</u> , Art Directors' Club, New York, NY
1991	<u>After Hours</u> , William Mackenzie Center Gallery, Edmonton, Canada

Collections

Private

Spike Lee, director/producer

Uma Thurman, actress

Meg Ryan, actress

John Mellencamp, musician

DJ Black Coffee, musician

DJ Rich Medina, musician

Ed Skrein, actor

Courtney Lee, pro athlete

PK Subban, pro athlete

Willie O'Ree, pro athlete

Anabella Sciorra, actress

Bryan Greenberg, actor

Vanessa Marcil, actress

Hill Harper, actor

Ahmir "Questlove" Thompson, musician

Ben Younger, screenwriter/director

Public

Mothers of Gynecology Wellness Museum, Montgomery, Alabama

National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC

The New York Historical Society, New York, NY

The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY

Beaverbrook Public Art Gallery, Fredericton, Canada

Davis Museum at Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA, USA

Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History, UNC, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, USA

Jiménez Colón Museum, Ponce, Puerto Rico

Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York Public Library, NYC, USA

Howard Tullman Collection, Flashpoint Academy, Chicago, IL, USA

Jiménez Colón Museum, Puerto Rico

The Alberta Foundation for the Arts, Alberta, Canada

Toronto Congress Center, Toronto, Canada

The Hotel Arts, Calgary, Canada

Standard Chartered Bank, London, England

Awards & Residencies

- 2020 Teaching Residency, Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art
- 2016 Artist-in-Residence at Red Bird Gallery, New York, NY
- 2015 Letter of Commendation from Vice President of the United States Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
- 2015 Honored at the White House for Contributions to Contemporary Art for Social Justice
- 2008 Shortlisted for Portrait of Queen Elizabeth II, Surveyor of the Queen's Pictures, Saint James Palace, London, UK
- 2004 Lily Auchincloss Foundation: NYFA Chosen Fellow in Painting
- 2004 New York Foundation for the Arts: Fellowship in Painting
- 1991 Alberta College of Art Board of Governors Award
- 1990 Louise McKinney Post-Secondary Scholarship
- 1989 Henry Clinton Memorial Scholarship for Achievement in Visual Arts
- 1989 Louise McKinney Post-Secondary Scholarship
- 1988 Louise McKinney Post-Secondary Scholarship

Professional Activities

- 2023 Artist Lecture, The August Wilson African American Cultural Center, Pittsburgh, PA
- 2019 Guest Lecturer, Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, Maryland
- 2016 Artist Lecture, The Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery, Washington, DC
- 2001-11 Adjunct Professor, Drawing and Painting: Parsons School of Design, New York, NY
- 1999-06 Adjunct Professor, Drawing and Design: The City College of The City University of New York, New York, NY
- 2006 Artist Lecture, The Art Students' League, New York, NY

2005 Guest Critic, California State University, Long Beach, CA
2004 Artist Lecture, Master's Study Tour, Fashion Institute of Technology, New York, NY
2000 Guest Lecturer, St. John's University, Queens, NY

Artwork Appearing in Film

2025 "Highest 2 Lowest", 40 Acres and a Mule Filmworks/ A24
2016 "HEAVYWEIGHTPAINT", Martini Films
2015 "Urge", Central Park Films
2007 "The Hottest State", Barracuda Films
2005 "Prime," Stratus Films/ Universal
2004 "Jersey Girl," Miramax
2003 "The School of Rock," Paramount Pictures
2003 "Just Another Story", Roxbury Pictures
2003 "Pieces of April," InDiGent Films
2002 "Unfaithful," 20th Century Fox