



"Meddler" by Trenton Doyle Hancock

# A master of collage

Internationally acclaimed artist Trenton Doyle Hancock has come a long way from his days as a cartoonist for his college newspaper at Texas A&M University-Commerce.

This two-time Whitney Biennial artist, who lives in Houston, Texas,

**ALLISON  
HERSH**

**ART & SOUL**

is widely considered a fast-rising star on the contemporary art scene. His work is in the permanent collection at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City and at other top art museums around the nation.

Doyle's latest mixed media work is featured in "We Done All We Could And None Of It's Good," a solo exhibition on display at the Savannah College of Art and Design's Gutstein Gallery.

## ABOUT THE ARTIST

Trenton Doyle Hancock was born in 1974 in Oklahoma City, Okla., and raised in Paris, Texas. He earned a bachelor's degree from Texas A&M University-Commerce and a master's degree from the Tyler School of Art at Temple University in Philadelphia.

Hancock's work has been exhibited nationally and internationally and is represented in collections at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, the Dallas Museum of Art, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and many others. Recent public projects include a commission by the Dallas Cowboys Art Program to create a mural for the new Cowboys Stadium and a site-specific installation at the Olympic Sculpture Park at the Seattle Art Museum in Washington. He lives and works in Houston, Texas.



Hancock

## IF YOU GO

**What:** "We Done All We Could And None Of It's Good," solo exhibition featuring recent work by Trenton Doyle Hancock  
**Where:** Gutstein Gallery, 201 E. Broughton St.

**When:** Through Nov. 5  
**Gallery hours:** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday, noon-5 p.m. Saturday

**For information:** 912-525-4735 or [www.scad.edu/exhibitions](http://www.scad.edu/exhibitions)

## RELATED EVENTS

- 5-6 p.m. Oct. 7, Gutstein Gallery, Trenton Doyle Hancock discussion with guest curator David Norr
- 6-7:30 p.m. Oct. 7, artist reception at the Gutstein Gallery, in conjunction with SCAD's Gallery Hop.

HIGH

## THE SCULPTURE OF

GRAINGER  
NSKOY



Curated by David Norr, chief curator at the Museum of Contemporary Art Cleveland, the exhibit is organized by the USF Contemporary Art Museum and the Institute for Research in Art in Tampa, Fla.

Hancock's wildly imaginative, large-format collages draw heavily from popular culture, offering a delirious blend of materials, references, narratives and forms.

With whiplash intensity, his work switches from flat-out hilarious to dead serious, offering thoughtful mediations on the nature of truth, secrets and self-expression.

Hancock recently spoke with the Savannah Morning News about Mickey Mouse, the color pink and his own personal superpower.

**Your mixed media paintings aren't just beautiful, abstract collages. They also emphasize narrative, character and language. What appeals to you about these elements?**  
For me, it's always about democracy, about reaching out to the widest possible audience. I have all these different facets of aesthetic truth. As an artist, I want to skate along the whole gamut of representation. I decided I wanted to do it all. To me, it's all fair game. It opens things up and gives me a certain kind of freedom, and I like that. Contradiction is very exciting to me.

**There's a bubble gum, almost juvenile shade of pink that runs through your new show at Gutstein Gallery, which seems to have the power to disarm the viewer. Where did your fascination with pink come from?**

That's a color I started using back when I was an undergraduate. It arose out of this search. I was thinking about Mickey Mouse a lot and thinking about how I'd like to put him in the hot seat. Metaphorically, I brought him into my studio and started thinking if Mickey Mouse was run over by a truck, he would be road kill. The black and white was his outer character, and the pink was the guts and all the other stuff. That became my palette at that point in 1996.

**Your work appears to be extremely playful. Is it fun for you to create these mixed media paintings?**

Oh, yes, it's of the utmost pleasure. It's a real basic kind of pleasure to cut something out and glue it on. For me, the act of creating hearkens back to that same act that you were doing as a child. In many ways, the artist is a professional child. I identify with that.

**Where do you tend to find inspiration? In art, popular culture, comic books or other places?**

I look everywhere. I'm inspired by everything. The problem becomes narrowing it down and channeling those influences in the studio. I look at a lot of comic book art and read graphic novels. I also look at a lot of stand-up comedians and see how they control the audience and move through

their act. I love Richard Pryor because he could go from something completely absurd to something sad and poignant about the state of humanity. I look at painting as well, but it can become too inbred when you look at too much artwork. I like to bring in other influences.

**You use a wide range of materials in your collages, from found objects to paint and paper. Why do you incorporate such a broad selection of items in your work?**

I've always been drawn to collage, even as a child. I engaged with it differently. It's important to me that the work has a lived-in quality. I'll put the larger pieces on the floor and use my weight walking on them to glue the pieces down and compress everything. You get footprints and other marks. In this show, I've even cut up 10 year's worth of my old *Odor Eaters* and incorporated them into the painting. Anything is fair game as long as you can turn it into something interesting.

**What do you consider to be the best part about being an artist?**

I'm afforded a certain amount of superpower, in terms of what I can see. I can see along a gamut of representation that other people don't have access to, and that excites me because I'm able to walk down the street and see things for what they truly are. It's the artist's ability to really see the environment for what it is that's the most important, blessed part of being an artist. That's the real gift.



**September 25, 2011– January 8, 2012**  
Featuring stunning sculptures and drawings  
that redefine the idea of wildlife art.

**HIGH MUSEUM OF ART, ATLANTA**  
1280 PEACHTREE STREET, N.E.

**TICKETS: HIGH.ORG OR 404-733-5000 | MEMBERS ALWAYS FREE!**

This exhibition is organized by the High Museum of Art. Support for this exhibition is provided by The Fraser-Parker Foundation, Sarah and Jim Kennedy, Margaret and Terry Sient, and Friends of the Exhibition. Promotional Partner: *Garden & Gun Magazine*. Grainger Mickey (American, born 1947), *Least Bittern*, 1987, basswood, walnut, steel, and oil paint, 30 inches high, collection of the Sandelling Inn, Duck, North Carolina.