

TRENTON DOYLE HANCOCK

Vintage dolls lined up in race-segregated rows at Temple Contemporary, Blouin Artinfo, 24 May 2018



Trenton Doyle Hancock, Temple Contemporary, Moundverse Infants, 2018, Installation view. Photo courtesy of Temple Contemporary

Trenton Doyle Hancock's "Moundverse Infants" explores the material culture of dolls at Temple Contemporary.

On view through July 27, 2018 Trenton Doyle Hancock's "Moundverse Infants" discovers and explores representations of race in the material culture of toy dolls. The artist has been fascinated by dolls, and spent most of his adult life collecting them. In collaboration with Philadelphia Doll Museum founder Barbara Whiteman, the exhibition highlights the role of toys, such as doll, in identity formation in childhood. Inspired by the influential 1930s study featuring the "doll test," which investigated the psychological effects of segregation of black children and was later cited by the United States Supreme Court in *Brown v. Board of Education*.

In "Moundverse Infants" the gallery presents two bodies of work in dialogue. "One is an array of dolls, some, white, that Hancock has collected over the past two decades, and some, black, from the collection of the Philadelphia Doll Museum." said the gallery, "For the other, Hancock has created a new set of original dolls based on a cast of characters who reappear throughout his body of work, a cosmology he calls the "Moundverse", and a six-foot

figurative sculpture embodying the leader of that elaborate world, "Undom Endgle," it added.

"I was delighted to have the opportunity to share the Philadelphia Doll Museum's collection, and to experience Trenton's magical creations by being part of his artistic fantasies," says Whiteman.

Temple Contemporary had also set up the Young Curators Council (YCC), a paid curatorial mentorship program. YCC provides access to the artist's private studio and collection for five young people of color, aged 17-21 and explores how material culture, as manifested in the exhibition, has shaped their own understandings of and experiences with race, and are developing additional public programming to that end in consultation with Hancock and Whiteman.

Trenton Doyle Hancock (b. 1974 in Oklahoma City, OK) was raised in Paris, Texas, etc. He got his BFA from Texas A&M University, Commerce and his MFA from the Tyler School of Art at Temple University, Philadelphia. Hancock has been constructing his own fantastical narrative that continues to develop and inform his prolific artistic output

for more than two decades now. He had also featured in the 2000 and 2002 Whitney Biennial exhibitions and was one of the youngest artists in history to participate.