

TRENTON DOYLE HANCOCK

Trigg, Sarah, Trenton Doyle Hancock, Studio Check,
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BORN IN 1974 IN OKLAHOMA CITY to a large extended family that included at least five ministers, and raised in Paris, Texas, Trenton Doyle Hancock went on to earn an MFA from the Tyler School of Art in Philadelphia. Rather than identifying with the protagonists in the biblical stories he heard as a child, Hancock aligned himself with the storyteller. "It took me years to realize what that power was and whether I had it to exploit it myself as the artist", he says. "I definitely believe in the *source* of the broadcast". Hancock is best known for his paintings and collages about his fictional creatures the Mounds- half human, half plant mutants that came to life some 50,000 years ago. They, along with characters such as his cape-wearing Torpedo Boy, have been enacting a fictional narrative in collaged felt paintings, drawings and prints for more than

a decade. When I met with Hancock, however, a new body of work was burgeoning out of an archive of self-portrait drawings that he'd done during periods between exhibitions.

Hancock moved to Houston 12 years ago after a stint at the Vore Residency Program at the Glassell School of Art. Settling there and owning property has allowed him to amass huge collections of objects. "Cultural detritus serves as an inspirational source for me. So I'm at thrift shops and garage sales and flea markets pretty much all the time, gathering. There's an *abundance*. It's actually kind of crazy how much of that is here. And there's not too many hipsters to pick over all the good stuff," he says, laughing.