

COURTTNEY COOPER

b. 1977, Cincinnati, OH

Lives and works in Cincinnati, OH



Cincinnati Map, 2018, ink on collaged bond paper, 72h x 93w in

Courtney Cooper draws large elaborate and exuberant maps from his physical and psychological experiences in Cincinnati, Ohio. Gluing together pieces of found paper from his job at a grocery store, Cooper's obsessive drawings, rendered with ballpoint pens, map out neighborhoods in his hometown in remarkable detail. Buildings, streets, and conversations are all recorded from memory. His maps depict more than just streets and monuments, often addressing the season in which it was made, current events and projects going on locally, like the WEBN fireworks or the Taste of Cincinnati, even going back into the drawings to update them when new buildings are constructed or torn down. Cooper is always celebrating Oktoberfest in his life and in his work, you will find references to beer, balloons, pretzels, and German culture. Throughout the sprawling maps are written thoughts and phrases hidden beneath the landscape and revealed within the open white space of the paper, as noted in Matt Morris' review on artforum.com: "But the party above belies the social tensions below: Gradually, one notices scrawled writing layered underneath Cooper's landscapes, the text erupting in the blank passages of the streets." Cooper's work illustrates a sublime moment in time, attempting to understand something as complex as a city.

Courtney Cooper's *Cincinnati Map* from 2011 was recently acquired by the Museum of Modern Art in New York and he was the subject of a feature in *Raw Vision* summer 2022. His solo show at Intuit: The Center for Intuit and Outsider Art in Chicago in spring of 2016 was reviewed in artforum.com and New City. His 2-person show (with Cole Carothers) at The Cincinnati Art Museum in 2013 was reviewed in CityBeat and AEQAI and he has exhibited extensively in the Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky area including the Contemporary Art Center and The Carnegie Visual and Performing Arts Center, Covington, KY and is a studio resident at Visionaries + Voices, a non-profit arts organization that provides support for artists with disabilities, offering them professional studio space and that allows them to grow professionally and personally. His work at Western Exhibitions' booth at the 2017 Outsider Art Fair was lauded in artnet and Brut Force. Cooper is the recipient of a 2015 Wyn Newhouse award and his work is included in a number of private and public collections including MOMA, The Cincinnati Art Museum and The Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft. He is represented by Western Exhibitions, Chicago.

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SOLO and TWO PERSON EXHIBITIONS

- 2019 *Visionaries + Voices* Visionarium, Cincinnati, OH
- 2016 *Western Exhibitions*, Chicago
Zincinnati Ohio USA: The Maps of Courtney Cooper, Curated by Matt Arient, Inuit Art Center, Chicago, IL
- 2015 *Maps + Legends: The Art of Robert Bolubasz and Courtney Cooper*, Visionaries + Voices, Cincinnati, OH
- 2013 *Golden German Beer in Rainbow Kool-Aid Colors*, V+V Northside Gallery, Cincinnati, OH
Cincinnati Everyday: Cole Carothers and Courtney Cooper, Cincinnati Art Museum, Cincinnati, OH
- 2011 *Rainbow Fish*, Findlay Market, Cincinnati, OH.
Cincinnati USA: Before Meets After, PAC Gallery, Cincinnati, OH.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 *The Western Exhibitions Drawing Biennial*, Chicago, IL
- 2022 *Casting Shadows*, Visionaries + Voices, Cincinnati, OH
- 2021 *The Western Exhibitions Drawing Biennial*, Chicago, IL
Western Southern Tennis Tournament Installation, Linder Center Players Lounge, Mason, OH
- 2020 *Visionaries + Voices at Western Exhibitions*, Western Exhibitions, Chicago
Culture Sample: "Getting Around," Visionaries + Voices, Cincinnati, OH
Rephrase, 1628 LTD., in collaboration with Visionaries + Voices, Cincinnati, OH
- 2019 *AutoUpdate: Photography in the Electronic Age*, FotoFocus, Cincinnati, OH
Food Vinyl Installation, Historic Findlay Market, Cincinnati, OH
- 2018 *Books By The Banks*, Cincinnati Regional Book Festival, Cincinnati, OH
Another Splendor, WABC Shanghai Art Foundation, Shanghai, China
Visions, Mayor's Office, City Hall, Cincinnati, OH
- 2017 *Tracing the Ground*, curated by Hannah Hersko, Wave Pool, Cincinnati, OH
The Nothing That Is: A Drawing Show in 5 Parts, curated by Matt Distel and Bill Thelen, The Carnegie, Covington, KY
- 2016 *Wynn Newhouse Awards Exhibition*, Palitz Gallery, Syracuse, NY
- 2014 *We do what we like and we like what we do*, Western Exhibitions, Chicago, IL
Golden German Beer in Rainbow Kool-Aid Colors, Visionaries +Voices Northside Gallery, Cincinnati, OH
- 2013 *Studio Visions: Recent Work from Visionaries + Voices and Studioworks*, Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft, Louisville, KY
- 2012 *Indirect Observation*, Western Exhibitions, Chicago, IL

Full Of Color, Carnegie Visual and Performing Arts Center, Covington, KY
Terraced, Visionaries +Voices Northside Gallery, Cincinnati, OH

- 2011 *Celebrity*, Visionaries +Voices Northside Gallery, Cincinnati, OH
Urban Express, Visionaries +Voices Northside Gallery, Cincinnati, OH
Rainbow Fish, Findlay Market, Cincinnati, OH
Cincinnati USA: Before Meets After, PAC Gallery, Cincinnati, OH

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

Cincinnati Art Museum
The Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft.
[Museum of Modern Art](#), New York

AWARDS

- 2015 Wyn Newhouse Award

PUBLIC ART

- 2016 *New Lines: ArtWorks / Keep Cincinnati Beautiful*, Plough Alley, Cincinnati, OH

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- 2019 [CityBeat](#). Staff, "Best of Cincinnati 2019: Best Local Artist." March 27, 2019.
- 2018 [CityBeat](#). Staff, "Best Example of a Deserving Local Artist Getting National Attention." April 4, 2018
- 2017 [Epidemiology and Psychiatric Sciences, Volume 26, Issue 5](#) Melissa Wiley. "Courtney Cooper: mapping the interior." October 2017 , pp. 459-461
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- 2016 [Artinfo](#). Margaret Carrigan, "Courtney Cooper's Architectures of the Imaginary at Western Exhibitions." December 19, 2016.
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- 2014 New City. Erin Toale, “Review: We do what we like and we like what we do/Western Exhibitions.” July 3, 2014.
- 2013 City Beat. Jane Durrell, “City as Subject: Carol Carothers and Courtney Cooper share their perspectives at Cincinnati Art Museum.” July 3, 2013.
Cincinnati Magazine. RJ Smith. “Mapping the Lines.” June 1, 2013
AEQAI. Keith Banner, “Super Cooper: Art Without Words.” May 22, 2013.
- 2012 New Media Bureau. Sam Pennybaker, “Drawing Cincinnati: Courtney’s Vision.” June 13, 2012.
- 2011 AEQAI. Keith Banner, “Outsiderness.” May 15, 2011.
VisuaLingual. Maya Drozd, “Downtown Cincinnati Drawings by Courtney Cooper.” April 12, 2011.
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RESIDENCIES

Visionaries + Voices, 2004-present