

GLOBAL GRIOT

Fresh news, art analysis, and original reporting on the global African Diaspora

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HMAAC Blogger

Art
African Diaspora, art, culture, exhibition, society
8,636 Comments

A Global Platform for African American Artists



The paintings and drawings of two African American artists, Houston-based [Robert Pruitt](#) and [Sanford Biggers](#), are currently showcased at the American embassy in South Africa through the Art in Embassies program. Pruitt and Biggers, along with two other South African artists, were handpicked for this prestigious opportunity. The two African American artists are known to incorporate popular elements of Hip Hop into their pieces.

South Africa is currently celebrating 20 years of democratic rule since the end of the racist apartheid regime; and this year marks the 50th anniversary of America's Civil Rights Act. Therefore, the featured art collection at the American embassy is centered around democracy, culture, and identity. "This [opportunity] is sort of our passport to the world," stated Biggers, who has showcased his art at U.S. embassies in Japan and Madagascar. This is Pruitt's first opportunity in the Art in Embassies program.

**ROBERT PRUITT**

Sanford Biggers

The Art in Embassies program was established in the 1960s to feature American art in U.S. embassies worldwide, as well as to showcase the works of local artists from the host country. According to the U.S. State Department, over 58 permanent collections have been displayed at U.S. embassies and ambassadors' residencies; and over \$300 million worth of art is on loan to the art diplomacy program.



Source: [Robert Pruitt, Sanford Biggers, Art South Africa, Washington City Paper](#)

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8,636 thoughts on “A Global Platform for African American Artists”



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3:22 am

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8:08 pm

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