

BOB AND ROBERTA SMITH
ART IS BETWEEN US

12 December 2024 - 14 February 2025

BOB AND ROBERTA SMITH. ART IS BETWEEN US

[Works](#) [Press release](#) [Artist's bio](#)

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***Possiamo innamorarci tra generazioni
attraverso l'arte, 2023***

vernice su legno

paint on wood

100 x 70 cm (39,37 x 27,56 in)

L'ARTE DI
BOB e ROBERTA SMITH
PARLA D'AMORE
DEL SOCIALE
DI GIUSTIZIA
DI ARTE NELLE SCUOLE
TUTTE COSE BUONE
QUINDI
SPOSIAMOCI!

L'arte di Bob e Roberta Smith parla d'amore del sociale di giustizia di arte nelle scuole tutte cose buone Quindi sposiamoci!, 2023

vernice su legno

paint on wood

100 x 70 cm (39,37 x 27,56 in)

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Finchè c'è ancora arte c'è ancora speranza, 2023

vernice su legno

paint on wood

100 x 70 cm (39,37 x 27,56 in)

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Art does real and permanent good, 2023

vernice su legno

paint on wood

70 x 60 cm (27,56 x 23,62 in)

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Con L'arte sapere subito capire meglio, 2023

vernice su legno

paint on wood

70 x 60 cm (27,56 x 23,62 in)

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Amo Artemisia Gentileschi, 2023

vernice su legno

paint on wood

70 x 60 cm (27,56 x 23,62 in)

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Pensa all'arte non alla guerra, 2023

vernice su legno

paint on wood

70 x 60 cm (27,56 x 23,62 in)



Ribelle con amore, 2023

vernice su legno

paint on wood

114 x 210 cm (44,88 x 82,68 in)

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Tutte le scuole dovrebbero essere scuole d'arte,
2023

vernice su legno
paint on wood
ø 60 cm (ø 23,62 in)

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Arte per tutti, 2023
vernice su legno
paint on wood
ø 60 cm (ø 23,62 in)

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Vai in galleria ad innamorarti, 2023

vernice su porta di frigorifero

paint on refrigerator door

47 x 50 cm (18,50 x 19,68 in)



Abbiamo solo bisogno gli uni degli altri, 2023

vernice su porta di frigorifero
paint on refrigerator door
80 x 45 cm (31,50 x 17,72 in)



Ribelle con amore, 2023

vernice su cartello

paint on sign

34 x 43 cm (13,38 x 16,93 in)

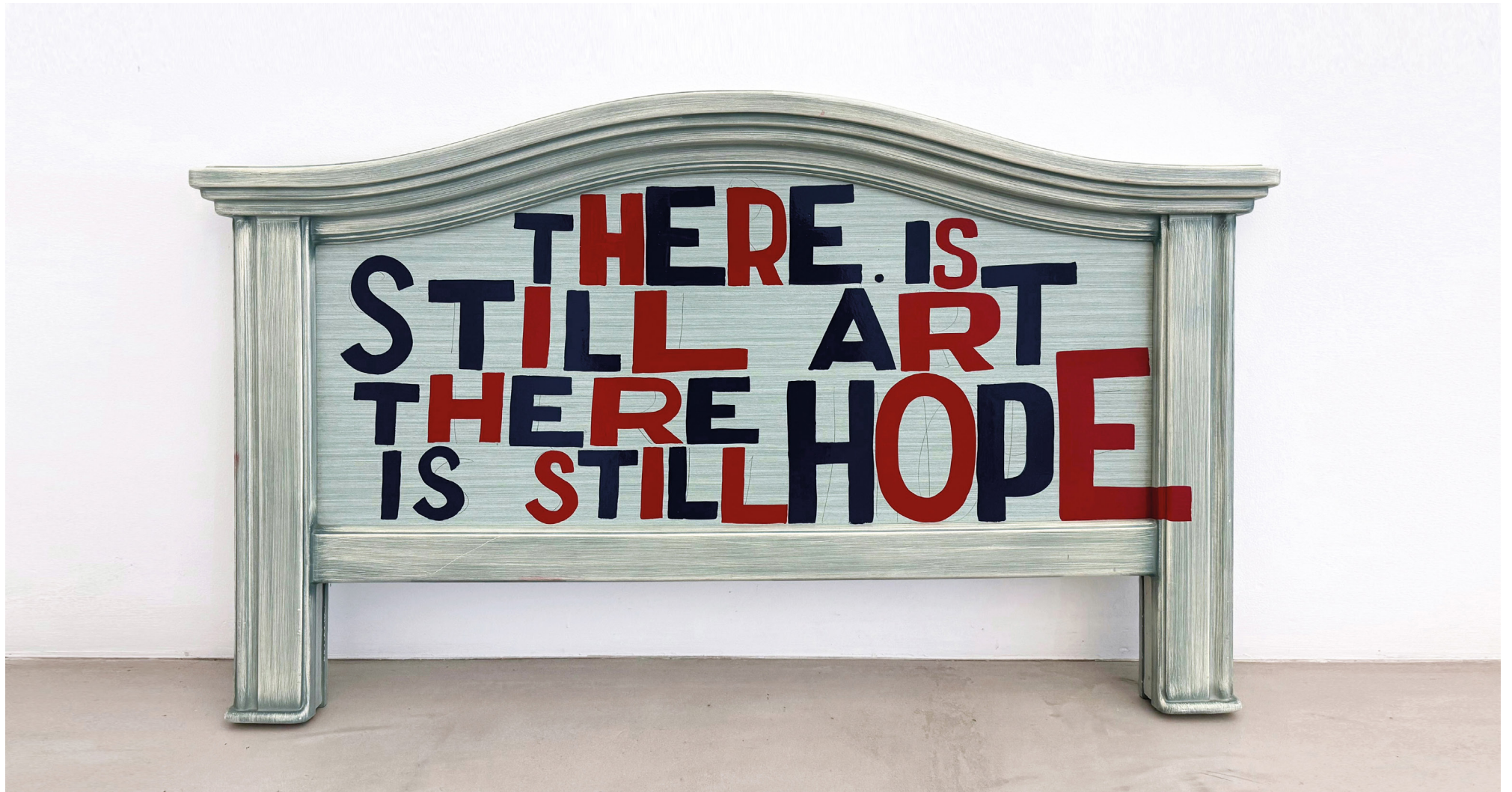


*Cosa unisce le vite umane è grande e meraviglioso,
cosa le divide è piccolo e meschino, 2023*

vernice su legno

paint on door

100 x 98 cm (39,37 x 38,58 in)



There is still art there is still hope , 2023

vernice su legno

paint on wood

60 x 100 cm (23,62 x 39,37 in)

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We only have each other, 2023

vernice su legno

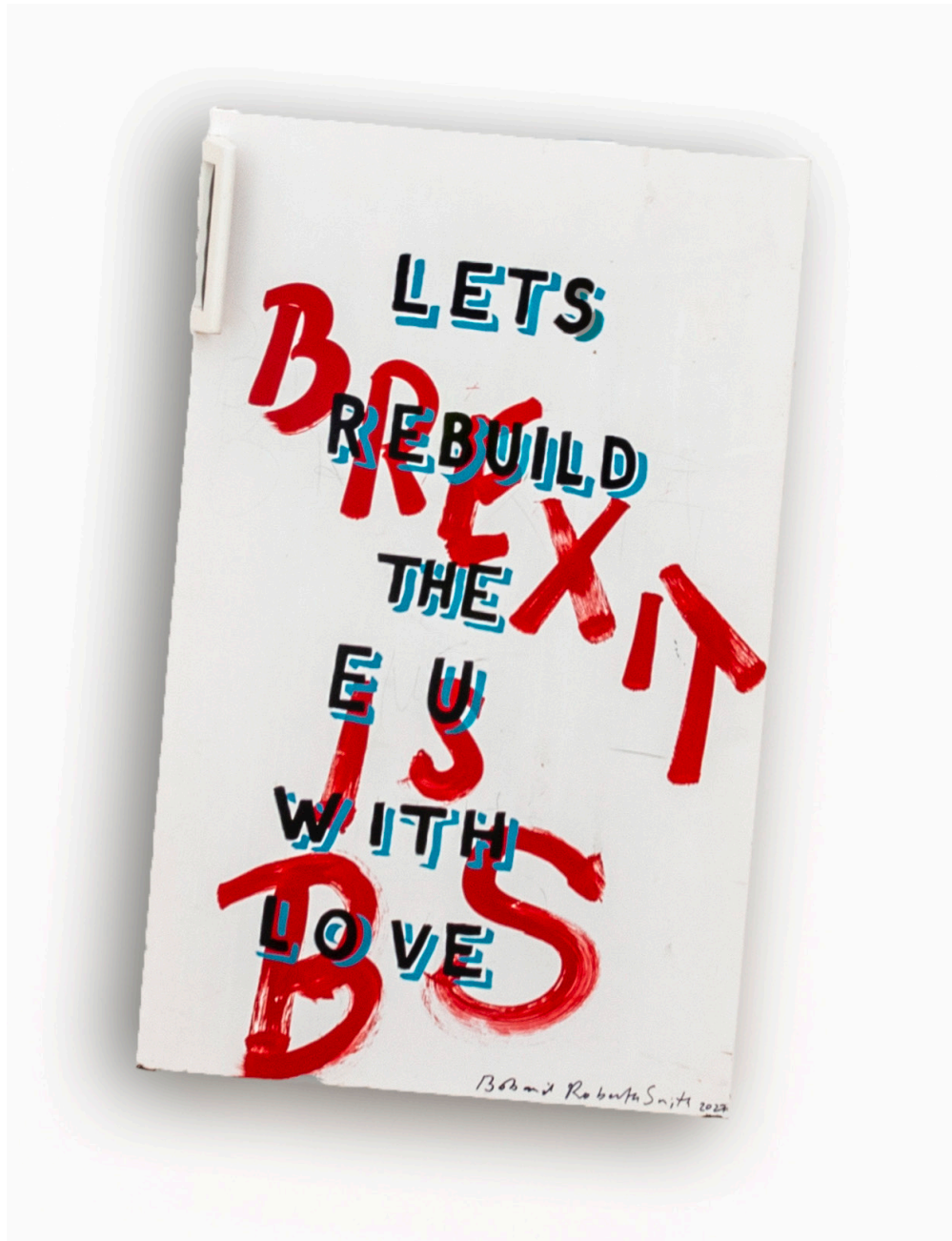
paint on door

100 x 70 cm (39,37 x 27,56 in)

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Brexit is BS, 2023

vernice su porta di frigorifero
paint on refrigerator door
80 x 45 cm (31,50 x 17,72 in)

BOB AND ROBERTA SMITH

ART IS BETWEEN US

a cura di Massimiliano Scuderi

12 dicembre 2024 - 14 febbraio 2025

Bob e Roberta Smith, al secolo Patrick Brill OBE RA è artista, attivista, scrittore, autore, musicista, sostenitore dell'educazione artistica ed è uno tra i principali oratori britannici contemporanei. Conosciuto in tutto il mondo per i suoi slogan colorati, è un convinto sostenitore dell'arte come strumento fondamentale per la vita democratica.

Nella mostra presso la galleria MAAB propone una serie di opere sul tema del connubio tra Italia e Gran Bretagna all'indomani della Brexit. *Art is between us* unisce alla cultura punk, il senso di una critica profonda alle scelte dei governi attuali inglesi, proponendo soluzioni per salvare l'Inghilterra dall'isolamento dall'Europa.

Lo spazio milanese, allestito per l'occasione dall'artista e da Massimiliano Scuderi, quest'ultimo curatore della mostra, rappresenta una serie di opere sotto forma di una Wunderkammer di oggetti d'uso quotidiano che diventano il correlativo oggettivo degli slogan dipinti a mano, il cui messaggio rende lo spazio espositivo immerso in un'atmosfera pacificante ed amorevole. Una sorta di agenzia matrimoniale eversiva, composta da numerosi object trouvè, come sportelli di vecchi elettrodomestici e tavolini da bar ecc.

Ispirato dall'incontro con un altro grande artista, James Lee Byars, che alla Biennale di Venezia del '93 gli regalò uno dei suoi adesivi dorati recante la

scritta "La tua presenza è la tua migliore performance", B&R Smith opera non tanto nel definire un'arte pubblica quanto nel portare l'arte al pubblico. Da allora il suo impegno - vicino alla definizione di realismo operativo di Nicolas Bourriaud - si è declinato in molti settori della vita, utilizzando l'arte come strumento per la realizzazione di un'opera collettiva.

Evidente in mostra anche la relazione con un'altra grande opera di Marcel Duchamp, *Le Grand Verre (Il Grande Vetro 1915/1923)*, definita dalla critica mondiale come uno dei capolavori dell'arte contemporanea. Come per l'opera di Duchamp, che poneva al centro metaforicamente la sposa messa a nudo e gli scapoli sotto forma di macchine celibi, il nucleo di opere in mostra mirano ad affermare il principio che, come l'artista è libero di creare la propria arte, lo è lo spettatore di interpretarla.

Tra le mostre di Bob and Roberta Smith ricordiamo le recenti personali del 2023 presso la Fondazione Zimei di Pescara e Roma, del 2022 presso la TATE Modern di Londra, presso il museo la Panacee di Montpellier, il PS1 MOMA di New York, la partecipazione alle mostre collettive Altermodern a cura di Nicolas Bourriaud, allo ZKM di Karlsruhe, al CCAC di San Francisco a cura Ralph Rugoff tra le altre.

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BOB AND ROBERTA SMITH

ART IS BETWEEN US

curated by Massimiliano Scuderi

12 December 2024 - 14 February 2025

Bob and Roberta Smith – real name Patrick Brill OBE RA – is an artist, activist, writer, author, musician, supporter of art education and one of the UK's foremost keynote speakers. Famous around the world for his brightly coloured slogans, he is a passionate advocate for art as a vital tool of democracy.

His show at MAAB features a series of works on the bond between Italy and the United Kingdom in the aftermath of Brexit. *Art is between us* is a mix of punk culture and excoriating criticism of the choices made by recent British governments, filled with ideas on how the UK can avoid isolation from Europe.

The artist installed the exhibition at the Milanese gallery with the help of curator Massimiliano Scuderi. It takes the form of a Wunderkammer, a cabinet of curiosities, filled with found objects ranging from old appliance doors to café tables and various other everyday items. These items serve as physical manifestations of the hand-painted slogans, object correlatives that imbue the space with a calming, loving atmosphere. The overall effect is that of a subversive matchmaking agency.

Inspired by a meeting with another great artist, James Lee Byars, who at the 1993 Venice Biennale gave him one of his gold stickers bearing the slogan 'Your presence is your best work', B&R Smith does not aim to define

public art so much as bring art to the public. Since then, he has applied this approach – which aligns closely with Nicolas Bourriaud's definition of operative realism – in a variety of fields, using art as a tool for the creation of collective works.

Another iconic work that has influenced the exhibition is *Le Grande Verre* (*The Large Glass* 1915–1923) by Marcel Duchamp, hailed as a masterpiece of contemporary art by critics worldwide. Like Duchamp's work, which metaphorically places the naked bride at its centre and depicts the bachelors as machines, this collection emphasises the freedom of both the artist and the viewer: the artist to create and the viewer to interpret.

Other solo exhibitions by Bob and Roberta Smith include shows at Fondazione Zimei in Pescara and Rome (2023), the Tate Modern in London (2022), the Panacée in Montpellier and MoMA PS1 in New York. His work has also been featured in group exhibitions like Nicolas Bourriaud's *Altermodern*, as well as shows at the ZKM in Karlsruhe and San Francisco's CCAC (the latter curated by Ralph Rugoff), among others.

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BOB AND ROBERTA SMITH

Born in 1963 in London, UK
Lives and works in London, UK

PROFESSIONAL ROLES

2014-17

Tate Modern, Council Member

2014-current

The Big Draw, Patron

2014-17

The National Campaign for the Arts, Trustee

2014-21

Art UK (formerly known as The Public Catalogue Foundation), Trustee

2012-current

NSEAD (National Society for Education in Art & Design), Patron

2010-14

Tate Gallery Artist Trustee, responsibilities included: Board of Tate, Tate Modern and Tate Liverpool Councils and the Nomination and Collection Committees.

2002-05

Chisenhale Gallery, Trustee

EMPLOYMENT IN HIGHER EDUCATION

2012-current

0.5 Associate Professor, Cass School of Art, London Metropolitan University

1995-2012

0.5 Senior Lecturer in Fine Art, Cass School of Art, London Metropolitan University

2000-03

Lecturer, Post Graduate MA Goldsmith's College, University of London
(Bob still visits the programme)

1993-96

Lecturer Fine Art Foundation, Farnham School of Art (now UCA Farnham)

1991-1995

Lecturer Fine Art BA, John Moores University, Liverpool

EDUCATION AND AWARDS

2016

Elected a member of the Royal Academy

2011

Honorary Fellows of Arts University College Bournemouth

1991-93

MA Fine Art, Goldsmith College, London

1981-85

BA Fine Art (First Class Hons.) University of Reading

1985-87

Prix de Rome, British Academy, Roma

1988-90

Harkness Fellowship in conjunction with Cooper Union School of Arts & Sciences, New York

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SOLO EXHIBITIONS (SELECTED)

2024

We Have Only Got Each Other, Royal Academy of Arts, London
Art is about love, Viviane Roberta Projects, London

2023

A Puzzle 4U, Mayfair, Bond Street Flag project, Royal Academy, London
Sposare un inglese, marry an italian, A Sud, Pescara

2022

Thamesmead Codex, Tate Modern, London
The Word Observatory, Von Bartha, Copenhagen
The Bob Shop, Tate Modern, London

2021

Look, Listen, Make Things, Harris Museum and Art Gallery, Preston
Draw Hope, Cement Fields, UK

2020

Look Listen Make Things, The Harris Museum, Preston

2019

Paint Freedom, Shire Hall, Historic Court House, Dorchester

2018

ACTIVIST, La Panacée - MoCo. Montpellier Contemporain, Montpellier
The Whole World is an Art School!, Von Bartha, Basel
The Secret to a Good Life, Royal Academy London
Apathy Band LP show, Handel Street Projects, London

2017

This is a Freedom Centre, HSAD Hull city of culture
Folkestone is an Art School, Folkestone Triennial Commission

2015

Art Is Your Human Right, William Morris Gallery, London
Art For All, Yorkshire Sculpture Park, West Bretton

a message from the mountain top, Von Bartha, S-chanf

2014

Art Amnesty, Museum of Modern Art PS1, New York
Get personal and political, Von Bartha, Basel

2013

Art Party Conference (film & event with contributors), Crescent Arts, Scarborough

2012

The Art Party of the UK, Hales Gallery, London
Who is Community?, London Transport Stratford Station
You Should Be in Charge, Work Gallery

2011

The Gotham Golem, Pierogi Gallery, New York
I have Forgotten was there a past?, Leeds City Art Gallery

2010

This is how we are going to change the world. I should be in charge, Hales Gallery, London
Bob and Roberta Smith design the D&AD Annual
Make your own damn art, Galleria Cesare Manzo, Pescara

2009

Let 100,000 Kunstverienen Bloom, Mead Gallery
This Artist is deeply dangerous, Beaconfield Art Space
Galerie Kusseneers, Antwerp, Belgium
I was up all night making this, Galleria Cesare Manzo, Roma

2008

Christmas Tree, Tate Britain
Long Short Story Backwards, Greenwich Peninsula Public Art Project, London

2007

Shop Local, public art project and exhibition Peer, Hoxton St.
Shall I Stay or Should I go, Turner Contemporary, Margate

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2006

The Captains Log of the Voyage of the Human Being, Galerie Kusseneers, Antwerp

Bob & Roberta Smith – The humanist, Carbone.to, Torino

The Nest, Hales Gallery, London

2004

Help Build The Ruins of Democracy, The Baltic, Newcastle

Before There was TV There was Radio, CD project, Folkestone Library

2003

The Mobile Reality Creator, Compton Verney

2002

It's not easy being a famous Artist, Galerie Praz Delavallade, Paris

Useless men and Stupid Women, Anthony Wilkinson Gallery, London

Bunch of Cowards, Collective Gallery, Edinburgh

The New York Art Amnesty, Pierogi 2000, New York

2001

A is for Book, Book, Project published by Imprint Gallery, London

Make Me a Sandwich, Richard Heller Gallery, Los Angeles

Suburbs Are the New Center - Create Your Own Reality, Carbone.to, Torino

Unfortunate, Bob Smith hosts the search for the worst artwork in Britain, Whitechapel Art Gallery, London

2000

26 Instructions, Turnaround at the Hayward, Hayward Gallery, London

Statements, ART31 Basel - Anthony Wilkinson Gallery, London, Basel

L'École Burrows & Bob Smith, Galerie Praz-Delavallade, Paris – with David Burrows

1999

Improve the Cat, Galleria Carbone, Torino

Silent Video, Virgin Mega Store, London

1998

Bob and Roberta Smith, Pierogi 2000, New York

1997

Don't Hate Sculpt, Chisenhale Gallery, London

Bob and Roberta Smith, Arnolfini Gallery, Bristol

GROUP EXHIBITIONS (SELECTED)

2023

Wor(L)ds, Fondazione Zimei-Palazzo Cavallarini Lazzaroni, Roma
Limited Editions in support of Tate, Tate

2022

Make Art Not War: Pierogi for Peace, Pierogi

2021

Let's Talk About Text, Gazelli Art House, London

Breeze, Pear Tree Open Gallery, London

2020

Art is your Human Right, Petworth House, Petworth

2019

Gardens of Ideas, Frestonian Gallery

Statement Piece: Recent Acquisitions and Consignments, The Missing Plinth

2018

Mono, Velorose Gallery

2015

Gradi di libertà: dove e come nasce la nostra possibilità di essere liberi, MAMBO – Museo d'Arte Moderna di Bologna, Bologna

2013

The National College of Arts, Pakistan. British Council touring exhibition

2012

Somerset House, London

Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA), London

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2011

Olympic Poster Commission LOCOG, London

2010

Life of the Mind, curated by Bob and Roberta Smith, The New Art Gallery, Walsall

I Should be in Charge, Installation Hayward Gallery façade, London

2009

Altermodern: Tate Triennial 2009, Tate Britain, London

The Festival, South Bank Center, London

Paul Thek in the Context of Contemporary Art, ZKM, Karlsruhe

Monument to Harry Farr, Kusseners Gallery, Antwerp

2007

Hearing voices seeing things, Serpentine Gallery, London

The Apathy Workshop, Home Live Arts Project Battersea Park, London

Shortlisted for Fourth Plinth Commission Exhibition, National Gallery, London

Art U Need, Public Art Project Commissions East, various locations, UK

2006

Family Art Project, Island Six, Shanghai

2004

Plazasuite, Union Gallery, London

Master Blaster, Ode to Anti Social Aesthetics, BARD College, New York

Voodoo Shit, Hales Gallery, London

2003

The Breman Conference, in association with GAK, Bremen

Independence, South London Art Gallery, London

Kick it till it hurts, VTO Gallery, Manchester

Bag Lady, Cell Project Space, London

2002

Sidewinder, CIMA Gallery, Calcutta

Sitting Tenants, Lotta Hammer Gallery, London

Air Guitar, Milton Keynes Gallery of Contemporary Art, London

Art after Art, Neues Museum Weserburg, Bremen

2001

Artists World, CCAC, San Francisco

The Other Britain, Tecla Sala, Hospitalat, Barcelona

Record Collection, VTO Gallery and International 3, Manchester

12 Internet Projects, commissioned by the BBC, The Lux Center, London

Death, The Round House, Camden, London

Big Blue at Century City, Tate Modern, London

2000

Landscape, British Council, ACC Galerie, Germany; Centro Cultural del Conde Duque

British Art-Installation, Diehl Vorderwuelbecke Galerie, Berlin

Waiting, Mjellby Konstgard

Intelligence, New British Art 2000, Tate Gallery, Millbank, London

Insanity Benefit, Vilma Gold, London

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS (SELECTED)

Tate Collection, London

Parliamentary Art Collection, London

Amgueddfa Cymru National Museum of Wales, Cardiff

Arts Council Collection, London

British Council Collection, London

Sammlung Fiede, Aschaffenburg

Southampton City Museum & Art Gallery, Southampton

The New Art Gallery Walsall, Walsall

Goss Michael Foundation, Dallas