

ARTIST PROFILE



Sojourner Truth Parsons

Sojourner Truth Parsons (b. 1984 Vancouver, Canada) is an artist of Afro-Indigenous and settler heritage. She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, Halifax, Nova Scotia. The artist lives and works in Brooklyn, NY.

Her paintings are personal yet fictional moments, driven by a desire to translate the psychological and the affective into visual form. Bodies, flora and fauna, and the city—the touchstones of daily existence—are anchoring forms in her practice; they are images that stand in for the emotional acuties and atmospheric intensities that occupy her time in the studio.

“Known for canvases that are as lucid and immediate as they are fragmentary and unfixed, Sojourner Truth Parsons' practice is driven by an elemental concern with the psychic life of the everyday, delineating the feelings, forms, and fantasies that structure our worlds.

Bodies, flora and fauna, the city around her—these forms recur across Parson's work, indexes for the emotional acuties and atmospheric intensities that occupy her time in the studio. Whether rendering the dark heat of desire or the vacuous pull of despair, Parsons dispenses with distinctions between interior and exterior realms, nudging us instead toward a lexicon of the energetic and affective.

Operating on a perceptual plane that is both brisk and persuasive, these works are executed with a canny palette and knowing economy of perspective, one that privileges truth over fact and feeling over form.”

—Matthew Hyland, "Sojourner Truth Parsons", **L'Invitation au voyage**, 2021.

Ether Schipper

Parsons was artist in residence at Denniston Hill (2021), the Santa Fe Art Institute, Canada Council for the Arts International Residencies, Santa Fe (2014), Terra Nova National Park, The Rooms, Newfoundland (2014), and the Ross Creek Center for the Arts, Bay of Fundy (2009).

Solo exhibitions include: **If nobody wants you you're free**, Esther Schipper, Berlin (2023); **My name is not susan.**, Foxy Production, New York (2022); **Milk river**, Various Small Fires, Seoul (2020); **Sojourner Truth Parsons: Holding Your Dog At Night**, Oakville Galleries, Oakville (2017); recent group exhibitions are: **Public Life (Drawings)**, Chris Andrews, Montreal (2023); **Downbeat**, Marian Goodman Gallery, New York (2023); **Summer '22**, Esther Schipper, Berlin (2022); **The New Bend**, curated by Legacy Russell, Hauser & Wirth, New York (2022); **L'Invitation au voyage**, Esther Schipper, Berlin (2021); **This is America**, Kunstraum Potsdam, Potsdam (2021); **This Sacred Vessel (PT. 1)**, Arsenal Contemporary, New York (2020).

Parsons' work is included in the collections of Museum Voorlinden, Wassenaar; The Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, Montreal; Portland Museum of Art, Portland; and Long Museum, Shanghai.

Esther Schipper