

Joe Coleman

Joe Coleman (b. 1955 Norwalk, CT) is a world-renowned painter, writer and performer who has exhibited for four decades in major museums throughout the world including one-man exhibitions at the Palais de Tokyo in Paris, the Kunst-Werke Institute for Contemporary Art in Berlin, the Barbican Centre in London, Tilton Gallery and Dickinson Gallery in New York. He was recently featured in the ground-breaking "Unrealism" show in Miami presented by Jeffrey Deitch and Larry Gagosian.

His performance work from the 1980's was some of the most radical of its time, and can be seen in the films *Mondo New York* (1988) and *Captured* (2008). The book on extreme performance, *Avant Garde from Below: Transgressive Performance from Iggy Pop to Joe Coleman and G.G. Allin* by Clemens Marschall, explores Coleman's influence during this pivotal period.

An avid and passionate collector, Coleman's "Odditorium" is a private museum where sideshow objects, wax figures, crime artifacts and works of religious devotion live together to form a dark mirror that reflects the alternative side of the American psyche. His work has been published in numerous books, prints and records.

Joe Coleman was the subject of an award-winning feature length documentary, *Rest in Pieces: A Portrait of Joe Coleman* (1997). He has appeared in acting roles in films such as Asia Argento's *Scarlet Diva* (2000) and *The Cruel Tale of the Medicine Man* (2015). He lives with his wife Whitney Ward in New York.

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2023

Joe Coleman: 100 Seconds to Midnight, Andrew Edlin Gallery, New York, NY

2019

Joe Coleman and the Shadow Self, Andrew Edlin Gallery, New York, NY

2016

Doorway to Joe: The Art of Joe Coleman, Begovich Gallery, California State University, Fullerton, CA

2010

Joe Coleman: Auto-Portrait, Dickinson Gallery, New York, NY

2008

Devotio Moderno: Joe Coleman/Northern Primitives, Dickinson Gallery, New York, NY

2007

Joe Coleman: Internal Digging, KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin, Germany

Joe Coleman: 14 Paintings, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France

2006

Joe Coleman: 30 Paintings and a Selection from the Odditorium, Jack Tilton Gallery, New York, NY

2001

Recent Paintings, The Odditorium, Presented by Jim Corcoran at Ernie Wolf Gallery, Los Angeles

1999

Joe Coleman: Matrix 139, The Wadsworth Athenaeum, Hartford, CT

1998

Original Sin, The Horse Hospital, London, England

1997

Joe Coleman, Ann Nathan Gallery, Chicago, IL

1993

Joe Coleman: Painting & Assemblages, La Luz de Jesus Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

1992

Joe Coleman: Infernal Machine, La Luz de Jesus Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
The Physical Manifestation of Internal Pain, Psychedelic Solution, New York, NY

1989

Joe Coleman/Recent Works, La Luz de Jesus Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

1987

Joe Coleman, Chronocide Gallery, New York, NY

1986

Joe Coleman, Chronocide Gallery, New York, NY

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2026

The Great Unseen Collection: A Selection of Works from Joel and Carole Bernstein, David Zwirner, New York, NY

Self-Made: A Century of Inventing Artists, American Folk Art Museum, New York, NY

2025

Carnival, curated by Joe Coleman, Jeffrey Deitch Gallery, New York, NY

2024

Conjuring the Spirit World: Art, Magic, and Mediums, Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, MA
The Way I See It: Selections from the KAWS Collection, The Drawing Center, New York, NY

2022

Small Paintings, Venus Over Manhattan, New York, NY
Field Trip: Psychedelic Solution, curated by Fred Tomaselli, Outsider Art Fair, New York, NY
Luncheon on the Grass, Jeffery Deitch, Los Angeles, CA

2021

Seen in the Mirror, Things from the Cartin Collection, David Zwirner, New York, NY

2019

We Shall Make America Wonder, Andrew Edlin Gallery, New York, NY

2015

Unrealism, Jeffrey Deitch and Larry Gagosian, Moore Building, Miami, FL
When the Curtain Never Comes Down, American Folk Art Museum, New York, NY

2012

Raw Vision: 25 Years of Art Brut, Halle Saint Pierre, Paris, France
Hey! Modern Art & Pop Culture Part II, Halle Saint Pierre, Paris, France

2010

One on One, KW Institute, Berlin, Germany

2009

Houdini: Art and Magic, The Jewish Museum, New York, NY
The Endless Renaissance, Bass Museum, Miami, FL
The Triptych in Modern Art, KunstMuseum, Stuttgart, Germany
Man Son 1969 - The Horror of the Situation, Hamburger Kunsthalle, Hamburg, Germany

2006

Subject, Real Art Ways, Hartford, CT

2002

Wormhole, Franz Hals Museum, Haarlem, The Netherlands
Acquiring Taste, Real Art Ways, Hartford, CT

2001

The Circus in Twentieth Century Art, The Wadsworth Athenaeum, Hartford, CT
Hieronymus Bosch, Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
War and Peace, American Visionary Art Museum, Baltimore, MD

1997

The End is Near! American Visionary Art Museum, Baltimore, MD

1993

Cult Rapture Center on Contemporary Art, Seattle, WA

PERFORMANCES AND FILM/TV

2019

Joe Coleman and the Shadow Self, Market Hotel, Brooklyn, NY

2018

Anthony Bourdain Parts Unknown “Lower East Side”

Live From Miskatonic: Joe Coleman - Stealing Fire: The Mastery of the Outsider (Live conversation and film presentation.), Film Noir Cinema, Brooklyn, NY

The Doorway to Joe: The Art of Joe Coleman (A conversation between the artist and writer, Harold Schechter.), Greenwood Cemetery Chapel, Brooklyn, NY

2017

Joe Coleman with Lydia Lunch, Berlin, New York, NY

Asia Argento and Friends, Salo, Paris

2016

Into the Night with Jim Rose and Joe Coleman (Arte TV, Germany), Nantes, France

Killing Time: The Chronology of Creativity in Outsider Art (panel discussion), Outsider Art Fair, New York, NY

2015

The Plutonium Particle Fission Follies (Vaudeville performance with Billy Leroy and Lorraine Leckie), The Slipper Room, New York, NY

The Cruel Tale of the Medicine Man (Feature directed by James Habacker. Joe plays title character in this burlesque horror thriller)

2014

Don Peyote (Feature film by Mike Canzoniero. Joe plays John the Baptist)

2013

One on One (Performance installation), KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin, Germany

2012

Carl Panzram: The Spirit of Hatred and Vengeance (Feature documentary by John Borowski. Interview with and artwork by Joe)

2010

Performance with legendary sideshow impresario Ward Hall Sideshow by the Seashore/Coney Island, NY

2009

Derring Do (performance), Sideshow by the Seashore/Coney Island, NY
Bit Rare Fiend (Short film directed by Joe), One Dream Rush Film Festival, Beijing, China
Monsterland (TV documentary by Jörg Buttgerreit, Joe appears as a talking head)

2007

Albert Fish (Documentary feature by John Borowski. Interview with and images by Joe)
Lecture at The Mindstates Conference, Costa Rica, Central America
Into the Night with Joe Coleman and Asia Argento (Arte TV, Germany) NYC

2006

Memoirs of My Nervous Illness (Feature film by Julian Hobbs. Joe plays Dr. Moritz Schreber)

2005

Retinal Stigmatics: An Evening with Joe Coleman (Live multi-media event.), Fantasia Festival, Montreal, Canada

2001

Someplace in Nowhere (Joe's "opera" performed with original score by Norwegian band, Motorpsycho), Festpillenne-Bergen International Festival, Bergen, Norway
Someplace in Nowhere (Joe's "opera" performed with original score by Scottish band, The Delgados)
"Outsider Art/Music," The Barbican Centre Theatre, London, England

2000

Scarlet Diva (Feature by Asia Argento. Joe plays a sleazy Hollywood producer based on Harvey Weinstein)

1998

Clayton Patterson Presents: Joe Coleman (Verite' video portrait by Patterson.) M/W/F Video Club, Staten Island, NY
An Audience with the Artist (Q & A at UK launch party for his solo exhibition, Original Sin), The Horse Hospital, London, UK

1997

R.I.P.: Rest in Pieces/A Portrait of Joe Coleman (Feature documentary about Joe Coleman by Robert Pejo.)

1992

Black Hearts Bleed Red (Independent film by Jeri Cain Rossi. Joe plays a major role as "The Misfit.")

1990

Shadows in the City (Feature by Ari Roussimoff. Joe plays "Mephisto.")

1989

Final performance as "Mombooze-o"

Boston Film and Video Foundation, Boston, MA

1988

Mondo New York (Documentary feature by Harvey Keith. Joe is featured doing a preaching geek performance)

Professor Mombooze-o Performance, Hotel Amazon, New York, NY

1985

Where Evil Dwells (Film by David Wojnarowicz and Tommy Turner. Joe plays Satan)

1982

Harmful or Fatal if Swallowed (Film by Manuel Delanda. Joe wrote and did voiceover.)

1981

Professor Mombooze-o Performance, The Kitchen, New York, NY

1980

Ten-year High School Reunion Performance (Joe impersonates deceased class member, Doug Sprag.), Oceanside, L.I, NY.

1979

Raw Nerves (Film by Manuel Delanda, co-written by Joe.)

1978

Incontinence: A Diarrhetic Flow of Mismatches (Film by Manuel Delanda. Joe's first appearance on film as "Professor Mombooze-o.")

Uncle Ted's Ghoul Show (Pennsylvania Cable TV show. Joe cameos as a "monster robot" and "Rondo the Self-decapitating Wonder.")

1977

The Uncle Floyd Show (Joe as "Mad Dog" performs with band The Steel Tips on children's TV show.), New Jersey Cable TV

1976-1980

Joe performs with his band The Steel Tips.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

A Doorway to Joe: The Art of Joe Coleman, Fantagraphics, 2024

The Book of Joe: The Art of Joe Coleman, 2003, Limited edition with hand-made etching, published by Last Gasp and La Luz de Jesus books

Joe Coleman: Internal Digging, 2007, published by KW Institute of Contemporary Art in Berlin Germany, Foreword by Susanne Pfeffer

Original Sin: The Visionary Art of Joe Coleman, 1997, With essays by Jim Jarmusch, Harold Schechter, John Yau, Heck Editions

Joe Coleman's Muzzlers, Guzzlers and Good Yeggs, 2006, From Publisher's Weekly, published by Fantagraphics Books

The Man of Sorrows, 1993, Limited edition collector's piece

Cosmic Retribution: The Infernal Art of Joe Coleman, 1992, Edited by Adam Parfrey and Pat Moriarity

Joe Coleman: Auto-Portrait, Catalogue raisonné for Simon Dickinson Exhibition of the same name

The Mystery of Wolverine Woo-Bait, 2004, published by Fantagraphics Books

COLLECTIONS

Museum of Everything, London

Spencer Art Museum, Lawrence, Kansas