

# Daily Paintings Offer an Artistic Timeline of the President's

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This is what over 2,000 Barack Obamas look like.

Artist Rob Pruitt, known for his panda paintings and his 90s performance piece Cocaine Buffet, is probably one of the few Americans—excluding those who work at the

White House or for Fox News—who wakes up each morning thinking about Obama. Since the president's inauguration in 2009, the New York-based artist, whose work often juxtaposes sincerity and parody, has spent 15 minutes each day creating a 2'x2' oil painting of the president. Today, Pruitt and the Museum Of Contemporary Art Detroit (MOCAD) will unveil *The Obama Paintings*, along with his unique take on government memorials, *The Lincoln Monument*.



Detail on Obama painting, courtesy of Rob Pruitt.

Still unfinished, Pruitt's project will wrap up in 2016 to coincide with the end of Obama's presidency. At this point, his paintings will number 2,922—one for each day of Obama's time in office. A work-in-progress, Pruitt hoped that the installation would take on new meaning as each canvas was added. Once completed, Pruitt will have painted a

complex portrait of the Obama legacy, one micro-moment at a time.



Installation shot courtesy of Rob Pruitt.



*The Lincoln Monument*, by Rob Pruitt. Image courtesy of Mark Woods.

The second piece on display, *The Lincoln Monument*, consists of

200,000 pennies  
stacked into three  
copper painted truck  
tires, an homage to  
history's legacy of  
monetizing the mugs  
of our most esteemed  
leaders. According to  
a rep for Pruitt, "Both  
works serve as  
monuments in  
themselves, as well as  
examinations of  
presidential  
monuments in  
general." The two  
works will be on view  
through August 2nd,  
2015 in Detroit. Those  
on the east coast  
hoping to catch some  
of Pruitt's  
Obama-mania can  
also visit his current  
survey at [The Brant  
Foundation Art Study](#)  
Center in Greenwich,