



Curtis Talwst Santiago

Moving through burning haze

April 1-May 13, 2023

COOPER COLE is pleased to present *Moving through burning haze*, an exhibition of the work of Curtis Talwst Santiago. This is the artist's first solo exhibition at the gallery.

Santiago works in multiple media to examine questions of memory, ancestry, and diasporic imagination. His works weave historical, familial, and speculative narratives together to question colonial frameworks and celebrate forgotten forms of knowledge.

This exhibition presents a series of recent works that pay respect to Santiago's parents as familial teachers of Trinidadian traditions. The artist is particularly interested in how this knowledge is transferred, becomes embodied, and lives on in the diaspora.

Through drawing, painting, and sculpture, Santiago reflects on the cultural practices that his parents taught him about, as well as his own experiences of visiting Trinidad, while employing imagination to connect the migratory narrative dots.

Moving through burning haze depicts Trinidadian carnival, its celebratory practices, and related stories from a diasporic perspective. Featured centrally in the works, the Jab Jab character in the J'Ouvert parade appears as someone spirited, exuberant, and potentially sinister. To reflect on the nuances of this character, Santiago has drawn dozens of portraits that meditate on Jab Jab's depth and multiplicity, and how he is used as an instructional figure. In his larger paintings and sculptural works, Santiago explores carnival's embodied dynamism and the collision of history, ritual, and myth.



Curtis Talwst Santiago (b. 1979, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada) studied as an apprentice of Lawrence Paul Yuxweluptun and at the New York Studio School. He has completed several residencies including Black Rock Senegal, Pioneer Works Brooklyn, and at the University of Tennessee. Santiago has exhibited internationally at museums such as the Art Gallery of Alberta, Edmonton, The Drawing Center, New York; The FLAG Art Foundation, New York; The New Museum, New York; The Eli and Edythe Broad Museum at Michigan State University, East Lansing; the Institute of Contemporary Art at Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond; the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan; The Pérez Art Museum Miami; Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto; and the SCAD Museum of Art, Savannah; among others. The artist was included in the inaugural 2019 Toronto Biennial of Art in Toronto, Canada, the SITE Santa Fe SITELines.2018 Biennial, *Casa Tomada*, in Santa Fe, NM, and was featured in the 2018 Biennale de Dakar in Dakar, Senegal. Santiago lives and works in Munich, Germany.



Curtis Santiago
The Places We Will Come and Will be From, 2017- ongoing
Spray paint, oil, charcoal, pastel, acrylic, laces and grommets on canvas
100 x 144 in (254 x 365.8 cm)
C.Sa0035



Curtis Santiago
Untitled, 2022

Spray paint, oil, charcoal, pastel and acrylic on canvas
59 x 102.37 in (149.9 x 260 cm)
C.Sa0034



Curtis Santiago
Untitled, 2019
Acrylic on canvas
35 x 63 in (88.9 x 160 cm)
C.Sa0037



Curtis Santiago
Untitled, 2019
Acrylic on Canvas
30 x 30 in (76.2 x 76.2 cm)
C.Sa0038



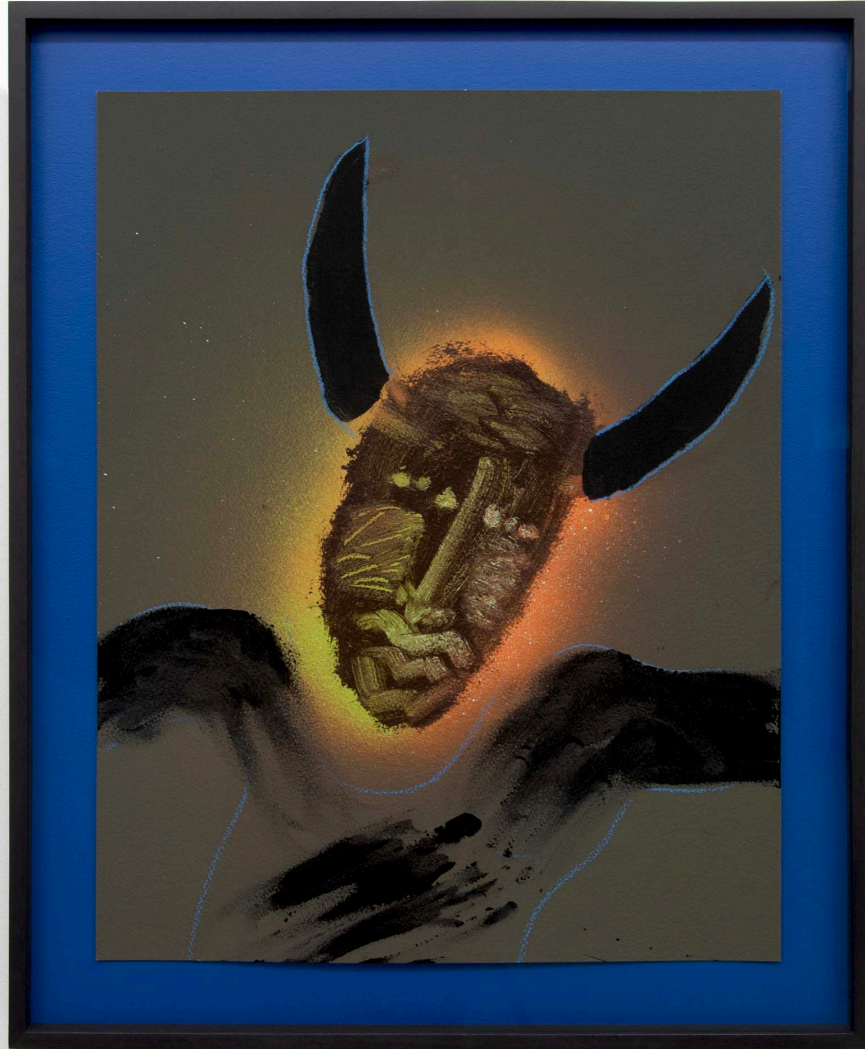
Curtis Santiago
Jab Molassie Posse, 2022
Mixed Media on paper
18 x 14 in (45.7 x 35.6 cm)
C.Sa0041
Framed



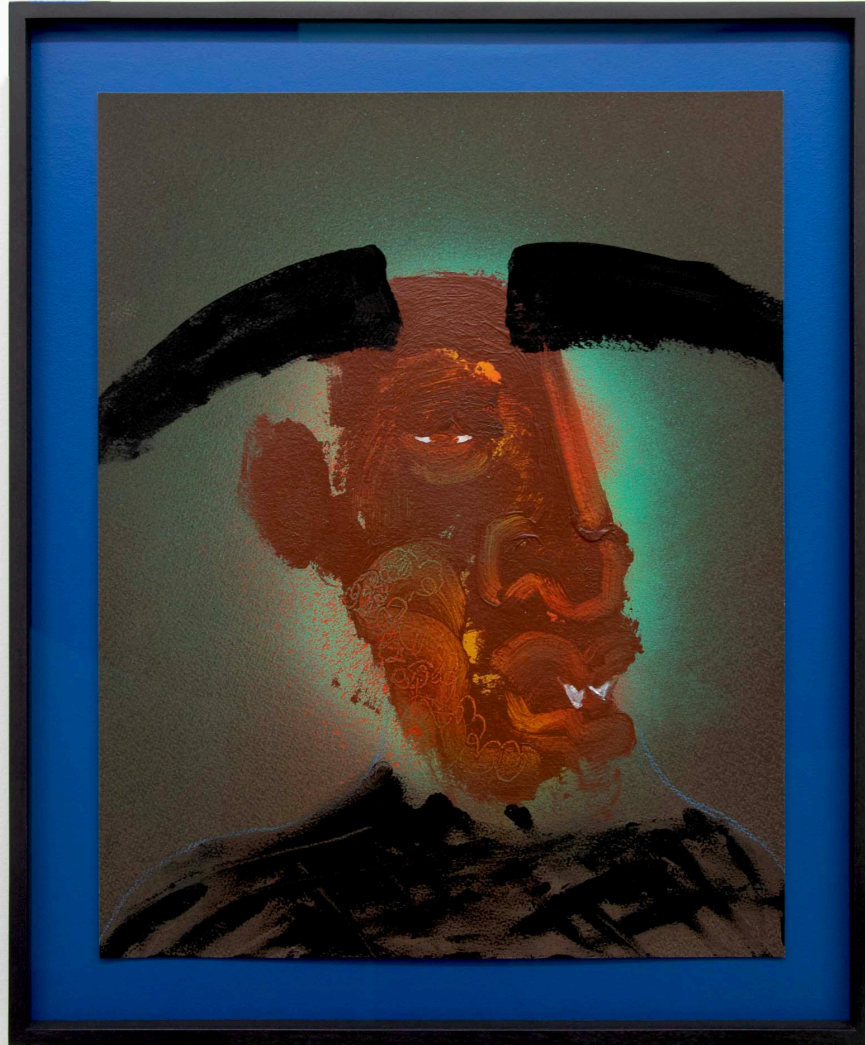
Curtis Santiago
Jab Molassie Posse, 2022
Mixed Media on paper
18 x 14 in (45.7 x 35.6 cm)
C.Sa0058
Framed



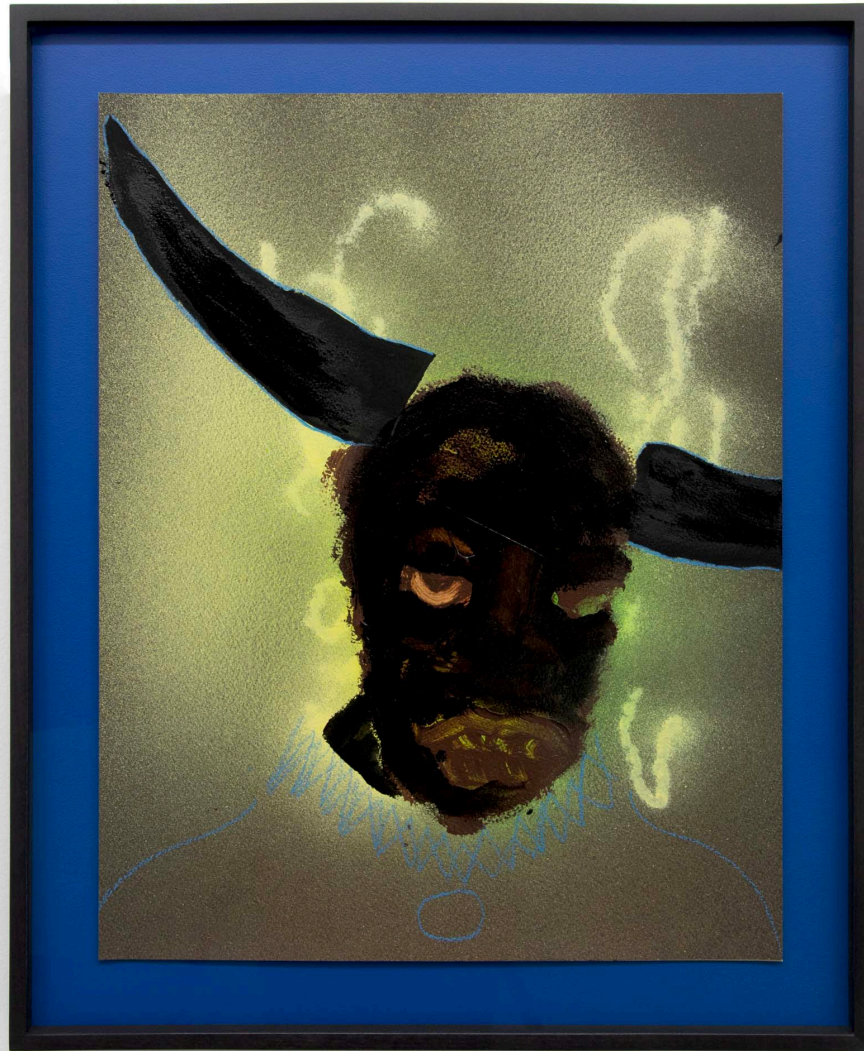
Curtis Santiago
Jab Molassie Posse, 2022
Mixed Media on paper
18 x 14 in (45.7 x 35.6 cm)
C.Sa0059
Framed



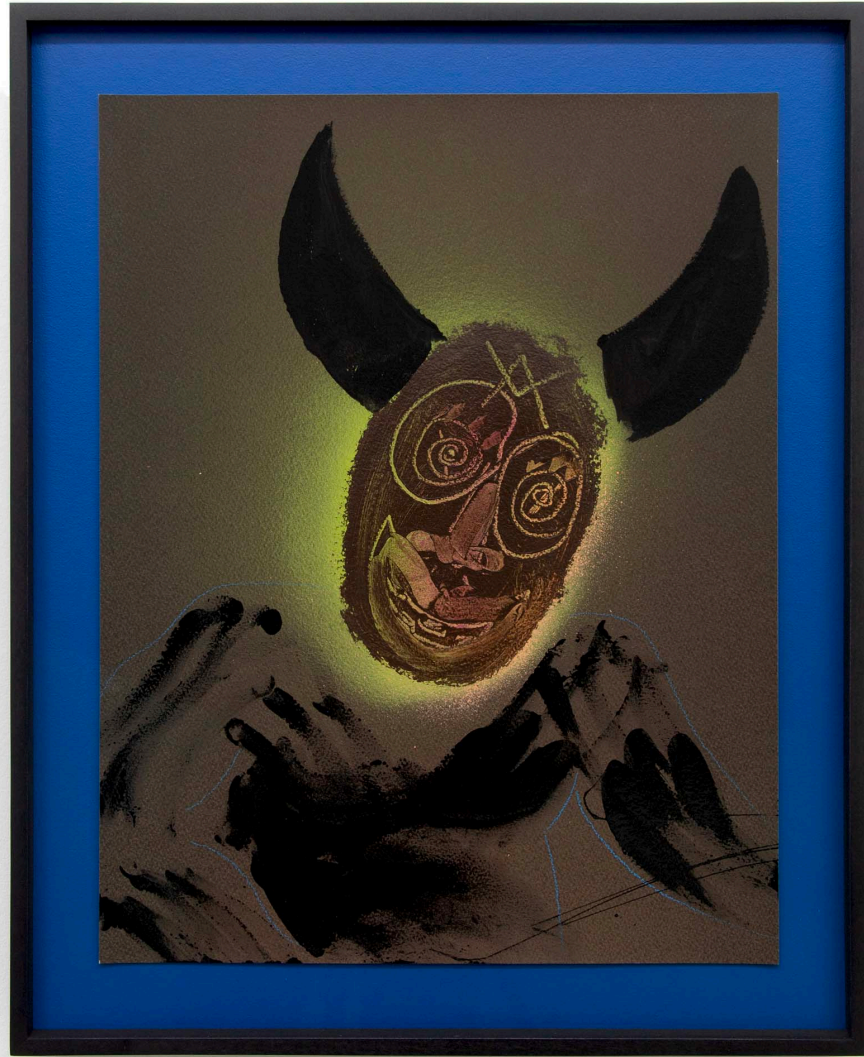
Curtis Santiago
Jab Molassie Posse, 2022
Mixed Media on paper
18 x 14 in (45.7 x 35.6 cm)
C.Sa0063
Framed



Curtis Santiago
Jab Molassie Posse, 2022
Mixed Media on paper
18 x 14 in (45.7 x 35.6 cm)
C.Sa0070
Framed



Curtis Santiago
Jab Molassie Posse, 2022
Mixed Media on paper
18 x 14 in (45.7 x 35.6 cm)
C.Sa0089
Framed



Curtis Santiago
Jab Molassie Posse, 2022
Mixed Media on paper
18 x 14 in (45.7 x 35.6 cm)
C.Sa0095
Framed



Curtis Santiago
Jab Molassie Posse, 2022
Mixed Media on paper
18 x 14 in (45.7 x 35.6 cm)
C.Sa0098
Framed



Curtis Santiago
Jab Women, Jab Jab Posse, 2023
Mixed media in reclaimed jewelry box
3.5 x 2.5 x 2.5 in (8.9 x 6.4 x 6.4 cm)
C.Sa0100



Curtis Talwst Santiago

Born 1979, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

Lives and works in Munich, Germany

Education

- 2017 New York Studio School, New York, USA
- 2010 Apprenticeship with Lawrence Paul Yuxweluptun, Vancouver, Canada
- 2007 Emily Carr Fine Arts (Drawing and Painting), Vancouver, Canada

Solo Exhibitions

- 2023 *Jab Jab Auction*, Cooper Cole Gallery, Toronto, Canada
Nir Altman, Munich, Germany (*forthcoming*)
ATC Gallery, Tenerife, Canary Islands (*forthcoming*)
Capsule Gallery Shanghai, curated by Capsule Gallery and Megan Connolly (*forthcoming*)
- 2022 *Pay de Devil Brang! Brang! Pay de Devil*, Art Gallery of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada (curated by Lindsey Sharman)
- 2021 *Seeing Angels (Vedendo gli angeli)*, Martina Simeti, Milano, Italy
- 2020 *Can't I Alter*, The Drawing Center, New York, USA
an erratum, Rachel Uffner Gallery, New York, USA
Infinity Series, The Rooms, St. John's, Canada
Frieze London, solo presentation with Rachel Uffner Gallery
- 2018 *By Sea*, Rachel Uffner Gallery, New York, USA
Minimized Histories II, curated by Carla Acevedo-Yates, Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, Michigan State University, East Lansing, USA
- 2017 *Constructing Return*, curated by Magdalyn Asimakis, University of Saskatchewan College Art Galleries, Saskatoon, Canada
Exceeding Return, Gallery MOMO, Johannesburg, South Africa
HISTORY BOX OFFICE, curated by Nicolas Etchenagucia, Analix Forever Gallery, Geneva, Switzerland
- 2016 *Curtis Talwst Santiago: Drawings and Miniatures*, Rachel Uffner Gallery, New York, USA
iAPM exhibition, curated By Imagine Lab, Shanghai, China

- Spring Break Art Fair*, curated by Ambre Kelly & Andrew Gori), New York, USA
- 2015 *Dock Art Fair*, Lyon, France
History of Touch, Angell Gallery, Toronto, Canada
Talwst Outside, Convenience Gallery, Toronto, Canada
Nubians, Drake Hotel, Toronto, Canada
Minimized Histories: Marginalization and unrest in Talwst's infinity series, curated by Stuart Keeler & Kendra Ainsworth, Art Gallery of Mississauga, Mississauga, Canada
- 2012 *Death of Swag*, Fuse Gallery, New York, USA
- 2011 *Artageous 3*, Partners in Art and the AGO, Toronto, Canada
- 2010 *Swagged Out*, Chuck Akudu Gallery, Toronto, Canada
The Works Art & Design Festival, Edmonton, Canada
- 2009 *Troubadour*, The Drake General Store, Toronto, Canada
- 2008 *Paintings by Curtis Santiago*, Grace Gallery, Vancouver, Canada

Two-Person and Group Exhibitions

- 2022 *Night Painting*, Philip Martin Gallery, Los Angeles, USA
 Digital Arts Resource Centre, Ottawa, ON
These Are Some of My Favorite Things, curated by Michael Sherman GAVLAK Gallery, Los Angeles, USA
Atlantic World Art Fair in partnership with Artsy presented by Suzy Wong, Kingston, Jamaica
Dak'Art Biennale, Black Rock Artist Exhibition, Dakar, Senegal
FOG Art & Design, CULT (with Aimee Friberg Exhibitions), San Francisco, USA
- 2021 *Jahresgaben*, Kunstverein München e.V., Munich, Germany
FIAC International Contemporary Art Fair, Paris, France
Everyday Secrets, Luce Gallery, Turin, Italy (Curated by Mosie Romney)
PLATFORM, Online Exhibition hosted by David Zwirner – May
- 2019 *occupy and echo (a stage)*, curated by Tom Polo, Reading Room, Melbourne, Australia
Toronto Biennial of Art, curated by Candice Hopkins and Tairone Bastien, Toronto, Canada
Lararium, Deli Gallery, Brooklyn, USA

- Present Passing: South by Southeast*, curated by Patrick D. Flores and Natasha Becker, Osage Art Foundation, Hong Kong, China
A Seed's a Star, curated by Constance Tenvik, Loyal Gallery, Stockholm, Sweden
Vernacular Interior, curated by Adeze Wilford, Hales New York, New York, USA
Dime-Store Alchemy, The FLAG Art Foundation, New York, USA
Multi Layered Surfaces, Embassy of Canada, Prince Takamado Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
Whispers That Got Away, curated by Atelier Céladon, SBC Gallery, Montreal, Canada
All About Frank, curated by Arielle De St. Phalle and Taylor Roy, SPRING/BREAK Art Fair Art Show at OLD SCHOOL, New York, USA
Through That Which Is Seen, curated by Andrea Antonaccio-Wagner, Palo Alto Art Center, Palo Alto, USA
Legacy of the Cool: A Tribute to Barkley L. Hendricks, Bakalar & Paine Galleries at Mass Art, Boston, USA
Yard Show, curated by Marcus Jahmal, SHRINE, New York, US-
A2018 *SITELines Biennial*, curated by Ruba Katrib, Candice Hopkins, and José Luis Blondet, Santa Fe, USA
Exile Pavilion, Biennale de Dakar, curated by Marie Deparis and Mounir Fatmi, French Institute of Saint-Louis, Senegal
Ten Years, Rachel Uffner Gallery, New York, USA
- 2017 *Through the people we are looking at ourselves*, with Tau Lewis, Cooper Cole Gallery, Toronto, Canada
Triggered, curated by Johanna Burton, Natalie Bell and Sara O'Keeffe, New Museum, New York, USA
1:54 African Art Fair, with Momo Gallery, London, England
Declaration, Contemporary Art (ICA), curated by Stephanie Smith, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, USA
Regarding the Figure, curated by Eric Booker, Connie H. Choi, Hal-lie Ringle and Doris Zhao, Studio Museum of Harlem, New York, USA
Nada Art Fair Basel, with Rachel Uffner Gallery, Miami, USA

- Museum of Capitalism, curated by Andrea Steves & timothy Furst-
nau, Oakland, USA
Every. Now. Then: Reframing Nationhood, Art Gallery of Ontario,
Toronto, Canada
Spots, Dots, Pips, Tiles, curated by Arden Sherman,
Pérez Art Museum, Miami, USA
- 2016 *Spots, Dots, Pips, Tiles*, curated by Arden Sherman, Hunter
College East Gallery, New York, USA
Power to the People, curated by Daisuke Takeya, Earth Plus
Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
Truth and Power, curated by Jamila Hooker, Arch Enemy Art
Gallery, Philadelphia, USA
The Mecca, curated by Ray McAuliffe, JCT Gallery, Toronto, Cana-
da
Onion by the Ocean, curated by Essye Klempner, Underdonk,
Brooklyn, USA
- 2015 *Built, World*, SCAD Museum of Art, Savannah, USA
A Constellation, The Studio Museum, New York, USA
Ghost Van Installation, Scotia Bank Nuit Blanche, Toronto, Canada
A to Z, Galerie White Project, Paris, France
Massive 11, (Artistic Director & features artist), Art Gallery of On-
tario, Toronto, Canada
- 2014 *Lanmo*, Toronto International Art Fair, (Performance Piece
commissioned by the AGO), Toronto, Canada
Artifacts/Lanscapes, OCAD Student Gallery, Toronto, Canada
Control, Hunt Club Gallery, Toronto, Canada
To Store and Organize Materials, (Juried), Gag Bit Vinyl, Brooklyn,
USA
Massive 10, (Juried), Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, Canada
- 2013 *Little Salon*, Walnut Contemporary, Toronto, Canada
Bombay Sapphire Artisan Series Finalist, (Juried), RUSH Arts, New
York, USA
Annual Manifesto Festival Art Exhibition, Toronto, Canada
Mama Birding, Communications Art Gallery, Toronto, Canada
Mama Birding, Loom Galler, Brooklyn, USA
- 2011 *Good to See You*, Drake Hotel, Toronto, Canada
7 Senses, 7 For All Man Kind, Toronto, Canada

- 2010 *The Cheaper Show no.10*, Vancouver, Canada
Winter Interlude, Angell Gallery, Toronto, Canada
Live Painting Performance, Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver, Canada
The Cheaper Show no.9, Vancouver, Canada
Vancouver Olympic Art galleries, curated by Rachel Zottenberg, Vancouver, Canada
- 2009 *The Cheaper Show no.8*, Vancouver, Canada
Cape Town Shake Down, Studio Gallery, Toronto, Canada

Public Art

- 2022 Woodbine Expansion, Permanent Public Art Commission, Toronto, Canada (in fabrication)
- 2021 *THE GATE*, Public Art Installation, Hamburg, Germany (curated by Ellen Blumenstein as part of IMAGINE THE CITY)
- 2019 *J'Ouvert Temple*, Public Art installation for Toronto Biennial, Toronto, Canada

Grants/Awards

- 2020 Canada Council for the Arts, Digital Grant
- 2019 Canada Council for the Arts, Explore and Create Concept to Realization
- 2018 Canada Council for the Arts, Explore and Create Concept to Realization
- 2014 Ontario Arts Council Emerging Artist Grant
- 2011 Canada Council Travel Grants to Professional Artists
- 2010 Scion Artist Session Grant
- 2005 FACTOR Independent Sound Recording Grant
 FACTOR Showcase Grant
- 2003 CBC Galaxy Rising Star Award
 FACTOR Emerging Artist Sound Recording Grant
 FACTOR Marketing Grant for Sound Recording

Residencies

- 2023 Banff Centre for the Arts, Banff, AB Canada
Fountainhead Residency, Miami, USA
- 2022 University of Tennessee, Knoxville, AIR and Visiting Professor
- 2021 Black Rock Senegal, Dakar
- 2019 Palazzo Monti Residencia, Brescia, Italy
- 2018 Hangar, Lisbon, Portugal
- 2017 Analix Forever Gallery, Geneva, Switzerland
Museum of Capitalism, Oakland, USA
Gallery MOMO, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2016 Pioneer Works, Red Hook, USA
- 2015 Roots And Branches, Art Gallery of Mississauga & Ontario Trillium
Foundation Education programme with Peel District School Board
- 2014 Roots And Branches, Art Gallery of Mississauga & Ontario Trillium
Foundation Education programme with Peel District School Board

Bibliography

- 2022 Kate Brown, "To Make His Pocket-Sized Artworks, Curtis Talwst Santiago Needs Silence. But Things Get Loud When He Goes Into Painting Mode" Artnet News, Feb 15
- 2021 Jesse Boykins III, "Art Lessons: Fathers on Art and Parenthood" Platform Art
Valentina Di Liscia, "Artists Contribute to a Coloring Book Benefiting the Black Painters Academy, Hyperallergic, Feb
"Smaller is beautiful: the tiny but triumphant comeback of art miniatures", The Financial Times, Feb
Denise Balkissoon, "Alberta's Curtis Talwst Santiago Makes Tiny Art That Invokes Big Feelings", Chatelaine, Jan
- 2020 Fish Griwkowsky "Curtis Talwst Santiago - Exhibition of miniature dioramas turns up the Caribbean party heat", Galleries West, Nov
Interviews "Curtis Talwst Santiago on Drawing Online and Building Exhibitions during a Pandemic", Canadian Art, Oct
The Drawing Center, Drawing Papers 141: Curtis Talwst Santiago "Can't I Alter", Oct
Preston Pavlis, Latitude 53 "That Joy and Rage: An Interview with

- Curtis Talwst Santiago”, Sep
Chris Hampton, “Multimedia artist Curtis Santiago explores his ancestry using a time-travelling alter-ego”, The Globe and Mail, Mar
Osman Can Yerebakan, “Artist Curtis Talwst Santiago Introduces an Alter Ego to Help Navigate the Past”, Observer, Feb
Johanna Fateman, “Goings on About Town, ART, Curtis Talwst Santiago”, The New Yorker, Feb
Magdalyn Asimakis “Curtis Talwst Santiago Can’t I Alter”, Brooklyn Rail, May
- 2019 CBC Radio “q” with Tom Power - Artist Curtis Talwst Santiago on creating tiny worlds inside of vintage jewelry boxes, November
- 2018 CBC Documentary “In the Making” Season 1, Episode 7 featuring Curtis Talwst Santiago
Jillian Steinhauer, “What to See in New York Art Galleries This Week”, The New York Times, July 17
Kathleen Roberts, “Broken Boundaries”, Albuquerque Journal, July 13
Ayasha Guerin, “Black Passages: Curtis Talwst Santiago interviewed by Ayasha Guerin, BOMB Magazine, June 12
Claire Selvin, “Here’s the Artist List for the 2018 Edition of SITE lines”, ARTNews, May 14
Loney Abrams, “8 Show-Stopping Artworks at Frieze for Under \$10 000”, Artspace Magazine, May 4
“The Twenty-Five”, Cultured Magazine, pg. 75, May/June
Andrea K Scott, “A Secret Exhibit That’s Better Than an Art Fair”, The New Yorker, March 14
- 2017 Charles Reeve, “Tau Lewis, Curtis Santiago and Daniel Rios Rodriguez”, Frieze, September 1
Tyler Akers, “Trigger: Gender as a Tool and a Weapon”, GAYLETTER, August
Gabrielle Moser, “Critics Pick, Tau Lewsi and Curtis Santiago”, Artforum, August
Terence Dick, “Tau Lewis & Curtis Santiago at Cooper Cole”, Akimbo, August
- 2016 Mira Dayal, “Drawing a Line: ‘A Constellation’ at the Studio Museum in Harlem”, Art Critical, April 16
Cristina Vatulescu, “Art and Law Enforcement in a Ring Box:

- Talwst's Miniature Aesthetic Revolution", The Brooklyn Rail, Mar 4
- Jillian Steinhauer, "Spring/Break, A Sprawling Alternative Art Fair that Delivers", Hyperallergic, March 3
- Alexandra Fowle, "Didn't my Lord Deliver Daniel?", The Brooklyn Rail, February 3
- 2015
- Alice Newell-Hanson, "Talwst Recreates Miniature Historical Atrocities in Antique Jewelry Boxes", Vic i-D, December 3
- Jeff Hamamda, "Ring box Dioramas by Talwst", www.booooooom.com, Vancouver, Canada
- "Talwst's tiny boxes are making a big mark on the art world", CBC Arts, November 4
- Katie Lawson, "Talwst: The History on Touches at Angell Gallery", ARToronto.ca, October
- Genista, "Artist Talwst Makes Unique Miniature Worlds Inside Antique Ring Boxes", Beautiful/Decay, May 5
- Adam Lehrer, "Canadian-Trinidadian Mixed-Media Artist Talwst Explores Art History in a Fresh Context", Forbes, April 29
- Daniel Otis, "The Miniature World of Talwst: Toronto's lord of the ring boxes", The Toronto Star (print), March 20
- Nastia Voynovskya, "Talwst's Miniature Dioramas Comment on Contemporary Culture", Hi-Furctose, March 10
- Kathryn Bromwich, "The Imaginative Ring-Box Art of Talwst", The Guardian, March 7
- 2012
- Aaron Berger, "Swagged Out" www.beautifuldecay.com, Los Angeles, California
- Lauren Festa, "Death of swag" Opening Reception at Fuse Gallery New York City, thinkcontra.com/death-of-swag, New York, New York
- Cedar Pasori, TALWST's "Death of Swag" Exhibit Opening at NYC's Fuse Gallery, complexmag.ca, New York, New York
- Saskia Channel, TALWST, www.dreamsofconsciousness.com, Georgia, United States
- Zoe Pawlak, I Am Jealous of Talwst, thejealouscurator.com
- 2011
- Natalie Ast, 7 Artists 7 Senses 7 for all mankind, Women's Post, Toronto, Ontario



- Andrew Wallace, A Restless Creator Finds Inspiration in Street Art, Toronto, Ontario
Papillion Institute of Art, Arte: Curtis Santiago, www.artezine.posterous.com, Los Angeles, California
- 2010 Featured Visual Artist, Curtis Santiago, Skewed09, Vancouver, British Columbia
Lexa Naicu, interview, Getting to Know Curtis Santiago in Almost 21 Questions, www.skewedmagazine.com, Vancouver, British Columbia
- 2009 Steve Shon, In Music: Curtis Santiago, TCHAD
- 2004 Martin Turenne, Curtis Santiago, www.straight.com, Vancouver, British Columbia
- 2003 Tim Lee, An Essay on Curtis Santiago, Cahier D'activite (No.2 Winter Issue), Vancouver, British Columbia

Public Collections

College Art Galleries, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Canada
Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, USA
The Wedge Collection, Toronto, Canada