

# HYPERALLERGIC

## ARTICLES

### **From Kass and Kruger to Koons, Artists Overwhelmingly Endorse Clinton for President**

Hillary Clinton appears to be artists' favorite in the 2016 US presidential election, while her opponent Donald Trump has not been endorsed by a single well-known artist.

Carey Dunne | November 4, 2016



Hillary Clinton at the Brown and Black Presidential Forum at Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa, on January 11, 2016

(photo by Gage Skidmore, via Wikimedia Commons)

Throughout her decades-long career in public service, Hillary Clinton has been an unwavering champion of arts and culture. As First Lady, in a 1997 speech calling for revitalization of public and private support for culture, Clinton described the arts as “essential ... to the endurance of our democratic values of tolerance, pluralism, and freedom.” Her track record demonstrates a deep commitment to this belief.

In 1999, Clinton won the Americans for the Arts' National Arts Award for Arts Advocacy for her work as First Lady. This work included helping inaugurate Save America's Treasures, a federal program to preserve historically significant buildings, artworks, documents, and more; and fighting for the arts during the Culture Wars. As a Senator for New York, Clinton co-sponsored bills establishing a National Museum of African American History and Culture, a National Women's History Museum, and a National Museum of the American Latino Community. As Secretary of State, she wrote a short piece for Vanity Fair about the Art in Embassies program:

Art is also a tool of diplomacy. It reaches beyond governments, past the conference rooms and presidential palaces, to help us connect with more people in more places. It is a universal language in our search for common ground, an expression of our shared humanity.

It's not surprising, then, that Clinton has much of the art world's vote. Wikipedia's long list of "notable individuals" who have endorsed Clinton for president this year includes a whole section devoted to painters, sculptors, graphic designers, photographers, and performance artists.

Clinton's opponent, meanwhile, represents a threat to basic freedoms of expression — artistic or otherwise. In April, the Republican nominee revealed much about his attitude toward artists when he threatened to sue an illustrator for drawing a nude portrait of him with a small penis. Though he's served as a nightmarish muse for many, Donald Trump does not appear to have been endorsed by a single well-known artist.

With the end of this miserable election cycle just days away — in case you're somehow still making up your mind — here is a partial list of the artists, designers, and photographers who want you to vote for Clinton.

## Deborah Kass

This summer, feminist Pop artist Deborah Kass debuted "Vote Hillary," a screenprint inspired by Andy Warhol's "Vote McGovern," made during the 1972 election, which featured Republican candidate Richard Nixon's dour face. Kass was one of many artists who donated work to Gagosian's "Art for Hillary Auction 2016," a benefit sale that raised money for Clinton's presidential campaign.



Deborah Kass, "Vote Hillary" (2016)  
(image via @deborahkass/Instagram)