

Tommy Bobo
705 Oglethorpe St NW
Washington, DC 20011

tommy@iamtommybobo.com
785-218-9654

Born 1983, Aiken, SC

Education

2014 MFA Studio Art, Mount Royal School of Art, MICA, Baltimore, MD
2006 BFA Studio Art, Expanded Media, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS

Solo Exhibitions and Public Art

2020 *the distance between you and I*, Hamiltonian Gallery, Washington, DC
2019 *Lighthouse*, Rhizome, Washington, DC
2017 *Too Count So High*, Old Walter Reed Campus, Washington, DC

Exhibitions

2019 *New. Now.*, Hamiltonian Gallery, Washington, DC
40th Anniversary Show, School 33, Baltimore, MD
Washington Project for the Arts (WPA) Art Night, Hickok Cole Architects, Washington, DC
2018 *CMD+F*, Hemphill Fine Arts, Washington, DC
Dimensions, The Warehouse, Washington, DC
Les Grandes Etendues, Hamiltonian Gallery, Washington, DC
2017 *Wave and Particle*, School 33, Baltimore, MD
Washington Project for the Arts (WPA) Art Night, Hickok Cole Architects, Washington, DC
Fathom Experiment #4, Dupont Underground, Washington, DC
Interlude, Target Gallery, Alexandria, VA
2015 *This is Light*, Carroll Square Gallery, Washington, DC
2014 *Sondheim Semifinalist Show*, Artscape, Baltimore, MD
Spectrum, CCBC Catonsville Gallery, Baltimore, MD
MICA Grad Show 2014, Meyerhoff Gallery, Baltimore, MD
2013 *3^3*, Riggs and Leidy Galleries, Baltimore, MD
Spring Performance Night, West North 5th, Baltimore, MD
2012 *Mt Royal Fall Show*, Riggs and Leidy Galleries, Baltimore, MD
Performance Night, West North 5th, Baltimore, MD
Adventure Residencies, Flashpoint Gallery, Washington, DC

Awards, Grants and Residencies

2019 Recipient of Hamiltonian Artists Fellowship
Recipient of DCCAHA Artist Fellowship
2018 Recipient of DCCAHA Artist Fellowship
2016 Recipient of DCCAHA Artist Fellowship
2014 Semifinalist for Janet & Walter Sondheim Artscape Prize
Finalist for Hamiltonian Artists Fellowship
Finalist for Toby Lewis Devon Fellowship
2011 Adventure Residency Program: Natural Bridge, VA
Recipient of DCCAHA Young Artist Grant
2010 Recipient of DCCAHA Young Artist Grant

Press

- 2019 *Reviews: Magali Hébert-Huot, Sarah Tanguy, Sculpture.* March/April
Phil Hutinet's 2018 Picks. Phil Hutinet, East City Art. January
- 2018 *Hemphill Fine Arts' Latest Exhibition Might Contain the Best New Local Artwork of the Year.*
Kriston Capps, City Paper. August
CMD + F at Hemphill Fine Arts. Claudia Rousseau, East City Arts. July
In the galleries: Three local artists explore the transient nature of identity. Mark Jenkins,
Washington Post. July
- 2015 *In the galleries: Getting 'Personal' at King Street.* Mark Jenkins, Washington Post. November
Reviewed: 'This Is Light' at Carroll Square Gallery. Louis Jacobson, City Paper. October
Catonsville Times Pictures of the Year. Catonsville Times. January
- 2014 *Sondheim Interviews.* Lou Joseph, Baltimorearts.org, March
- 2010 *32 under 32.* ART (202) Journal, 2010

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Bio

Tommy Bobo was born in the south, fled to the prairie, and settled in the capital. He makes art primarily with lights and computers, but also enjoys watercolors, writing, and video. His work is sometimes about people and history; the ineptitude of technology; or the color of the sky on his walk to work. Tommy received a BFA in Expanded Media Art from the University of Kansas in 2006 and his MFA in Studio Art from the Mount Royal School of Art at the Maryland Institute College of Art in 2014. He has taught art and design at American University and the Maryland Institute College of Art. Along with that he has held many interesting jobs like painting lines in parking lots, candle making, and raising money for the Quaker lobby in DC. He has received funding and support from the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities and Cultural DC. His work has been covered in Sculpture Magazine, the Washington City Paper, and the Washington Post.

Statement

My art training benefited from starting in Kansas. Outsiders complain about the flatness, but Kansans will tell you about the importance of regularly seeing the horizon. Now over a decade removed from Kansas, I still get claustrophobic when I have gone too long without seeing all of the sky. When the sun's light hits the atmosphere, the rays get diffused and scattered across the sky creating that pure blue sky. The light of day is not the single point of the sun, but an illuminated hemisphere that envelops us like a big blue blanket.

All of this is to explain why I love working in the dark. Though my studio is small when the lights are off the space becomes near infinite. Working with light and darkness allows me to create my own horizons and blankets of color. The pieces I make are about amplifying nuance, giving light a physicality that confronts the viewer with something they may have otherwise taken for granted. Through materials that disperse and magnify, my work makes light tangible and produces an experience for the viewer that is a balance between a science fair and the transcendent.