

## Chris Combs

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"[Chris] Combs is a local artist who specializes in work that's savvy to, but also skeptical of, technology. He does gallery shows often, but always with new inventions and often previously unexplored subjects."

—Mark Jenkins, The Washington Post, July 21, 2023

Through handmade and custom-fabricated hardware, software, and enclosures, the electronic sculptures of Chris Combs respond to themes of surveillance, control, and algorithmic bias—and the viewer, using facial recognition and motion sensing. He works with a wide range of practices to create circuit boards, software, and enclosures for his sculptures, which both embrace and question technology.

Chris Combs is an artist based in Washington, D.C and Mount Rainier, Maryland whose sculptural artworks both incorporate and question technologies. His show *Supercycle* (IA&A at Hillyer, 2023) invoked cycles of hype, such as "AI" and cryptocurrencies. *The Next Big Thing* (MoCA Arlington Innovation Studio, 2024) recreated Hokusai's *Great Wave off Kanagawa* with E-waste that reacted to visitors' faces and movements. *Outsized Effects* (Gradient Projects, Thomas, WV, 2023–4) included the room-sized *Allegheny Data Company*, examining data mining through the visual lens of coal mining. *Industry Standards* (McLean Project for the Arts, 2023) featured 18 works of reclaimed industrial components, reflecting on surveillance and environmental destruction. *Madness Method*, a public art collaboration with David Greenfieldboyce, was part of 2021's Georgetown GLOW. He has shown at VisArts, DC Arts Center, Rhizome DC, and other DC-area institutions.

### Solo Exhibitions

- **Desperate Remedy/Little Ones.** Washington Pavilion, Sioux Falls, SD. July 2026–Jan 2027
- **Desperate Remedy/Little Ones.** APEX Gallery, SDSMT, Rapid City, SD. Jan–Mar 2026
- **Desperate Remedy/Little Ones.** Ruddell Gallery, BHSU, Spearfish, SD. Oct–Nov 2025
- **The Next Big Thing.** MoCA Arlington Innovation Studio, Arlington, VA. April 2024
- **Outsized Effects.** Gradient Projects, Thomas, WV. Dec 2023–May 2024
- **Pollination.** Freight Gallery, Washington, D.C. November 2023
- **Supercycle.** IA&A at Hillyer, Washington, D.C. July 2023
- **Reinvention Garage.** Arlington Art Truck, VA. June–July 2023
- **Refactoring.** Prince George's Publick Playhouse, MD. May–July 2023
- **Industry Standards.** McLean Project for the Arts, VA. Apr–June 2023
- **The Algorithm Will See You Now.** Transformer, Washington, D.C. July 2022
- **Lossiness.** VisArts, Rockville, MD. Sep–Oct 2021
- **Maelstrom.** Rhizome DC, Washington, D.C. Jan–Feb 2021
- **Judging Me Judging You.** DC Arts Center, Washington, D.C. April–August 2018

### Solo Exhibitions (Collaborations)

- **Unforeseen (with Ceci Cole McInturff).** VisArts, Rockville, MD. May–July 2025
- **Sylvan (with Ceci Cole McInturff).** Freight Gallery, Washington, D.C.. March 2025

### Permanent Public Artworks

- **Periscopes (2025).** The Stacks in Buzzard Point, southwest Washington DC

### Temporary Public Artworks

- **Georgetown GLOW.** Work: *MADNESS METHOD* (with David Greenfieldboyce). April–June 2021

## Selected Group Exhibitions

- **Gleaners.** Work: *1.5 Degrees*. Washington Studio School. Mar–Apr 2026
- **Finders Keepers.** Work: *Insert 25 Cents, Elysium*. DC CAH HQ. April–May 2026
- **Critical Ground: Art and Environmental Justice**. Glen Echo, MD. Feb–Mar 2026
- **Humanist Touch: Works from the Weber Collection.** A.U. Museum, Washington, DC. Feb–May 2026
- **Influencer.** Five works. Revolve, Asheville, NC, February 2026
- **Continuum.** Work: *Orb Pro*. Athenaeum, Alexandria, VA. Jan–Mar 2026
- **ARTificial.** Work: *Orb Mini*. Maryland Art Place, Baltimore, MD.. Jan–Mar 2026
- **Future Continuous.** Work: *Insert 25 Cents*. CFEVA, Philadelphia, PA. Jan–Mar 2026
- **Future Finds.** Work: *Forever Peanuts*. Bathers Library, Oakland, CA. Jan–Feb 2026
- **STEAM Engine.** Work: *Backdriven (Driven Back)*. Rhizome DC. December 2025
- **Where Energy Meets Matter.** Works: *Impressions*, G.S.G. Frederick Arts Council, MD. Nov ‘25–Feb ‘26
- **PhotoGenesis 2.** Works: *S(p)lash, Elysium*. MPA, McLean, VA. Nov ‘25–Feb ‘26
- **Illusion and Transformation, PG Juried.** Work: *Black Box*. Montpelier, MD. Nov ‘25–Jan ‘26
- **D.I.Y. in the District.** Work: *Digital Daguerreotype*. MLK Library, Washington, DC. Oct–Dec 2025
- **Vox Populi XX.** Work: *Flux (Deprecated)*. Vox Populi, Philadelphia, PA. July–Aug 2025
- **Sculpture Invitational.** Work: *Pollination, Daybreak, Backdriven*. Montpelier, P.G., MD. June–July ‘25
- **Radius 2025.** Work: *Elysium*. Delaware Contemporary, Wilmington, DE. June–Aug 2025
- **Outdoor Sculpture Invitational.** Work: *Board/Bits*. Adkins Arboretum in Ridgely, MD. June–Sept. ‘25
- **Beauty is What We’re Fighting For.** Work: *S(p)lash*. Cade Art Gallery, Arnold, MD. May–July ‘25
- **2025 National Juried.** Work: *Insert 25 Cents, Echo Chamber*. Delaplaine Arts Center. May–July 2025
- **2025 Mid-Atlantic Juried.** Work: *Fake Plastic Trees*. McGuffey Art Center, Charlottesville, VA. May ‘25
- **Remembering Joette.** Work: *Feeling Lucky*. DC Arts Center. April 2025
- **Public Sauce.** Four works. Gallery 102, GWU, Washington, D.C. March 2025
- **14th Annual Juried.** Work: *Past Snows, Campfire*. Marshall University, Huntington, WV. Mar–Apr ‘25
- **Fragments.** Work: *Flux (Deprecated)*. Annmarie Sculpture Garden, Solomons, MD. Feb–Apr 2025
- **The District 51 Art Show.** Work: *S(p)lash, Daybreak*. Touchstone, Washington, D.C. Jan–Feb 2025
- **Run to the Light!** Work: *Echo Chamber, Scream Into the Void*. Tiger Strikes Asteroid, PHL. Jan–Feb ‘25
- **A Sense of Place.** Work: *Past Snows, Refugium*. Harmony Hall, Fort Washington, MD. Dec ‘24–Jan ‘25
- **CONFAB.** Works: *Point of Sale, Fake Plastic Trees, Insert 25 Cents*. Washington Studio School. Nov ‘24
- **Art Maryland Biennial.** Work: *Daybreak*. Howard County Center for the Arts, MD. Oct–Nov 2024
- **Transformation & Change.** Works: *Refugium Poolfish, Takes*. Compass Gallery, Kensington, MD. Oct ‘24
- **Artina 2024.** Work: *Creature/Machine*. Sandy Spring Museum, MD. Sep–Nov 2024
- **METHOD.** Work: *Gateway (Transmission III)*. Supercollider X Angels Gate Cult. Ctr., CA. Sep–Dec 2024
- **Sculpture NOW.** Work: *Rootball INTROSPECTION*. McLean Project for the Arts, VA. Sep–Oct 2024
- **The Digital Landscape.** Work: *Insert 25 Cents, Pollination*. Stamp Gallery, U of MD. Aug–Oct 2024
- **Life in Layers.** Work: *Daybreak*. Brentwood Arts Exchange, Brentwood, MD. Nov ‘23–Jan ‘24
- **Repetition.** Work: *Impressions*. Ruby Projects, Fairfax, VA. Aug ‘23–Feb ‘24
- **Color Speaks.** Work: *Rxsqtta-Stzne*, Bayering. Delaware Contemporary. June–Aug 2023
- **The Barlow Gilotty Collection.** Work: *Wave/Wave*. AU Museum, DC. Feb–May 2023
- **SEQUENCE.** Work: *Sweet Old World*. Touchstone Gallery. Jan–Feb 2023
- **Address Earth 2022.** Work: 10-part collab *Sweet Old World*. WCSU, Danbury, CT. Oct–Dec 2022
- **Turning Tides.** Work: *Clear-Cut*. Target Gallery, Alexandria. Jul–Sep 2022
- **Fragile Beauty.** Work: *Clear-Cut, Orchestration (Beeswax)*. DC CAH HQ. May–July 2022
- **Sculpture NOW.** Work: *Alight*. Washington Sculptors Group. Harmony Hall, MD. May–June 2022
- **Decades Ahead.** Work: *Publish/Perish*. Glen Echo Park, MD. April–May 2022
- **Finding Home.** Works: *Gateway, Our Time II*. Harmony Hall. Ft. Washington, MD. Nov ‘21–Jan ‘22
- **DC Art Now: Art Bank Finalists.** Work: *Rxsqtta-Stzne*. DC CAH HQ. Oct–Dec 2021.
- **Take a Number.** Work: *DataWorld 2021: booth #313*. MoCA Arlington, Va. Sep–Dec 2021
- **Touch.** Work: *Campfire*. Mansion at Strathmore, Md. Sep–Oct 2021
- **DEEP FAKE.** Work: *Morale is Mandatory, Naked Mueller*. SUPERCOLLIDER, L.A. Nov ‘20–Jan ‘21
- **Global Conversation 2020.** Google Arts & Culture, United Nations, F.99. [Online](#).
- **1460 Wallmountables 2017–2022, 2024.** DC Arts Center, Washington, D.C.

## Exhibitions (Events)

- **Bold & Bright: 51st Anniversary Auction.** *Thermoelectric Candle I*. MoCA Arlington, VA. Sep '25
- **Magic Mural Art Wall.** Works: *Upwell*. RiseUP, Hartford, CT. Nov 2024
- **Glitter & Gold: 50th Anniversary Auction.** Three works. MoCA Arlington, VA. September 2024
- **CDT Tech Prom 2023.** Works: *Pollination*, *Targeting*. The Anthem, DC. November 2023
- **Art All Night.** Work: *Campfire*. Uptown Main Street (Jackie Lee's). September 2022
- **Collectors' Night 2022.** Work: *Iteration*. Washington Project for the Arts. June 2022
- **Off the Walls.** Four works. HOLE IN THE SKY, Washington, D.C. February 2022
- **By The People x Monochrome Collective Art Fair.** [Online](#). June–July 2020
- **WPA Auction, "High Frequency."** Work: *Road Ahead*. [Online](#). Washington, D.C. July–Aug 2020
- **Collectors' Night 2020.** Work: *Road Ahead*. Washington Project for the Arts. June 2020
- **Sound Scene XIII.** Work: *Closely Held*. [Online](#). June 2020
- **DCAC 30th Anniversary Party.** Work: *Rxsqatta-Stzne*. Cheshire D.C., Washington, D.C. Oct 2019
- **Mount Pleasant Lantern Walk.** Work: *Fireflies* (with Rachel Kaufman). November 2018
- **Sound Scene XI.** Work: *The Heart Says*. Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Gallery. July 2018
- **Buffer Overflow.** Solo pop-up show. Fab Lab D.C., Washington, D.C. April 7-25 2018
- **Sound Scene X.** Work: *Markov Radio*. Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Gallery. July 2017

## Honors and Residencies

- 2025 Artist-in-Residence at the Sanford Underground Research Facility (Lead, SD)
- Second artist-in-residence at the MoCA Arlington Innovation Studio + Store (2024)
- December 2023 artist's residency at Gradient Projects (Thomas, WV)
- Awarded FY26–FY24, FY22–FY21 DC Commission on the Arts + Humanities fellowships
- Invited to *E19: Exercises for Emerging Artists* incubator at Transformer (Washington, DC) in 2022
- Shortlisted for the 2020 *Aesthetica Art Prize*
- Selected as the Derek Lieu Spring 2020 Artist-in-Residence at HOLE IN THE SKY
- Second-place juror's award: *Insert 25 Cents to Feel Something*, Delaplaine Arts Center, 2025
- Juror's award: *Flux (Deprecated)*, in "Fragments," Annmarie Sculpture Garden (2025)
- 2022 Tom Rooney Award (Washington Sculptors Group) for *Alight*
- Awarded First Place, Into the Void, LibertyTown Arts Workshop for *Publish/Perish*
- Best Use of Space: *Security Theater?*, DC Arts Center Wallmountables 2018
- Juror, World Bank's 2012 CGAP Photo Contest

## Education

- Corcoran College of Art and Design: BFA/Photojournalism (May 2006)

## Collections

- Maryland-National Capital Parks and Planning Commission
- Center for Democracy and Technology
- Soapbox Consulting

## Museum Interactives

- "Facial Recognition: Tap to Match," International Spy Museum ("Camouflage")

## Publications

- Washington Post (14x)
- The American Scholar
- Hyperallergic
- Google Arts & Culture