

THE AUSTRALIAN Financial Review Magazine

[Wealth](#)[Young Rich](#)

This Young Rich Lister loves psychedelics, crypto – and art

This early adopter of cryptocurrency has commissioned a giant robot for his pool.

Michael Bailey [/by/michael-bailey-j67s5] *Rich List co-editor*

Oct 23, 2023 – 9.06am

This feature is part of the Young Rich issue published on October 27, 2023.



Listen to this article

4 min

Prash Puspanathan is the co-founder of Enosis Therapeutics and founder of Caleb & Brown. He's 39 and lives in Richmond, Melbourne. His estimated wealth of \$74 million places him on the Young Rich List [<https://www.afr.com/young-rich>] at No. 71.

You run two businesses in tricky pre-regulation industries – one in psychedelics [Enosis Therapeutics] and the other in cryptocurrency [Caleb & Brown]. So I'm amazed you have time for a hobby.

You and me both!

What got you into art collecting?

I grew up in a house in Singapore filled with antiques, and my house here wouldn't have a single thing in it less than 50 years old. But the art has built

Edition

YoungRichList2023

worked.



Prash Puspanathan at home. "Anything that allows us to envision a world beyond what we see now is going to lend itself to artistic creation, and appreciation." **Nicole Reed**

What's in your collection?

I've got 64 works on the walls here – I've had to start shipping some to my parents' place in Singapore because I've got no more room. The oldest is a [German realist] Wilhelm Trübner from the 1800s, that's one of my most prized possessions. There's also quite a few Aboriginal artworks I've collected in the past two years, since Petrit became director of the Northern Centre for Contemporary Art in Darwin.

The NCCA is renowned for its bark paintings, isn't it?

It is, and I treasure the ones I have here, but I also really loved an exhibition they held a couple of years ago called Murrnjiny, the Yolngu word for steel.

Edition

YoungRichList2023

EDGES THAT NOWADAYS THERE IS METALWORK SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE

Territory too. The result was these fascinating works where the artists used dental drills and saws to etch and then intricately paint these old road signs and other bits of scrap metal.

I've heard there's another recycling-based piece in your collection – a 3.7-metre-high robot by your pool?

That was my COVID project. I could invent some deep-seated reason for it but really, I just wanted a robot. Dale Vince designed it from stuff like car panels and washing machine drums. It moves its arms and runs a 15-minute LED light show – next I'm putting lasers in its eyes.



Puspanathan's robot, a COVID project. **Nicole Reed**

Given you were an early adopter of cryptocurrency, you must have a few non-fungible tokens displayed on a server somewhere too.

Edition

YoungRichList2023

them will go to zero – but I am an Ape.

Sorry?

I'm Bored Ape number 79. [Puspanathan is referring to the infamous series of 10,000 NFTs featuring a sleepy-looking simian [<https://www.afr.com/technology/bored-ape-owners-sent-broke-after-nft-price-collapse-20230706-p5dm7c>], speculated upon by the likes of Justin Bieber and Eminem.] I picked up the lab-coated doctor ape, which I paid a couple of thousand for. It's in five-figure territory now, pretty safely, I think.

You're a proponent for the benefits of psychotherapy, assisted by psychedelics such as mushrooms, in the treatment of mental illness. You've also spoken publicly about your own experience with the substances. So does your art look better on a trip?

[Laughs, a bit nervously.] A lot of artists have credited an altered state of consciousness for their best work, whether that's through psychedelics [<https://www.afr.com/companies/healthcare-and-fitness/the-renaissance-of-psychedelic-therapy-in-mental-health-20221212-p5c5jg>], absinthe, meditation or even the hallucinations emerging from epilepsy in the case of Vincent van Gogh. Anything that allows us to envision a world beyond what we see now is going to lend itself to artistic creation, and appreciation. That being said, the best art will do that anyway – I've got a Katherine Blackburne painting where sometimes I see something dark, sometimes something cheerful. It took me a long while to recognise that it is a mirror of how I'm feeling at the time.

RELATED



'Get scared, you crash': The fashion boss who races in a Porsche

<https://www.afr.com/life-and-luxury/fashion-and-style/get-scared-you-crash-the-fashion-boss-who-races-in-a-porsche-20230711-p5dnncs>