



15 - 18 February 2018

Lille Grand Palais

Booth E303

Next
Street
■ Gallery

MARTIN WHATSON • PICHIAVO • STIKKI PEACHES • JUAN MIGUEL PALACIOS • BANKSY •

MR CENZ • PREFAB 77 • URIGINAL • KURAR • BRUNO CATALANO • ISABELLE SCHELTJENS

| Urban Art

| Martin Whatson



While studying Art and Graphic design at Westerdals School of Communication, Oslo, he discovered stencils and the urban art scene. After following graffiti and its development, he started his own stencil production 10 years ago in the winter of 2004.

Martin Whatson has a continuous urge to search for beauty in what is commonly dismissed as ugly, out of style or simply left behind. He looks for inspirations in people, city landscapes, old buildings, graffiti, posters and decaying walls. This interest for decay has helped develop his style, motives and composition and he enjoys creating either unity or conflict between materials, backgrounds, motives and human intervention.

His artistic expression started more political, but has developed into a more subtle expression blending graffiti, stencil art and decay together. Inspired by artist like Jose Parlá and Cy Twombly. His abstract graffiti and stencils are a mix of urban scenes showing the development of a walls lifetime. He use grey tones as a basis but add's vibrant colors to break the monochrome concrete expression and bring a splash of life to his motives. Since his artistic debut in 2004, he has had several solo shows and participated in many group exhibitions, both nationally and in international metropolises like Tokyo, Paris, London, New York and Los Angeles. Born in 1984 in Norway.

Tagging by the countryside

63 x 47 cm

| Martin Whatson



Portrayed by a tagger
36 x 48 cm



Tabula rasa
52 x 43 cm



Behind the curtain

50 x 100 cm



Behind the curtain II

97 x 49 cm

| Martin Whatson



Dots in Venice

28 x 58 cm



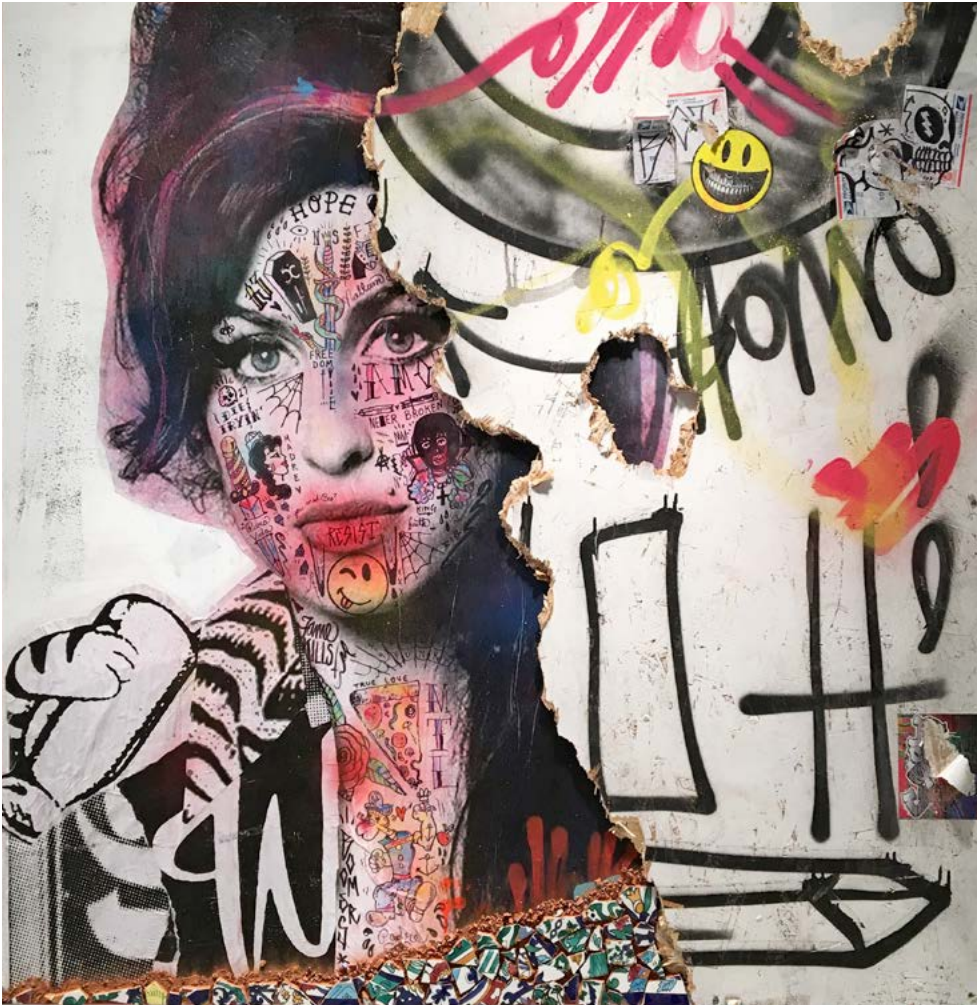
Untitled

100 x 100 cm

| PichiAvo

Spanish based artist duo, are recognized for their ability to ignite relationships between art, sculpture, architecture, space and social contexts. Their style adopts a focus which is both beautiful and performative, firm in its discussion and totally the perfect deconstruction of classic art and contemporary urban art, in order to create a new fusion, which whilst faithful to its classic heritage, creates a new and exciting vision of art.

PichiAvo are one since 2007, fleeing from the self-centeredness of graffiti, united to create a single piece of work, reciting a conceptually urban poetry, born from the artistic formalism of the street, transferring fragments of a wall to the canvas and from the canvas to the wall in a personal version.



Amy Jade

122 x 122 cm

| Stikki Peaches

Satirical and ironic, Stikki Peaches' works invite you to pause, analyze, and will likely leave you feeling nostalgic. Originally from Montreal, his singular style is as popular in galleries as it is on the walls of the world's busiest metropolises. His father a tailor and his mother a designer, Stikki Peaches' first creative endeavors were in fashion design, an industry that deeply influenced his artistic practice. As a child, he was surrounded by sketches and drafting patterns, which he happily collected, reassembled, and transformed with paint and pencils. His style is rooted in this spirit of reusing and recycling, where a myriad of techniques are combined to reveal the influential figures of his childhood. His vibrant compositions feature mythical characters, political leaders, and cultural icons: Elvis Presley, and Mozart coexist, creating a startling juxtaposition of themes and aesthetics.

Stikki Peaches sees art as an escape, an outlet that allows him to move away from what hinders his growth as an artist and as a human. His tagline "What if Art Ruled the World?" fits this context. This question echoes the artist's stance, suggesting that conflicts and disasters affecting our society would have no basis if the world were governed by art. Through his works, Peaches invites the onlooker to contemplate the effect and importance of art. His practice aims ultimately to democratize it: by taking his practice to the streets and incorporating pop culture references, Stikki Peaches distances himself from elitism and abstruseness often associated with the contemporary art world. Striking, colourful, and iconic, his pieces are well suited to digital culture, which values bold visual content.



Wounds CIII

81 x 61 x 11 cm

| Juan Miguel Palacios

Juan Miguel Palacios' journey started at the School of Decorative Arts of Madrid which gained him the opportunity to join the studio of renowned Spanish artist Amadeo Roca Gisbert for six years. These years were crucial for Palacios' artistic air and this training is visible in every artwork he creates.

Concepts such as mourning, restlessness and inequality are vital in Palacios' work as they allow him to explore a range of human emotions. His powerful and modern techniques involve almost abstract brushstrokes and a strong use of colour to create a feeling of decay and abandonment.

Driven by his search for new forms of expression, Juan Miguel Palacios created series such as Wounded, where the artist has used broken walls as the surface for his works. This technique has created an extra dimension in his work which he allows the viewer to dissect. His works blend reality with dreamlike worlds, with his subjects seeming to escape their two-dimensional invisible cages and become tangible parts of reality.

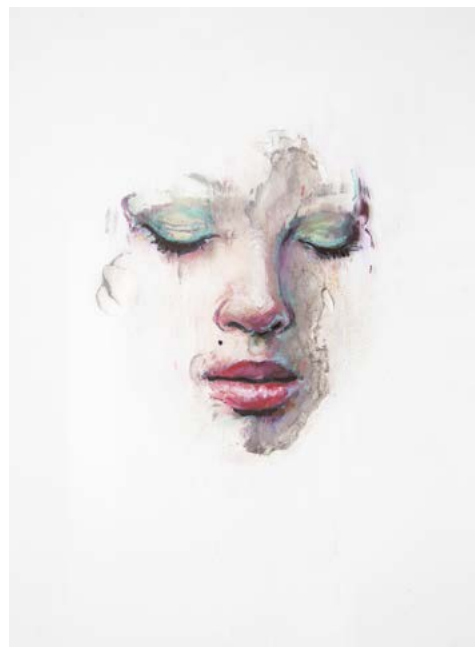
| Juan Miguel Palacios



Wounds C
81 x 61 x 11 cm



Wounds CV
41 x 31 x 2,5 cm



Wounds CX
41 x 31 x 2,5 cm



Wounds CXI
41 x 31 x 2,5 cm

| Juan Miguel Palacios



Wounds CXII
81 x 61 x 11 cm



Wounds CXIII
41 x 31 x 2,5 cm



Wounds CXX
101 x 81 x 8 cm



Wounds CXXI
101 x 81 x 8 cm

| Banksy



Dirty Funker Flat Beat (Happy Choppers)

30,5 x 30,5 cm

Whether plastering cities with his trademark parachuting rat, painting imagined breaches in the West Bank barrier in Israel, or stenciling “We’re bored of fish” above the penguins’ enclosure in a zoo, Banksy creates street art with an irreverent wit and an international reputation that precedes his anonymous identity. “TV has made going to the theatre seem pointless, photography has pretty much killed painting,” he says, “but graffiti has remained gloriously unspoilt by progress.”

Banksy has gained his notoriety through a range of urban interventions, from modifying street signs and printing his own currency to illegally hanging his own works in institutions such as the Louvre and the Museum of Modern Art. Most often using spray paint and stencils, Banksy has crafted a signature, an immediately identifiable graphic style—and a recurring cast of cops, soldiers, children, and celebrities—through which he critically examines contemporary issues of consumerism, political authority, terrorism, and the status of art and its display.

He is an anonymous yet worldwide famous England-based graffiti artist, political activist and film director.

| Banksy



We Love You... So Love Us
30,5 x 30,5 cm



Dirty Funker - Future (Radar Rat) Red ed. on white
30,5 x 30,5 cm



The Banksy Years
30,5 x 30 cm

| Banksy



One Cut
30,5 x 30,5 cm



Blur-Think Tank
30,5 x 30,5 cm



In the moment

100 x 100 cm

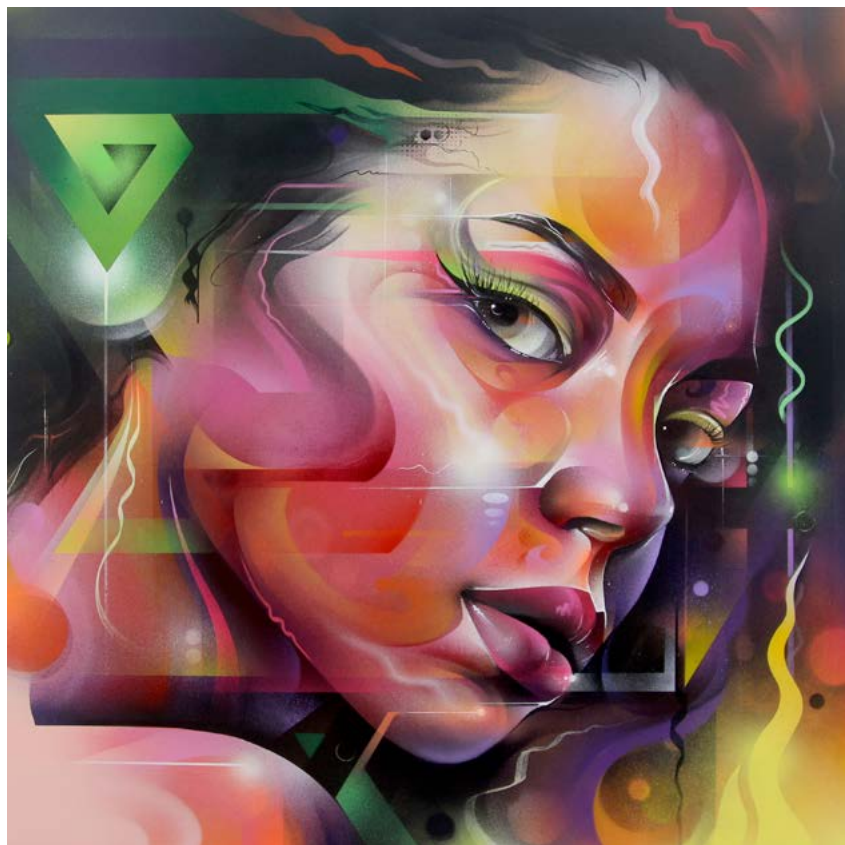
| Mr Cenz

Mr Cenz has been scribbling on surfaces since 1988 when he first discovered hip-hop culture and graffiti art. He soon became obsessed with this new and exciting art form and after a few brushes with the law he decided to find ways of developing his skills legally. Since his first commissioned mural at 11yrs old he has continued progressing and experimenting with his art through college and University. This has led to a career as a professional graffiti artist, several solo shows in London and high profile commissions internationally.

His distinctive work can currently be seen all over the streets of the world, especially in his hometown of London. It features layers of intricate and flowing letterforms, shapes and line work, which are abstracted in a unique and aesthetically pleasing way. His style is full of funk and movement and fuses different skills together such as photorealism, illustration and graffiti letterforms. His work is open to individual interpretation and has been described as "surrealist graffiti art for the soul". He works hard to make sure each piece he creates is very individual and distinctive in its quality. His influences range from the old school graffiti artists that inspired him as a kid such as Dondi and Mode 2 to abstract expressionist painters like Paul Klee and Roger Hilton.

His new work focuses on female faces, which he distorts in his trademark style. He works from portrait and fashion photographs to create unique interpretations, which are abstracted in a spontaneous and freestyle way to create interesting and mysterious compositions.

| Mr Cenz



Night Vibe
100 x 100 cm



Sunbust
100 x 100 cm



Time to totality

150 x 100 cm

| Prefab 77

Prefab77 is an artist who has origins in the north of England, California and New York.

Creating, hard edged and stripped down artwork that is often political, sometimes anti-establishment, but always beautiful he weaves small pieces of modern popular culture, pure rock and rebellion reflecting on the passing of our familiar institutions, shadowy establishment on the take and take small bites out of the underbelly of our modern culture that gets more bizarre with each passing day.

It is a dark word of money, fashion, music and politics woven into a luxurious mixture of acrylic, spraypaint, wheatpaste and varnish. He is the Gentle Young Giant.



Naer

117 x 89 cm

| Original

Since the beginning of the new millennium, a street art scene in Spain has emerged and became one of the most vibrant in Europe. Among many Spanish urban artists who gained wide recognition and acclaim is Original, a Barcelona-based creative who became known for his pieces inspired by historical masterpieces or popular imagery. He brings to life the famous subjects of iconic paintings by utilizing bright colors and bold lines, along with the use of a kaleidoscope geometric pattern throughout many of his artworks. His pieces grace the walls throughout Barcelona, and they have been shown at galleries in the capital of Catalonia region, as well as beyond.

Influenced by individualized and distinctive style of the most famous Spanish architect Antoni Gaudí – especially his multicolored mosaics – Original has developed a unique aesthetics and style that goes from the reinvention of Marvel Comics heroes to Pop Art to the characters of Star Wars, from Spanish painting or flamenco to the Barcelona Graffiti scene. He describes himself as “the son of a matador from high Ampurdán and a florist from the Ramblas of Barcelona” whose dream from childhood has been to become the national “King of paella”.

| Original



Jupiter and Venus

117 x 89 cm



Magritte Vandalism

130 x 89 cm

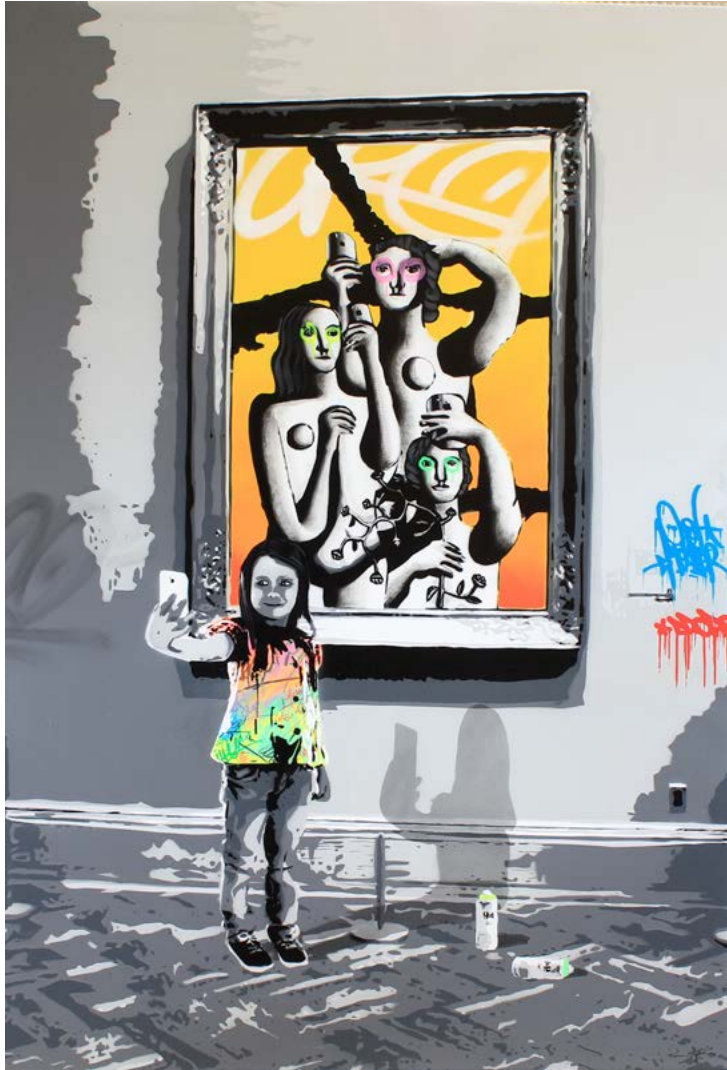
| Kurar

Kurar grew up in a furiously fast-changing world. A natural inspiration for a work that takes a kind yet critical look at the failings of a society advancing too fast perhaps, or one dominated by increasingly strained social and political tensions.

Our daily life is rich. The stream of ever faster images, ever more intense events that have become part of everyday life and a globalization that now appears irreversible in every sense. A source of observation that Kurar dissects in meticulous work that evolves in parallel with our everyday existence.

It is because we have to know where we come from, in order to understand the present and guide our future, that Kurar's aesthetics use the gentleness of images of a childhood at the start of the last century. This gentleness provides a powerful contrast to the crude images of a present social reality that would have been unimaginable 100 years ago. Is it because our generation is subdued by the injustices we can no longer put right, or is it because the media force on us a narrower vision of a better? Be that as it may, KURAR brings us contrasts that mirror freedoms given or taken away and the price(s) of life in a world that has implacably stamped its pace on us.

Kurar leaves us a clear field. A field where we can reclaim our critical faculty, to understand what we were and to what we belong. He proposes that we reflect on where our society is heading, through images that are there not just to shake us up, but to make us understand that our freedom to dream exists, and from those dreams we can once again change our world.



Social Distortion

130 x 89 cm

| Contemporary Art

| Bruno Catalano



Il Mondo Difficile

130 × 42 × 55 cm

French sculptor, Bruno Catalano began his career in 1990. The universal theme of the travel has always inspired him. Since his first work on clay, hundreds of travelers were born from his hands. The main engines of its creation are exile and detachment. Bruno Catalano expresses the idea of a nomadic humanity, proud of misfortune, in perpetual quest for a better future. His unique and original artworks reflect the feeling of distance of the artist, torn from his native country during his migration. This emotion is expressed through a stripping of the work through its process of insertion of voids in its characters on the road.

The talent of Bruno Catalano lies in his ability to endow the elusive material with a transcendental essence. Being a romantic dreamer, his subject-sculpted cause takes shape in the fantastic frame of an ideal world where love, peace, beauty and harmony reign. These individual portraits are highlighted by daily scenes of travelers, strolling the empty spirit but transmitting a vibration, an unconscious sound. Bruno Catalano tries with this concept to address the men of today whatever their age, driven by this need of escape, persuaded to find elsewhere the happiness that they have not managed to achieve.

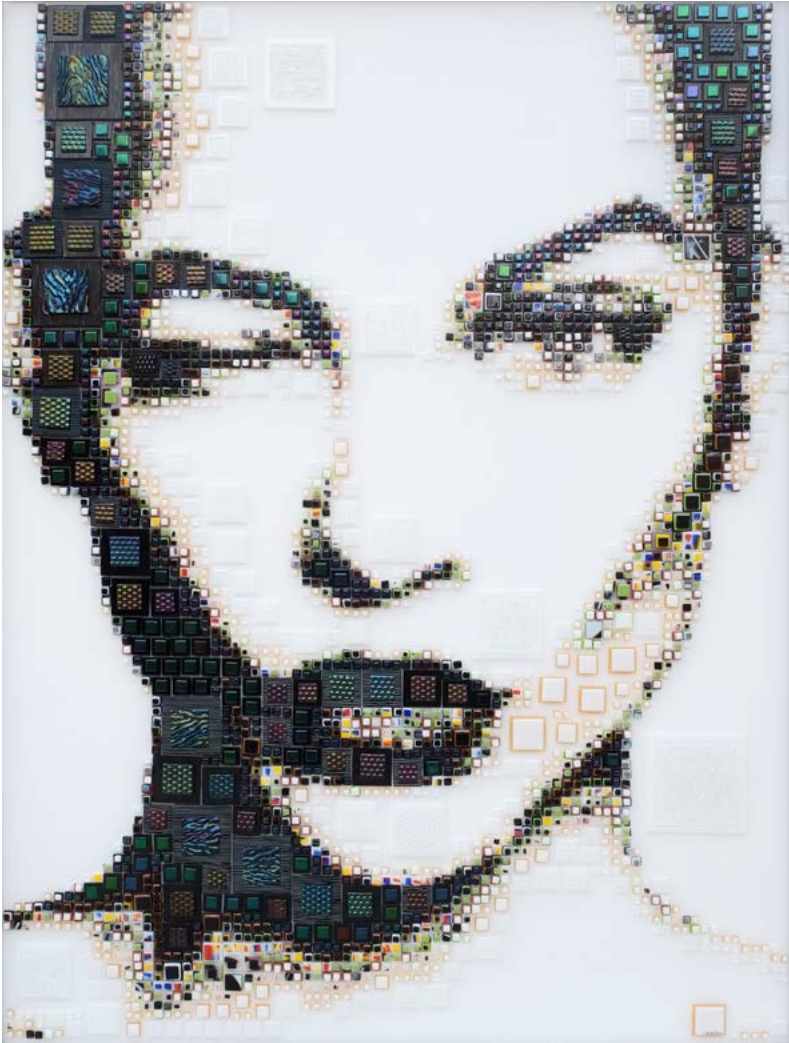
| Bruno Catalano



Theodore
48 x 11 x 19 cm



Viaggiatore di Milano
60 x 22 x 18 cm



Ma chérie

130 x 100 cm

| Isabelle Scheltjens

Isabelle Scheltjens had been interested in art since she was young. She studied at SISA, the Antwerp City Institute for Decorative Arts and Crafts. The magnificent glass design of her husband Dirk Neefs inspired Isabelle to work with the same material. It took years of intense practicing and juxtaposing countless of pieces of colored glass to refine her method and truly master the color theory. She developed a unique glass-fusing technique, whereby pieces of glass in different colors, sizes and textures are melted together at approximately 800°C. The colorful pieces of glass are like the dots of paint used by the pointillists: forming an abstract image up close, yet a dramatic and precise portrait from a distance.

Isabelle achieves striking optical effects with her technique: she captures the dance of light and color in a way that a photograph transforms it into a black & white or sometimes a colorful portrait - the fascinating result of a process that relies on the perceptive ability of the eye and mind of the viewer.

| Isabelle Scheltjens



Hermiona

130 x 100 cm

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