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presents

« MADE IN PORTUGAL »

AKACORLEONE, MÁRIO BELÉM, GONÇALO MAR,
MR DHEO, NUNO VIEGAS, PANTONIO, JOAO SAMINA

PRESS RELEASE

« MADE IN PORTUGAL »

Collective exhibition from June 09,
2018 to July 14, 2018

Opening on
June 8th
At 18:00

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« MADE IN PORTUGAL »

GCA Gallery Paris presents «**Made in Portugal**», a non-exhaustive list of the most influential artists of the Portuguese street art scene. Mostly born in the early Hip-Hop years, the influence of urban art is transposed here into multiple universes with very different artistic techniques: stencils, collages, brushes, aerosol cans, assemblies...

Coming from several regions of Portugal, these 7 artists presented during this event offer us bright colors and transpose us the universe as warm as alive of their country. Despite their common roots, their international and artistic experiences make this exhibition a rich and passionate gathering, thus showing a wide artistic panel of Portugal.

Thanks to the development of globalization and the awakening of curiosity, the call for knowledge and artistic discoveries has allowed most of these artists to enrich their style. Reunited all over the world and immersed in various cultures, these Portuguese graffiti artists expose their talent by associating their new research with this new knowledge.

We see through these works the great artistic openness and modernity that Portugal is capable of. By reconciling at once an artistic identity of its own and other inspirations from the world, Portugal presents itself to us as a fountain of infinite imagination.

While urban art began to settle in the United States or France in the 1960s, Portugal succumbed only a few years later. We can be all the more surprised by this delay when we know that Portugal is recognized today as one of the best street art spots in the world.

«**Made in Portugal**» allows the French public to meet an artistic part of this country which has become an international reference in urban art. The quality and the multiplicity of works have become a main attraction, attracting the world and renowned figures of graffiti.

Receiving these internationally recognized artists is therefore a unique opportunity, as their walls that capture the global interest are brought to us on canvas. And in big.

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2 place Farhat Hached, 75013 Paris, France / 16 bis rue Catherine Ségurane 06300 Nice, France
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AKACORLEONE (born in 1985)

The use of bold colors, typography, shapes and characters are well identifiable by this illustrator and graphic designer, active for ten years.

Artist born in Lisbon (Portugal) in 1985, his unique style associating faces, objects and simplistic motifs catches the eye on the fly and the striking of its polychromy glittering.

After studying arts, and having acquired a degree in «Design and Visual Communication» to become a graphic designer, he developed his «design» side.

Through the multiplicity of typographic elements, shapes and characters that explode on his paintings, we face the dreams of our childhood that come to life before our eyes.

With dimensions and depth without limits, this style allows images to interact in a timeless space that lets the transparency of materials escape.

Thus, his artistic universe is represented as much by the background as by the form, having recourse sometimes to sheets of aluminum, plexiglass, painting, aerosol cans, wood or various objects.

We see in this exhibition the whole technique of Akacorleone, since his minimalist but hyper-colored drawings make it possible to conquer a universal audience: his artistic openness exposes above all a common world.

The multitude of details and the confusion of perspectives question the public and capture their attention. Not to miss the look of his work is the desire of Akacorleone, who wants us to understand the meaning with our own story.

On the artistic level, this young Portuguese artist is also known in Lisbon for his installations in which he experimented various materials and compositions, from recovery.

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Desassosego, Lisboa, Portugal, 2015



Peter pan complex, 2018

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MARIO BELEM (born in 1977)

After having studied architecture, then graphic design and illustration, Mario Belem is an artist who handles both the mouse, the pencil and the brush.

It is by being snapped up by a fresco in Lisbon that this artist tries then to the aerosol bomb. He therefore makes it his main instrument. Refusing any artistic constraint, his style is very liberal and very illustrative.

Despite his reputation and his asserted universe, Mario Belem tries several times new styles, with various materials or objects. His curiosity makes him become an artist with a great open-mindedness, thus retranscribing a very universal style.

He returns from his studies of graphic design with the same intention for his creations: to try to provoke his audience with extreme emotions, inviting him to think.

His work is a little touch-to-all also involves many agencies that regularly solicit, for commercial or advertising projects.

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Village of Shanxi, China



Love is a dream (By chance dreams never die), 2018

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GONÇALO MAR (born in 1974)

Nothing could have been more natural for Gonçalo MAR (born in 1974 in Lisbon) than to start an artistic career after discovering drawing at the age of 12.

Graduated from «Fashion Design at the F.A.L», he began his artistic career in 1998 after having made his first aerosol spray experiment.

Gonçalo MAR is an artist who gives free rein to his imagination to implement his own interpretations of the world, and he represents by drawing only what animates him.

It is inspired by comics and animation, more graphic elements, combining it with certain elements of Japanese culture or others more like street-art.

The characters on his canvases or walls are vibrant colors and surrealism, completely misshapen.

The artistic scene of Portugal is put forward thanks to this artist, who illustrates the expressions of his country in situations, full of lyricism and dream.

Represented on walls or in workshops, his works are also diffused on screens thanks to his acquisitions with an animation studio.

It is also distinguished from the art scene by manipulating other media and associating with different brands.

For this exhibition Gonçalo Mar draws very directly from the traditional Portuguese art and in particular the carnivals of Bragança as well as Lazarim.

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Rainbow Garden, Portugal, 2011



lazarim1, 2018

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MR. DHEO (born in 1985)

Mr. DHEO, a 32-year-old Portuguese graffiti artist, was born in Gaia. Active for twenty years, he tried art at the age of three by starting to copy newspaper lettering.

His self-taught training allows him to work his own style and technique, without feeling trapped in artistic expectations. His first aerosol bomb tests first turn around lettering when he becomes aware of it at the age of fifteen. He then specializes in the more conceptual art, which he maintains today.

This is a real connection that Mr DHEO tries to establish with his audience. Considering Art as the reflection of its author and as a means of communication, it highlights the details and the aesthetics so that one can guess some bits of his personality.

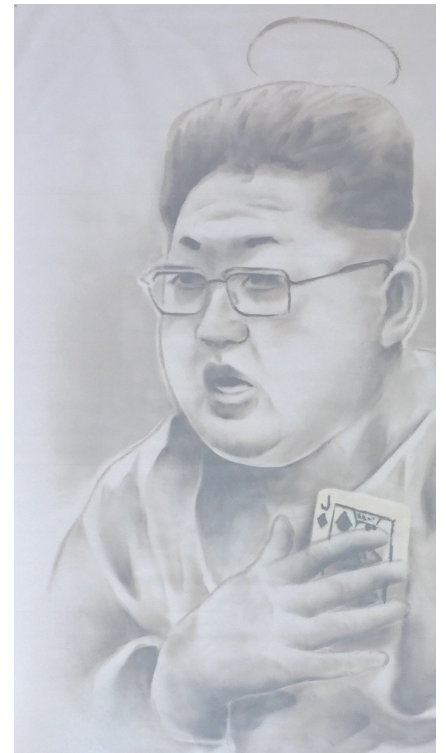
His art is therefore not endowed with a purely decorative character. He exposes us his thoughts, his visions, his dreams, or a particular reflection. We must therefore see beyond colors and drawing to discover what lies dormant in the depths of his soul.

The portrait is one of the most appreciated themes by this artist, who is always looking for trouble. For the past ten years, photorealism has become the main foundation of his work. He remains however a polyvalent artist not to be assimilated to only one type of Art. Mr DHEO is a very complete artist, touching both lettering and characters, aesthetic realism, graphics and bi-dimensionality.

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MAR, the fisherman, 2014



Poker Faces, 2017

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NUNO VIEGAS (born in 1985)

NUNO VIEGAS is a Portuguese street artist born in Faro in 1985, living in Quarteira. After studying Visual Arts at the University of Algarve, his first real graffiti was born in 1999.

On the eve of the 2000s and at the dawn of Hip-Hop, the artist polishes a little more his technique to transpose in his art a new area. The art of NUNO VIEGAS then presents itself as a new beginning, which replaces the mistakes made in the old century.

His rebellious temper led him to escape from the pursuit of law enforcement. He already presents himself as an insurrectional since he is above all a vandal artist, posing his graffiti in the different streets of Portugal.

Very active in this new movement of Hip-Hop, his artistic investment takes more value after taking a closer look at wall graffiti. He then joined the «Policromia Crew» in 2001 (legal this time), and develops his technique with more colors and more meticulousness. A few years later, he joined the group «Stay Rude Kids», to finally study Visual Arts.

Thus, from his love for the world of Hip-Hop and graffiti arises the idea of representing the apparent defects of society, money and power. The contrast between the more aggressive side of life is opposed to the serenity it is capable of creating. It is this peace which, according to him, is lacking in society, which he attempts to conceive in order to transmit it to his public.

His inspiration is also drawn during a trip to Rotterdam in 2014, which makes him discover an entirely different artistic universe. His true artistic identity is based on this change of scenery. His sources of inspiration also come from cities such as Paris, Berlin and New York for their proximity to the urban graffiti culture. His hometown (Quarteira) and the graffiti movement, however, remain his main sources.

Emerging from a training on the visual, NUNO VIEGAS puts forward this force of perception. In order to express his humanitarian message in a universal way, he uses several artistic processes, playing on the form of transmission and textures. It is sent to us by paper plane, projected on canvas or via graffiti.

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Berlin, 2017



Siren X Barbed Wire, 2017

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PANTONIO (born in 1975)

Born in the Azores on the island of Terceira in 1975 and resident in Portugal, Pantonio is a very complete contemporary artist from the beginning of his artistic training. It was through workshops of sculpture, modeling, drawing and painting at the Institute of Culture of the Azores that he managed to present us a very distinct artistic universe. He will later specialize in graphic arts at the Polytechnic Institute of Tomar.

15 years later, Lisbon sees on its walls some frescoes while moving, with fluid and undulating lines. Thanks to a thorough work on relief, the viewer lets himself be drawn among these curves and backcountry, almost sucked by the work. All this flexibility comes almost to suggest the course of the water, turning in evidence at the sight of the 4 main colors used: the blue of the Atlantic, the black of the seabed, the red of the volcanic rock and the white one .

The Tagus River of Portugal is also one of its greatest references. We sometimes see ropes crossing his paintings, as if Pantonio wanted us to live the great Portuguese tradition of fishing.

This real allusion to the world of the ocean is reinforced by the creatures that populate his representations. Finding themselves in front of fish, turtles, birds or even rabbits, the spectator then faces an almost alive scene, endowed with realism. All this animal interaction that is put forward is a good interpretation, for the artist, of the violence that emanates from human relationships. Thus, his monumental frescoes spread over the various walls of the world make him known at first as an urban artist. He made a name for himself in France during his speech at the Tour Paris 13 and following his monumental fresco that adorns the Siena Tower (Venetian Square, 13th arrondissement of Paris). It is currently considered the largest mural of Street Art in Europe.

Only, its artistic implications do not stop only on the street. He is also one of the artists representing Portugal at the 50th anniversary of UNESCO (Romania). He is also entrusted with the creation of comics as an illustrator under the tutelage of Richard House, for Zepe and the Beaux-Arts in Lisbon. Increasingly considered at the height of his talent, he is called in various corners of the world to spread his universe. We see him in China, among other things, when he creates the giant equestrian fresco on a building in Guangzhou, in Djerba to design a multitude of murals with the collaboration of 150 other artists, or in Paris, to adorn the Pont des Arts. at the request of the First Deputy of the City.

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USA, 2017



Calma bicho, 2014 - 2018

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JOAO SAMINA (born in 1989)

Visual artist and architect, Joao Samina (born in 1989) grew up in an artistic universe that pushed him to take an interest in drawing and painting.

He made his debut in the world of street art at the age of 14, when he began to spread stickers in the streets of his city.

The birth of this movement is also accompanied by this artist, who finds most of his inspiration. During this period, he makes the discovery of the stencil and multiplies his creations, particularly in 2010.

Each new conception brings him the desire to enrich his universe and to take up any artistic challenge. He pursues a personal language, using stencil and other tools as a graphic designer, painter and architect.

His very geometric works fill the space and almost seem to be suspended in the air. The techniques he employs are intriguing and profound, imposing a conflict between geometry and human essence.

His creations are mainly based on the black and white portrait he accompanies with fluorescent colors. He likes to reinforce and decompose the traits of his characters, to bring out the best emotions they arouse.

His collaborations with several artists and his many travels (Spain, France, the Netherlands, Brazil, Turkey, India) allow him to add in his creations the colors and exoticism of the world.

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Artintown (2017)



TESSELLATE 80120 #1, 2018

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GCA Gallery is a contemporary urban art gallery created in June 2014 in Nice, a few steps from the National Theater and the Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art of the City, near the port. In a very dynamic neighborhood, which has been booming for a few years, and which continues to evolve very rapidly.

Between graffiti, street-art and low-brow, the gallery presents, in these 80 square meters, a group of urban artists, French and international, the most active of the moment:

**ALIAS - ARDPG - C215 - EDDIE COLLA - ENDER ETNIK GILBERT1
KATRE - KURAR - MACS - MOMIES - MOSKO - NEVERCREW
ORTICANOODLES - RETRO - SHOE - SMILE - STEW**

In April 2017, GCA Gallery opened a new venue in Paris in a 100 square meters space. Located in the Bibliothèque François Mitterrand district in the 13th arrondissement, this Parisian gallery is anchored in an environment full of cultural effervescence with the nearby university as well as the project of street art museum "Street Art 13".

Since June 2014, GCA Gallery has published 13 catalogs, realized several collective exhibitions and nineteen solo shows. Such an activity, testifies to the gallerist's commitment to defend and promote urban art.

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ABOUT

GEOFFROY JOSSAUME

The director of the gallery, Geoffroy Jossaume, was born in 1978 in Nice. He is currently living and working between Nice and Paris.

Following a training in History of Art in Sotheby's Institute in London, he settled in Paris in 2000 where he worked in contemporary art galleries and in several auction houses.

For nearly eight years, he managed the department of contemporary art and urban art at PIASA, which earned him the title of expert in contemporary art. In this context, he organized several specialty sales Street Art and Graffiti. This is how he develops an expertise in this market and his sensitivity towards the movement.

The desire to have his own gallery follows him since the end of his studies in London, but the paths of life, chance and encounters made this project only come to life in



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CONTACTS

Press

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Director of the Gallery

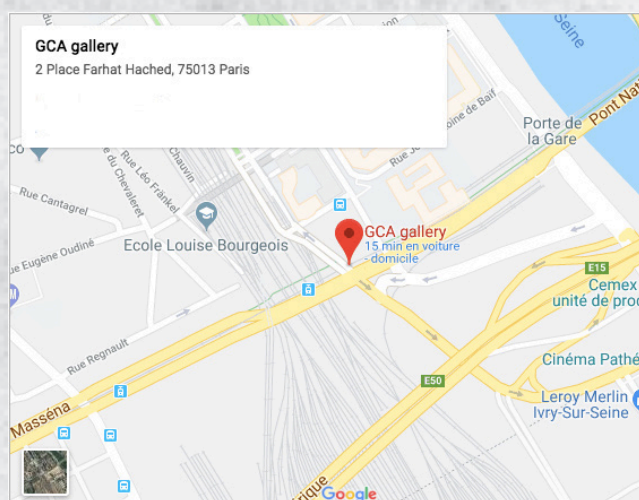
Geoffroy Jossaume / geoffroy@gcagallery.fr / +33 6 09 07 75 99

Opening hours of the Gallery

Tuesday to Saturday from 11:30 to 18:30

Access to the Gallery

2 place Farhat Hached – 75013 – Paris



Access

M14 Bibliothèque François Mitterrand
RER C Bibliothèque Nationale exit «Grands Moulins»
Tram T3 Avenue de France

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