

URBAN MASTERS

OPERA GALLERY
LONDON

A STREET ART SHOW SUPPORTING



BUTTERFLY
ARTNEWS.COM



QUOTES //

"Art is about passing on references and creativeness. Most people know that Banksy and Blek le Rat, the founding fathers of stencil art, have inspired a generation of young contemporary urban and street artists - making street art one of the most successful genres of the century. But it is time we give this new generation a say, and let them tell us their story, tell us who inspired them personally and what made them the artists they are now."

Jean-David Malat, Director of Opera Gallery London, on the concept behind Urban Masters

"Urban Masters is a rare opportunity to view in one place works by extraordinary artists from literally all over the world, from Latin America, US, Europe and Australia. Coming from the graffiti and street art scene, these artists pay tribute and reinterpret the Masters that inspired them, with their own skills and techniques. Art regenerates itself with breathtaking results." Butterfly

"Street art matters. By taking their art to the most public of all spaces - the streets - artists build bridges between themselves and their community and therefore help cement an art-aware society." Florie-Anne Mondoloni, Opera Gallery London

"By definition anything visionary, ground-breaking or novel involves risk. Facing and handling these risks opens the door to achieving true creative innovation and personal fulfilment in art or in business", explains R. Matthew Fairfield, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of ANV, "As underwriters who mitigate risks on a daily basis, we see art and artists who take creative risk as perfect examples of what is possible when risk and fear can be conquered."

"Art provides a window into how a culture perceives itself and the soul of its people. ANV as an organisation is deeply respectful of local business cultures and customs. Supporting new views and unique perspectives is how we see our work as insurers and its how we see the work of the "Urban Masters" featured in the exhibition", adds Gerard van Loon, Chief Underwriting Officer at ANV.

FOREWORD OPERA GALLERY LONDON

Urban art, and its perception, have considerably evolved in the past forty years. The basic graffiti on underground seats that was regarded as sheer vandalism has become a rich aesthetic statement left in the public space - notably thanks to the development by urban and street artists of new artistic skills and techniques.

In the early 1970s a unique form of art emerged, inspired from New York's skateboard culture: a form of art with strong political content and a powerful protesting message from those who rejected the mainstream ideas and took the initiative to express themselves on the walls and streets of the metropolis. Street art was born.

Urban art, the generic term often used to combine street art and graffiti, is therefore essentially the expression of a counter-culture that takes you, us, the passers-by, everyone as witnesses of their art. Having said that, we must keep in mind the duality of both movements included in the definition: indeed, some graffiti artists insist that they are not trying to deliver a message but only leaving their mark on the world; while street artists truly convey a statement (political, subversive or purely aesthetic) through their art.

We will therefore use the term of "urban art" to define all human expressions on or using street furniture and urban equipment, both on the streets and in public spaces. It may include diverse forms and techniques such as graffiti, stencil, painting, chalk drawing, sculpture, ceramic, installations, stickers, etc.

From this angle, the City no longer appears as a de-humanising individualist structure accommodating the modern man; but really as a wide blank canvas for him to express himself.

Like any other genre, urban art has a history and founding fathers. Nowadays, still, the main figure of the movement is undeniably the mysterious stencil artist Banksy who gained a widely shared recognition for his extraordinary sharp and accurate humour. He is also the first artist to have brought street art into art galleries and museums.

Alongside Banksy, we must not forget that the forefathers of street art were Jean-Michel Basquiat and Blek le Rat. American Basquiat is indeed the artist considered to have built the bridge between pop art and street art, while Blek le Rat is regarded as a pioneer of stencil art as he has been using street walls as canvases since the early 1980s.

Who else? Through Urban Masters, we are asking 33 contemporary graffiti and street artists that very question. Because we believe that beyond the history of the movement, every artist has his own rich personal history.

In an alternative art installation, we question nowadays' urban art and its relation to the past, encouraging artists to give their point of view on the traces left by those who made the history of art and who helped them become who they are today.

Chinese painter Zao Wou-Ki is said to have once written "Each canvas is a page of the painter's diary". In this sense, for Urban Masters we have collected pages in which the artists confide on their inspirations and we are bringing them together in the hopes of showing a complete and comprehensive reflexion on the motivations of contemporary street art and graffiti.

GILLES DYAN
FOUNDER AND CHAIRMAN
OPERA GALLERY GROUP

JEAN-DAVID MALAT
CURATOR AND DIRECTOR
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FLORIE-ANNE MONDOLONI
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OPERA GALLERY
LONDON

FOREWORD BUTTERFLY //

Spreading from the streets to gallery walls and museums, street art and graffiti are one of the most popular manifestations of contemporary art.

Coming from divergent backgrounds, artists leverage the streets as a platform to express their freedom and creativity. Using different tools and techniques, they aim to engage with a mass audience and share their cultural viewpoint.

Due to its ephemeral nature, this movement doesn't exist unless it is documented.

Fluttering around the globe and beyond, Butterfly takes an active role in raising public awareness around the street, graffiti and contemporary art scene, by documenting in person the creative process from its conception to its completion, but also by curating artistic projects and exhibitions.

We are delighted to welcome you to Urban Masters, in partnership with Opera Gallery and ANV.

Urban Masters is a rare opportunity to view in one place works by extraordinary artists from literally all over the world, from Latin America, the US, Europe and Australia. Coming from the street culture, these artists pay tribute and reinterpret the Masters that inspired them, with their own skills and techniques. Art regenerates itself with breathtaking results.

**BUTTERFLY & DRAGONFLY
CURATOR**

**BUTTERFLY
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FOREWORD ANV //

As an insurance company, ANV sees art - and especially new and contemporary art - as emblematic of our business.

Anything visionary, ground-breaking or novel involves risk. Learning to face these risks and handle their challenges opens the door to achieving true innovation and ultimate fulfilment.

As underwriters who mitigate risks on a daily basis, we see art and the artists who take creative risks in their work as perfect examples of what is possible when risk and fear can be overcome. This generation of "Urban Masters" brings new views and unique perspectives that both build upon known foundations as well as challenge long established beliefs. The result is art that is as dynamic and emotional as it is personal and inclusive.

Finding this same level of innovation and creativity while recognising the importance of the past is what we work for each day in our role as insurers and what we want to deliver to support our customers and partners at ANV. More importantly, within art there is a unique window into the soul of a culture and its people. At ANV, we make it a priority across all of our teams to be both deeply aware and highly respectful of local business cultures, customs and risks.

ANV does not wish to be seen as simply "another insurance company". In our approach, our choices in underwriting and our goals as a team, we are looking to frame risk not from a "fear" perspective or as something to keep at a distance. We see risk from an "opportunity" perspective and as something that we need to embrace and understand in order to overcome and to move forward.

Risk is what stands in the way of both global and local businesses from achieving their fullest potential and ANV wants to be there to help these companies better manage risk so that they can better grow their business.

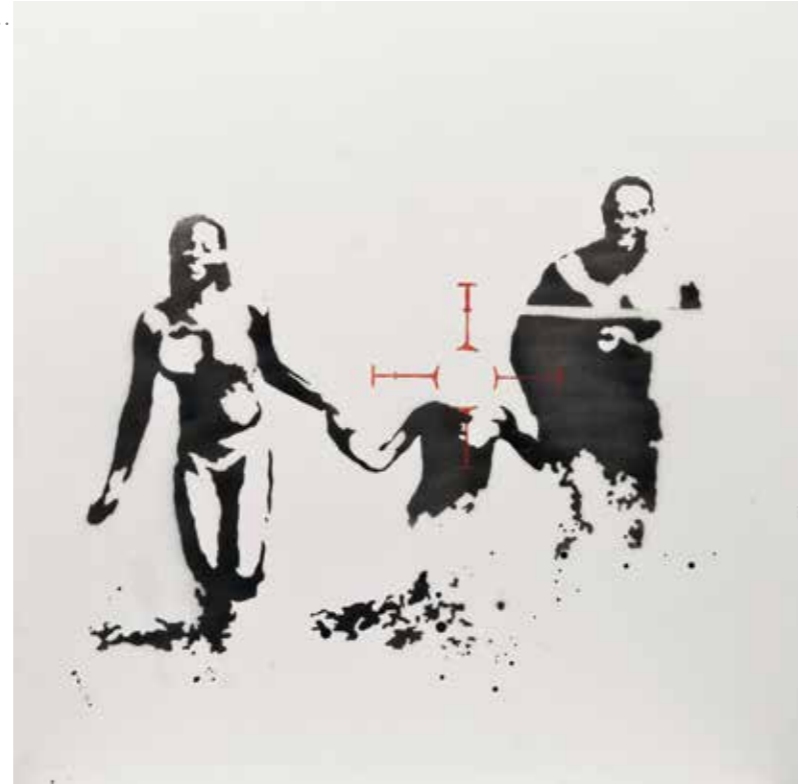
We are one company with one focus - managing global risk.

ANV

Family target (family portrait), 2003
 Stencil spray paint on canvas
 91,5 x 91,5 cm - 36 x 36 in.

BANKSY//

Banksy is a pseudonymous graffiti artist, political activist, film director, and painter. Writing a Banksy biography can be a challenge, given that his true identity remains a mystery. However, we do know that the artist, originally from Bristol, was born in 1974. Son of a photocopier technician, he became involved in graffiti in the late 80's, during the Bristol's aerosol boom. His satirical street art and epigrams are done in a distinctive stencilling technique, combining dark humour with graffiti. Such artistic works of political and social commentary have been featured on streets, walls, and bridges of cities throughout the world. Banksy is also recognised for his installation art and political projects, as for its first film "Exit Through the Gift Shop", which made its debut at the 2010 Sundance Film Festival. //



Playmate of the month, 2000
 Acrylic and marker pen on wood
 39 x 44 cm - 15.3 x 17.3 in.



Kill Mom?
 Stencilled spray print on board
 200 x 200 cm - 78.7 x 78.7 in.

DA MENTAL VAPORZ//

The prolific French graffiti crew Da Mental Vaporz, which consists of Blo, Bom.K, Brusk, Dran, Gris1, ISO, Jaw, Kan and Sowat are both known collectively and individually. Combining their individual style, from old school lettering to calligraffiti and figurative painting with a touch of dark humour, they create monumental murals and participate in exhibitions across Europe, Latin America, New York, Moscow, Hong Kong and Australia. //

Le venin, 2012

DMV mural in Melbourne, Australia (© photography Butterfly)



Conception, 2012

Spray paint and acrylic on canvas
140 x 200 cm - 55.1 x 78.7 in.



BLO/DMV//

Before attending art school in Marseilles in 2002, Blo discovered graffiti at the age of 14, covering the walls, streets and highways of his home town, Lyon, France, with high class tags, block letters and throw-ups. Gradually, he switched from chrome and black to more elaborate murals, creating a psychedelic world where letters became as important as characters, inspired by the urban landscape and hip-hop culture of his childhood. Following his first personal exhibition in 2003, Blo's work evolved towards a more contemporary approach, yet remaining firmly attached to tools and codes of his graffiti background. Moving to Paris in 2005 to work as an artistic director for a graphic design studio, he further developed his figurative style on a variety of mediums, from canvas to walls, to prints, abandoned factories, and so on... Integrating various techniques and influences, the art of Blo is a smart balance between illustration and graphic design, earning him respect from the graffiti community as well as recognition in the contemporary art world, allowing him to display his work in prestigious venues such as le Grand Palais, in Paris in 2008. //

BOM.K/DMV//

Bom.K learned the language of Graffiti's very quickly on the walls of abandoned factories and train yards of his teenage neighbourhood. In 1999, he created with fellow writer ISO, the Da Mental Vaporz crew. Together, they started working on more personal and intimate paintings, a reflection of their lives in the grimy and depressing southern suburbs of Paris. Since then, Bom.K's gruesome bestiary has grown exponentially, with minicap precision. He has multiplied artistic experiences on industrial levels, creating hideous toy-sized sculptures, flyers and posters, published a notable illustration book, "HB Blacktrace", and participated in many exhibitions across the globe (France, Belgium, Germany, Spain, UK, Hong Kong). His body of work focuses nowadays on large-scale canvases showing weird "Aerotic" creatures, sexually hybrid chimeras with a glimpse of Francis Bacon and a touch of Gonzo imagery. If you stare at them long enough, they seem to breathe and crawl towards the viewer. //



Homage to the anonymous masters of the century, 2012

Spray paint on canvas
120 x 84 cm - 47.2 x 33.1 in.

BRUSK/DMV//

Brusk spent his entire childhood with a pencil in hand, aimlessly doodling until discovering graffiti and hip-hop culture. Present on the international graffiti scene for more than 17 years, Brusk is also one of the pioneers of light graffiti, a quickly emerging discipline combining photography with the ancient art calligraphy, only with light. After having toured the world to attend various international exhibitions and performances (United Arab Emirates, London, Hong Kong...), as a member of the Da Mental Vaporz crew, he continues nowadays to search for a balance between urban painting and a more natural environment. In 2012 he designed the album cover and video clip for Scratch Bandit Crew. //



Art history lesson, 2012
Mixed media on canvas
200 x 150 cm - 78.7 x 59.1 in.

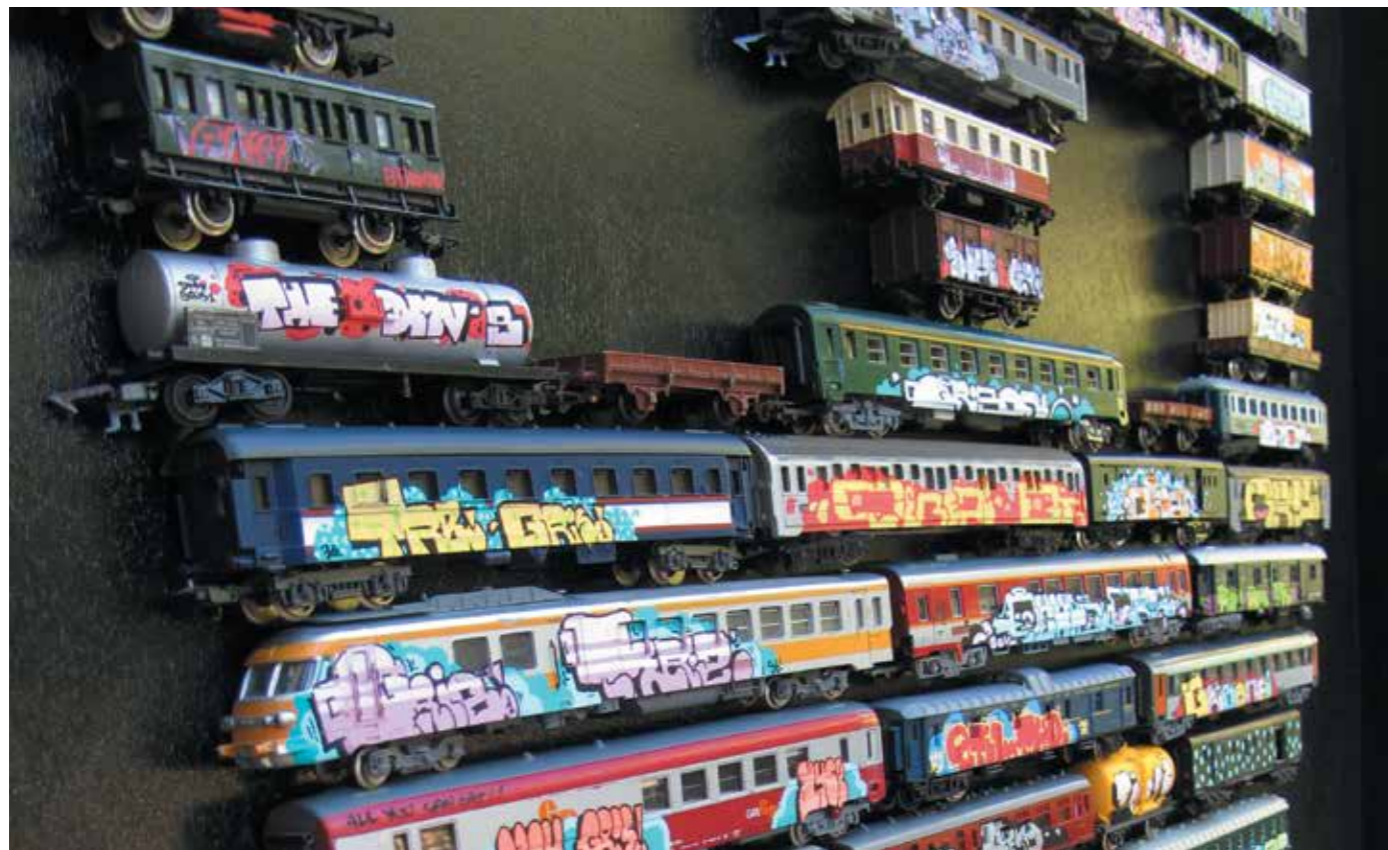


Unwanted, 2012 by Brusk & Aimee
Mixed Media sculpture using recycled found objects in the streets
250 x 200 x 100 cm - 98.4 x 78.7 x 39.4 in.
(© photography Paul Hampartsoumian)

GRIS1/DMV//

Gris1 is a profuse graffiti artist. The adrenaline running through his blood drove him to cover the cities of Aix-en-Provence and Marseilles with tags, block letters and throw-ups during his youth. Later, he tried taming his graphic fury by entering a graphic design art school and co-signing with Sowat "La France d'en bas", the first book on graffiti in the south of France. Since, Gris1 has led a successful career as a graphic designer, creating logos, posters, magazine covers, album covers and murals for many clients (MAC Lyon, Hugo Boss, Burton, Discovery channel, MTV base, Rumble wear...) His prolific style led him to participate in numerous exhibitions and festivals around the world (Paris, Barcelona, Seville, Mexico, New York, São Paulo...) as well as auctions, and become a regular feature in international publications. //

System (and detail), 2012
Acrylic on collector model trains
185 x 125 cm - 72.8 x 49.2 in.



JAW/DMV//

Jaw works on both canvas and street walls, creating intricate designs. After being initiated to graffiti at an early age and graduating from a visual communication art school in Marseilles, France, JAW joined the ARTMADA collective where he has been involved in numerous artistic, social and cultural projects. By 2003, he joined the Da Mental Vaporz crew, and has been touring all over Latin America (Brazil, Venezuela, Mexico), Europe and Russia since. Featured in numerous international publications, and showcased at auction houses throughout Europe, Jaw's extravagant colourful lettering technique, larger than life characters and monumental murals are sought after as he is regularly invited to major festivals across the globe. //

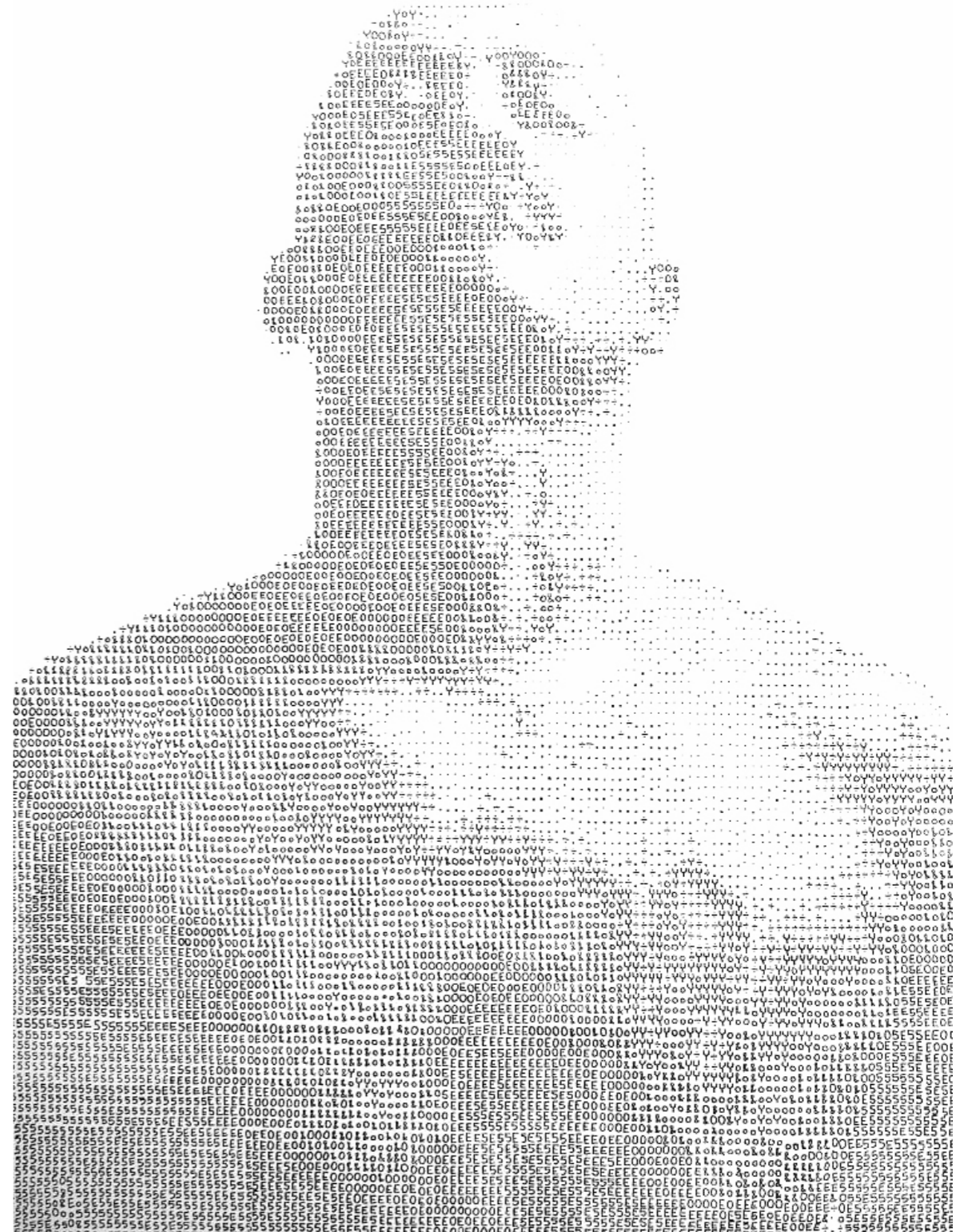
The old school way, 2012
Spray paint on canvas
80 x 80 cm - 31.5 x 31.5 in.



SOWAT/DMV//

Sowat is a self-taught gutter artist born and raised between Marseilles and L.A. After spending years smearing the streets, back alleys and freeways of his hometown with his tags and throw-ups, he started experimenting with the more artistic side of graffiti around 2001, indulging in all the good stuff that legal Street Art has to offer: workshops, commissioned walls, jams around the globe. In 2012, teaming up with Parisian graffiti pioneer Lek, Sowat released his most ambitious project to date, "Mausolée", which saw 40 French graffiti artists, from the first to the last generation of the movement, work secretly together for a year inside a 430,000 sq ft abandoned supermarket in the north of Paris. This illegal artistic residency was then shared to the public, thanks to a book, an internet film and a collective show. //

Sowat, Marseilles, France, 2012
(© photography Hone)



Poveda2, 2012
Acrylic on canvas
160 x 120 cm - 63 x 47.2 in.

For the Urban Masters Show, Sowat chose to pay tribute to the work of Christian Poveda (1955-2009), the hispanic French-Spanish and film director, famous for following and documenting El Salvador ultra violent street gangs. Using a picture from the "Las Maras", he reproduced Poveda's shot on canvas using a technique called 'handwritten ASCII'. //

KAN/DMV //

Initially from the south of France, Kan was immersed by graffiti after a trip to Paris, followed by another one to Los Angeles. Moving to Paris, he joined Bom.K and the Da Mental Vaporz crew in 2000. Combining his passion for computers, video and design to traditional graffiti techniques, Kan has distorted his name a thousand ways, from throw-ups to digitalised block letters to pixel art, halftone graffiti and dripping QR codes. With the DMV crew, they embarked in the production of large-scale murals internationally. Since then Kan has participated to many graffiti jams and steadily exhibited his work collectively and individually in galleries across the world, from Paris to London, New York and Melbourne. //



Le bain d'Ingres
Metal ink (squeezers) on canvas
200 x 200 cm - 78.7 x 78.7 in.

Warhol tribute to an anonymous master... 2012

Metal ink (squeezers) on canvas
Triptych: each panel is 146 x 114 cm - 57.5 x 44.9 in.



LEK/DEM189 //

French graffiti artists Lek and Dem189 are constantly looking for new ideas. Influenced by countless inspirations, they've managed to create both an unusual and distinctive world. From an architectural background, Lek has developed an intuitive approach to distorting the Letter, the fundamental element of graffiti. Dem 189, on the other hand, refuses to limit himself to any particular movement, and his work evolves between lettering, illustration and abstraction. //



LDEKM03, 2012
Watercolour and acrylic on paper
130 x 100 cm - 51.2 x 39.4 in.



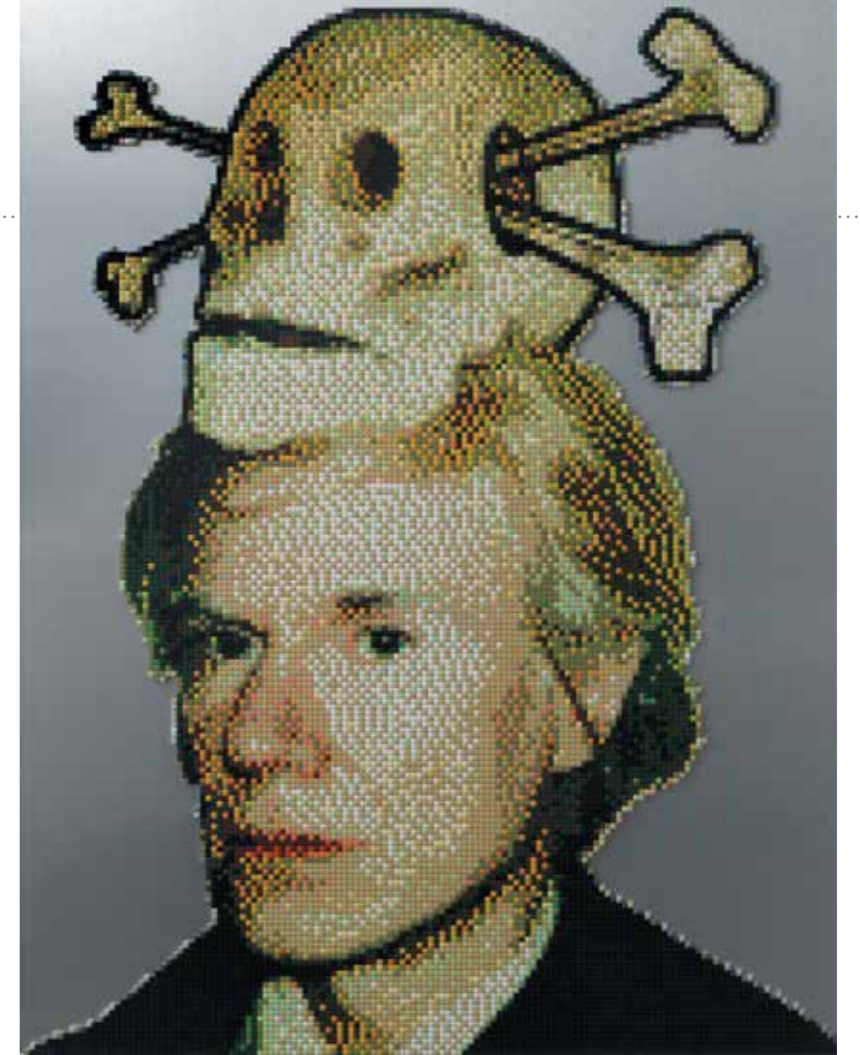
LDEKM08, 2012
Watercolour and acrylic on paper
130 x 100 cm - 51.2 x 39.4 in.

JOE BLACK //

A mixed media artist by definition, Black also makes use of oil paints, acrylics and other mediums to complete his modern masterpieces. Using thousands of handmade badges depicting various images and icons, from the Vietnam war to Elvis Presley, Black manages to piece together amazingly detailed portraits. Utilizing pretty much anything small and plentiful - ball bearings, plastic pins, badges, and Lego Bricks, and the like - Joe puts together thousands of these everyday items to create larger images, usually portraits of icons. //



Workers of the world, unite! (and detail), 2012
Mixed media and plastic toy soldiers on wood
310 x 215 cm - 122 x 84.6 in.



Long life the King (and detail), 2012
Mixed media and Lego on aluminum
192 x 154 cm - 75.6 x 60.6 in.



BLEK LE RAT //

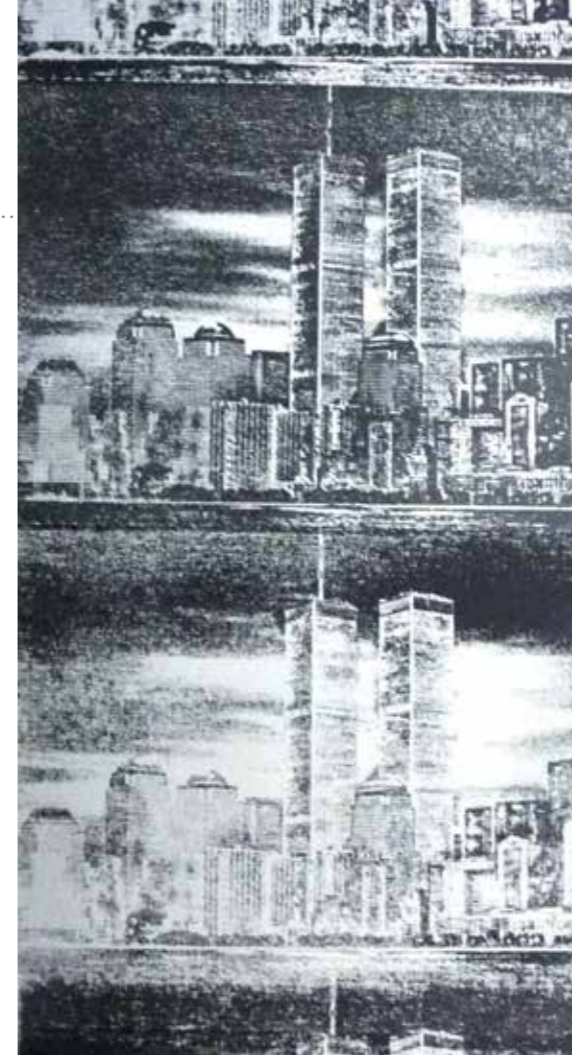
Blek le Rat is considered to be one of the first graffiti artists in Paris, and has been described as the "Father of stencil graffiti." He began his artwork in 1981, painting stencils of rats on the street walls of Paris, when Banksy was still at primary school. He is credited with being the inventor of the life-sized stencil, as well as the first to transform stencil from basic lettering into pictorial art. Many of his pieces are pictorials of solitary individuals in opposition to larger, oppressive groups. He has also been noted for his series of images representing the homeless, begun in 2006, which depict them standing, sitting or laying on sidewalks, in an attempt to bring attention to what he views as a global problem. He is proud of the position he holds as a pioneering street artist. //



Mona, 2012
Mixed media on wood
153 x 109 cm - 60.2 x 42.9 in.

NICK WALKER //

Born in 1969, he emerged from the infamous and ground-breaking Bristol graffiti scene of the early 1980s. His work is constantly evolving and remains innovative, modern and thought provoking. Walker draws on the energy and imagery of graffiti but he succeeds in combining the freedom the spray can brings, with very controlled and intricate stencilling. The results are highly sophisticated. Nick Walker's instantly recognisable style and humour have gained him a worldwide following recognition. In 2008 Walker had sellout shows in L.A. and London. In 2008, his iconic *Moona Lisa* sold over ten times its estimated value at auction at Bonhams. His work has also been embraced by the record, fashion and film industries. He was commissioned by Stanley Kubrick to recreate the heavily hit graffiti'd areas of New York for "Eyes Wide Shut." //



The 12th day (study), 2012
Stencil on canvas
92 x 81 x 7 cm - 36.2 x 31.9 x 2.7 in.



Paris, the morning after, 2012
Stencil on canvas
122 x 180 cm - 48 x 70.8 in.

C215 //

C215 is the moniker of Christian Guémy, a French street artist hailing from Paris. In addition to his street work, C215 also produces commercial artwork for galleries on wood and canvas. His elaborate stencils - if outside a gallery - appear in the streets of various cities all over the globe, such as New Delhi, London, Istanbul, Fez, Rome, Barcelona and Paris. Lighting up the urban spaces they decorate, every stencil has a reason to exist in its specific, well thought of place and all his pieces are hand cut and sprayed originals with a mix of found objects. //



Bacchus, 2011
Stencil on metal
120 x 80 cm - 47.2 x 31.5 in.



Smoke gets in your eyes, 2012
Stencil on wood
103 x 90 cm - 40.5 x 35.4 in.

KID ZOOM //

An Australian born visual artist, Kid Zoom is considered to be a wizard by his contemporaries and Ron English describes him as "Rembrandt with a spray can". He creates very realistic and large canvases of people, skulls, and hands although he still does work on the sides of houses or walls. He says about his first exhibition in New York: "I wanted the show to be an introduction to the range of my work and also touch on themes of Ego, Identity and the personal kingdoms we build. These are themes that I've struggled with personally as an artist, particularly with my involvement in the graffiti world." Combining astonishing spray can ability with classical painting technique, Kid Zoom appears to be the artist who will finally bridge the gap between gallery and street, legitimizing aerosol once and for all as a fine art medium. //



Girl with the pearl earring, 2012
Acrylic and aerosol on paper
(640 gsm cotton cold press stock)
188 x 128,5 cm - 74 x 50.6 in.

MAC1 //

Mac1 is a photorealistic graffiti artist who came out of Birmingham's innovative scene in the 1980s & 90s. He is a self-taught artist who deals mainly with acrylics, oils and inks. He is inspired by pop/comic art as well as iconic figures from the past and present. Mac1 has been painting for 19 years, mainly with aerosol paint. In this time he has made a reputation for himself as one of the finest photo realistic portrait painters in the world, using aerosol paint, entirely freehand. Recently Mac1 has been using oils to great effect, and has also been building a new body of street, canvas and sculpture based futurism work. //



La belle noiseuse, 2012
Aerosol paint and oil on canvas
198 x 167.5 cm - 78 x 66 in.

NICK GENTRY //

London artist Nick Gentry paints on floppy disks and creates art from the obsolete technology of the society. He is a British graduate of Central Saint Martins and has exhibited in the UK, USA and Europe. Much of his artistic output has been generated with the use of contributed artefacts and materials. He states that through this process "contributor, artist and viewer come closer together". His art is influenced by the development of consumerism, technology and cyber culture in society, with a distinctive focus on obsolete media. //

Memorial FB, 2012
Oil and used computer disks on wood
Diptych: 150 x 216 cm - 59.1 x 85 in.



MENTALGASSI

Mentalgassi is a German street art collective that covers urban objects with photographic wheat-pastes. They cover objects such as public recycling bins and ticket validating machines with photographs of people with a range of facial expressions, of all ages. They do have a fondness for a particular old man with a beard, whose wrinkled facial expressions look fantastic and humorous on the streets. //



Subway
Bruce Davidson (side 1), 2012
Paste paper on metal fence
100 x 123 cm - 39.4 x 48.4 in.



Subway
Bruce Davidson (side 2), 2012
Paste paper on metal fence
100 x 123 cm - 39.4 x 48.4 in.

RONE //

Best known for the distinctive female centre-pieces of his paste-ups and murals on the walls of Melbourne, Rone has been putting up faces of alluring, beautiful women around the cityscape for years. He says, "my recent work has been focused on two styles that I love to work with: the stencilled girls I've become known for and the screen-printed posters reminiscent of the designs that originally inspired me to make art. Exploring the juxtaposition between the beauty of my paste-up girls and their natural deterioration on the street led me to use layered and torn billposters as my canvas. The illegibility of the destroyed billposters signifies our inability to focus and make sense of life when faced with mortality." //



That's the way (it should have begun! But it's hop less!) 2012
Acrylic polymer paint over collage
silkscreen posters on canvas
167,5 x 167,5 cm - 66 x 66 in.



**I don't care
(I'd rather sink than call Rone for help),
2012**
Acrylic polymer paint over collage
silkscreen posters on canvas
167,5 x 167,5 cm - 66 x 66 in.

The neo-futurist, 2012
Wood in Perspex box
100 x 100 cm - 39.4 x 39.4 in.



**Superficial expression
of velocity, 2012**
Mixed media on canvas
175 x 175 cm - 68.9 x 68.9 in.



REMI ROUGH //

Remi Rough has had 25 years of experience of painting on the streets of London. With a progressive style and a positive spirit the outspoken artist has been on top for all these years. Rough started as a teenager in South London painting graffiti and studying graphic design and art at school, before mixing his knowledge of design with his love of art to create bold and dramatic street art. He now mixes the use of a paintbrush and his spray can to continue breaking boundaries. //

RON ENGLISH//

Ron English (1966 Dallas-) has exhibited in galleries and museums worldwide for over twenty years, influencing a generation of artists and art lovers with his unique and newly disconcerting sensibility. A surprisingly polyvalent artist, he has worked across the visual arts spectrum, from vinyl sculpture to billboards and oil painting. Whereas most artists can be classified as either conceptual or visceral, Ron English is both, having achieved mastery of the physical medium even as his conceptual basis for painting has deepened into a refined distillation of socio-political observation, humour, and memory. Although his work is highly conceptual, English mothers every inch of the canvas, where each brushstroke is an artistic decision; the resulting humanity and warmth of the work stands as counterpoint to its idea-based origin. Using a mixture of imagery, medium and process referenced from great masters such as Warhol, Pollock and Picasso, combined with irreverent cherry-picking of populist totems from fast food to cartoons, English creates complex running narratives of his many alter-egos butting headfirst into the Grand Illusion, where unstated cultural norms are exposed and analysed. Ron English's sharp commentary and art were also featured in the 2004 hit movie "Supersize Me" by Morgan Spurlock. //



Cowgirl Guernica black and white, 2012
 Silkscreen ink on synthetic polymer paint on canvas
 91,5 x 228,5 cm - 36 x 90 in.

ROA //

Belgian artist ROA is renowned for his unique portrayal of large-scale urban wildlife and disquietly cohabiting city streets, hand-painted in a distinctive black and white style. ROA has become famous from painting animals on derelict buildings, shutters and walls all over the world. He has also exhibited to much acclaim and was included in the MOCA exhibition "Art In The Streets" in L.A., in 2011. //

Canis (dog), 2011

Spray paint and enamel on wood
284 x 202 x 30 cm - 111.8 x 79.5 x 11.8 in.



Duality #1/2, 2009

Stencil, spray paint and screenprint on paper
61 x 46 cm - 24 x 18.1 in.
(from private collection)

Duality of humanity 1

Mixed media on collage on canvas
112 x 76 cm - 44 x 30 in.
(from private collection)



SHEPARD FAIREY //

Shepard Fairey was born in 1970, a contemporary artist, graphic designer and illustrator who is best known for his *André the Giant has a Posse* sticker campaign and his work during the 2008 United States Presidential Election, specifically his Barack Obama *Hope* poster. Fairey graduated from Rhode Island School of Design with a BFA in illustration, and went on to start several successful design companies as well as an Obey Giant clothing line. The Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, calls him one of today's best known and influential street artists. His work is included in the collections at The Smithsonian, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Museum of Modern Art in New York and the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. //

RISK //

Risk is a L.A. based graffiti artist. In the 1980s, Risk gained notoriety for his unique style and pushed the limits of graffiti: he was one of the first writers in Southern California to paint freight trains. In 1988, Risk went to New York and painted subway cars, making him the first L.A. writer to have his work run. Back in L.A., Risk and fellow WCA writers embarked on a series of tours: "Bum Rush", an all-out bombing effort in the San Francisco Bay area; "Planes, Trains and Automobiles", a quest on which they hit everything from limos to private planes; and "Hitting Metal", a tour aimed at vehicles, street signs, heavens and any other metal objects they could find. In 2011 Risk was a major contributor in record-breaking show "Art in The Streets" at The Geffen Contemporary, MOCA. He completed a mural on the outside with Lee Quinones, did a major installation inside as well as having a city bus painted and parked in front of the Museum. In correlation to the 2012 Olympics, Risk travelled to London with the Corey Helford Gallery to paint The London Pleasure Gardens with Ron English and Shepard Fairey. Risk also painted on the grounds of Henry the 8th, at the Hampton Courts Palace. //



Something cookin (R unnamed), 2012
Aerosol on stamped stained steel
122 x 122 cm - 48 x 48 in.



On the road again, 2012
Aerosol on license plates
with neon
183 x 244 cm - 72 x 96 in.

SEEN //

Seen is an American street artist who started on the New York subways. His crew United Artists (or simply UA) quickly gained the reputation for producing full-colour throw-ups on whole cars which became iconic images in their own right. For the next 16 years his pieces were running across the city and on all lines. It was during the very early 1980s that Seen started producing work on canvas, shown by galleries and bought by museums and private collectors across the globe. He has been exhibited alongside Andy Warhol, Jean-Michel Basquiat and Keith Haring. Seen has retired from his job as a tattoo artist and devoted his life to graffiti and other forms of art. //

Thor, 2008
Aerosol on canvas
226 x 247 cm - 89 x 97.2 in.



SWEET TOOF //

Equally disciplined in traditional painting and printmaking techniques, Sweet Toof masterfully blends urban detritus with bygone decadence. Fusing ancient methods with modern materials, Sweet Toof's imagery combines layers of historical and current cultural references to create unconventional, iconoclastic art that is at once both traditional and contemporary. Sweet Toof works on the streets of Britain. He includes a lot of mouth, teeth and gum imagery in his wall murals. He has been quoted as saying, "teeth can be really sexy, or aggressive, but they're also constant reminders of death. They're how we get recognised by police when there's nothing else left." //



Dame , 2012
Oil on canvas
50 x 50 cm - 19.7 x 19.7 in.



Duke , 2012
Oil on canvas
50 x 50 cm - 19.7 x 19.7 in.



Duchess , 2012
Oil on canvas
50 x 50 cm - 19.7 x 19.7 in.



Salome & Jokannan , 2012
Graphite, acrylic, oil and enamel on paper on canvas
135 x 95 cm - 53.1 x 37.4 in.

ALEXANDROS VASMOULAKIS

Alexandros Vasmoulakis is born in Athens in 1980, he works as a freelance artist, now alternating between Athens and London. His main purpose is to communicate. He says, "my current work is divided between outdoor murals, installations and the studio work, which is mostly figurative oil painting and collage. Sharing my time between three different fields is a sort of trick to avoid boredom." //



Woman , 2012
Acrylic, oil on paper on canvas
155 x 120 x cm - 61 x 47.2 in.

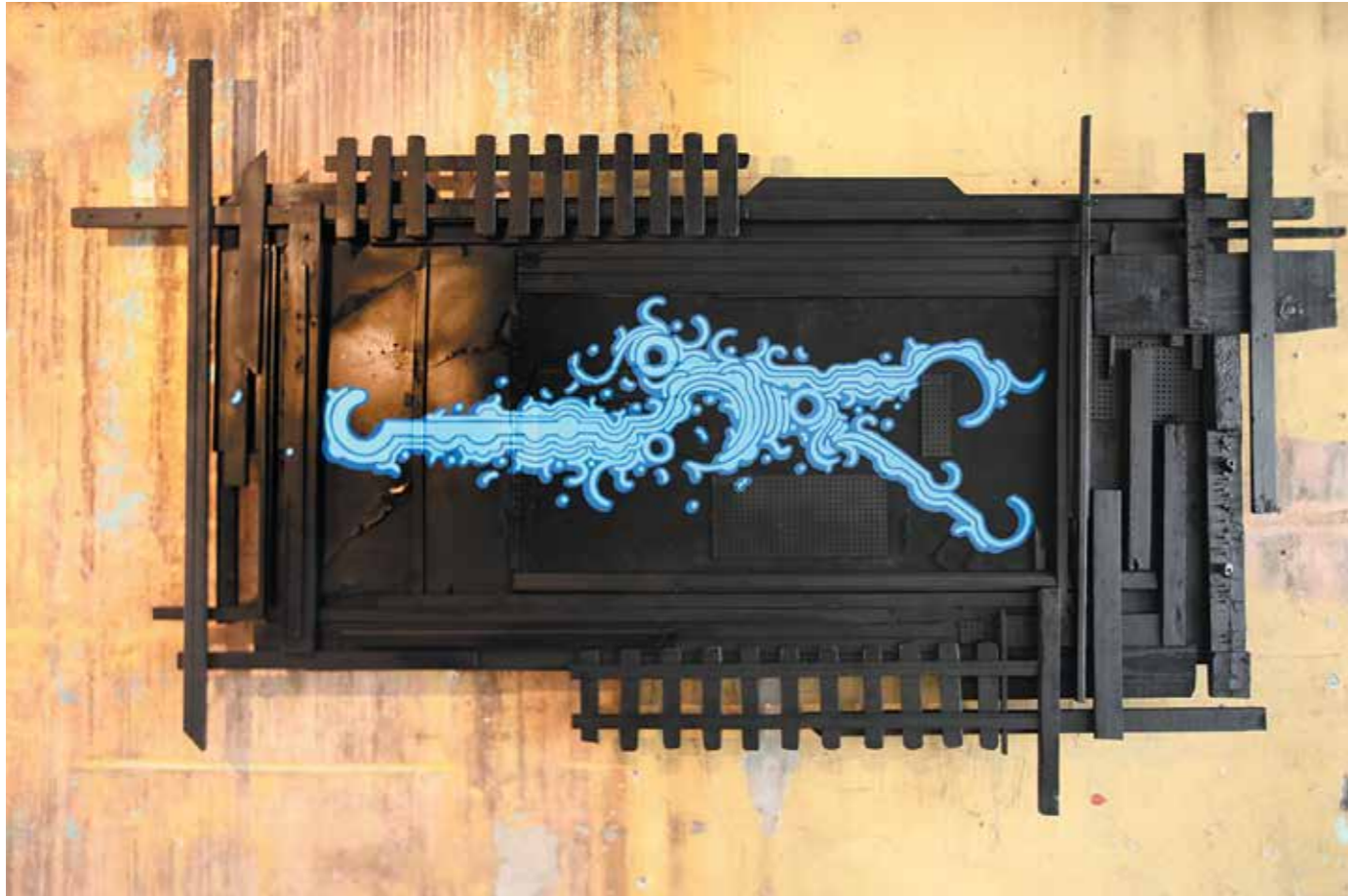
ZEZÃO //

Zeção is a street artist from São Paulo known for his abstract blue shapes. He explores the deeper issues of contemporary art without resorting to theoretical, but with great presence of mind and courage to face them head on. His work is abstract, conceptual, aesthetic, political and, especially, pop-influenced. A self-taught artist, Zeção takes the site-specific and performance art to unprecedented levels. He embodies the ethos of street art. //

Pluvial Waters #1, 2011
Acrylic on wood
272 x 112 cm
107.1 x 44.1 in.



Dramat cidaded, 2012
Mixed media on wood
161 x 267 cm - 63.4 x 105.1 in.



Amaze, 2012
Handcut card and wood paint
64 x 125 cm - 25.2 x 49.2 in.

ZEUS //

London-based artist Zeus explores urban composition juxtaposing street art with architecture. Born Dean Zeus Colman, his middle name naturally became his tag. Zeus took his graffiti style and prolific writing into a three-dimensional format after studying Fine Art at Chelsea College of Art. There he was able to reflect upon his background on the streets to fuse graffiti techniques, sculpture and typography into conceptual compositions. He is one of the first graffiti artists to have exhibited at the Victoria and Albert Museum. //

Love, crash and burn, 2012
Mixed media
18 x 50 cm - 7.1 x 19.7 in.
(© photography Butterfly)



DAVID SHILLINGLAW //

London-based artist David Shillinglaw was born of British parents in 1982 in the Middle East, which may explain his thirst for travel and exhibiting in galleries worldwide. Since graduating from Central Saint Martins in 2002 he has exhibited in galleries in Japan, China, Holland, and key cities such as New York, Beijing, Berlin and Istanbul. Shillinglaw's work moves between street and studio, from small handmade books, to paintings on canvas, found objects, and large-scale wall murals. Shillinglaw's work gravitates towards the subject of "the human condition", as he describes, "Life is a struggle. For everyone. From the smallest insect to the greatest beast, we are determined by the success we seek, and how, in turn we measure that success. Each of us experiencing ups and downs, peaks and troughs. Like a game of snakes and ladders." //

Mural in Paris, France, 2012
(© photography LXone)



STINKFISH //

Stinkfish is an artist from Colombia. He does a little of everything from rollers to posters, stickers to straight up tagging, but he's renowned for his vibrant portraiture. He is a member of the art crew Animal Power Culture. He has used different media and techniques during these years of work in the street: stencils, stickers, posters, brushes, rollers, fire extinguishers etc. He says "I don't think I have one only style. I like to create images in different ways, with the tools I have available in the place where I am. I do not like being tied to one way of doing things." //



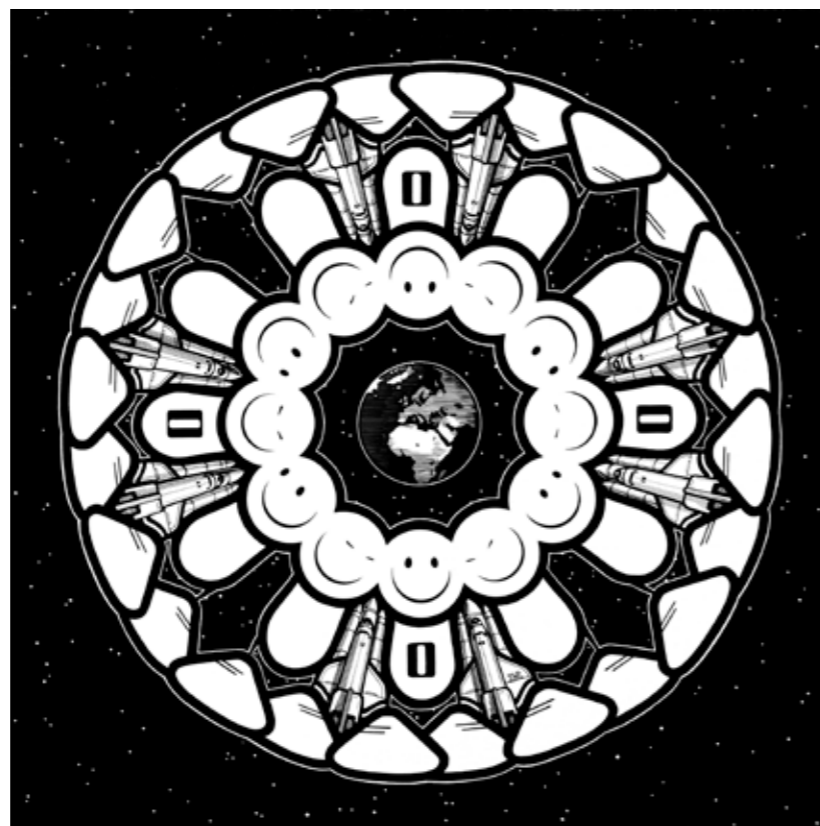
Black thorne
Stencil on wood panel
200 x 200 cm - 78.7 x 78.7 in.

Mural in Bogotá, Colombia, 2012
(© photography Stinkfish)



THE LONDON POLICE //

The London Police are Bob Gibson and Chaz, born in England in the 1970's. The London Police started in 1998 when the two headed to Amsterdam to rejuvenate the visually disappointing streets of the drug capital of the world. The motive was to combine travelling and making street art to create an amazing way of life not seen since the days of King Solomon. From 2002 onward TLP started sending missionaries into all corners of the globe. Known for their iconic LADS characters and precision marking, TLP's work has graced streets and galleries in 35 countries since the late 1990s. London Policemen have come and gone but founding members are still known to walk the streets of every city in the world spreading love with pens and stickers. Last year saw the return of Bob Gibson to The London Police after five years of touring with the indie band "MOSS". And so the original founding members are re-embarking on their quest to combine making artwork and traveling the globe to better themselves and spread artistic love through the world. The blueprint for this new phase was to produce solid back-to-basics black and white artworks collaborating the iconic LADS characters drawn by Chaz with the tight architectural and illustrative landscapes of Bob Gibson. //



M.C. Escher squared, 2012
Hand painted indelible ink on canvas
60 x 60 cm - 23.6 x 23.6 in.

Complete list of artists featured in
the **URBAN MASTERS** installation

**URBAN
MASTERS**

**BOM.K
BLO
BRUSK
GRIS1
JAW
KAN
SOWAT
DA MENTAL VAPORZ
LEK
ROA
DAVID SHILLINGLAW
ZEZÃO
SWEET TOOF
BLEK LE RAT
RON ENGLISH
MAC1
MATT SMALL
ALEXANDROS VASMOULAKIS
EL MAC
C215
JOE BLACK
SEEN
RISK
REMI ROUGH
SIXEART
ZEUS
MENTALGASSI
NICK GENTRY
THE LONDON POLICE
STINKFISH
RONE
BANKSY
KID ZOOM
NICK WALKER
SHEPARD FAIREY //**

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