

Yann Leto

Born in Bordeaux, France, Yann Leto (b. 1979) has been residing in Spain for over a decade, and recently moved to Rome. In the period between 2015 and 2016 Leto lived and worked in Rome, since he was granted a Scholarship of the Royal Spanish Academy. Leto has widely exhibited throughout Europe, and actively participates in various art fairs. Following his first solo show in Los Angeles in 2019, Leto gained international recognition.



At the beginning of his career, Leto was strongly influenced by American and French comics, the underground culture of the 90s, and German expressionism of the post-war period. Exploring irony as his primary tool, Leto embraces equivocal topics and sociopolitical criticism through his distinctive and liberating painting technique. Although Leto's paintings often convey different narratives, the portrayals of people in dynamic settings, indoors or outdoors, remain fundamentally in his imaginative worlds. Sports, television, social networks and personal experiences serve as sources of inspiration for Leto from which he draws his ironic ideas and critiques.

Leto's creative practice can be described as unconventional. Working primarily within the medium of painting, the artist never settles for a particular representational technique, creating a visual language in which hybridity is key. In his extensive body of work, Leto ferociously banishes all limitations of artistic expression and incorporates a captivating synthesis of the poignant, the absurd and the provocative. The combination of vivid and murky colour palettes allows Leto to articulate vulnerable topics in an entertaining and compelling way, and underscores nonconformism as an essential component of his paintings.

Leto incorporates motifs and iconography from different periods of art history, but always gives his pieces a modern twist. One can witness elements from Cubism, mixed with the fluidity and vibrancy of Matisse's forms, and many other hints to various artistic styles, - a beautiful fusion sprinkled with Leto's distinct punk attitude. His thought-provoking artworks create narratives that can be perceived as surreal collages. A lover of classical painting, Leto combines inspiration from great

masterpieces of art history and incorporates elements from his surrounding environment. This fusion creates collage-like imagery, which is also the result of a collection of hard drives filled with digital files, Google images, newspaper clippings and articles. The radio also plays a crucial role in the creative process, as it gives Leto a continuous flow of information, from sports to the most tragic news.

Leto also examines and utilises images from social networks since everything is already 'an online caricature'. Through investigation of all these sources, Leto generates a variety of different storylines, deeply unique and with no rules for the protagonists – a purely visual and emotional circuit that reproduces new narratives and re-positions individuals in a turbulent society.

Yann Leto

b. 1979, Bordeaux, France

Education

2002-2004 IUT Bordeaux III – Option Socio-Culturel

1998-2001 Beaux Arts de Bordeaux

Solo Exhibition

- 2023 *Big City*, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK
- 2023 *Auction Heroes*, Curator's Room, Barcelona, Spain
- 2022 La Arteria (Badajoz), Badajoz, Spain
- 2022 *ONE OF US*, Galeria Yusto / Giner, Malaga, Spain
- 2020 *The Round 2*, The Cabin LA, Los Angeles, USA
- 2020 Cabin L.A, La Brea studio Residency "*Round 2*", Los Angeles, United States
- 2020 "*Pray for me*", A01 Gallery, Napoli, Italy
- 2018 "*Safari*", IACC Pablo serrano, Zaragoza, Spain
- 2018 "*What culture, what tradition*", Scan project, London, United Kingdom
- 2018 DKV, World trade center, Zaragoza, Spain
- 2018 "*The Round*", Galeria T20, Murcia, Spain
- 2016 "*Totem*", Galería T20, Murcia, Spain
- 2015 Solo show of Mixed Techniques, The Art Valley, Madrid, Spain
- 2015 Solo show of Mixed Techniques, Metropolitan, Madrid, Spain
- 2014 «*Viva primary colours, viva*», Galería Carolina Rojo, Zaragoza, Spain
- 2014 *Summa 14*, Solo Project, El Matadero / MADRID, Galería T20, Madrid, Spain
- 2014 «*Fake*», El Matadero, Huesca (Festival Periferias), Spain

- 2013 *"Iconofobia"*, Galería T20 Murcia, Spain
- 2012 *"Circus Dances"*, Ada Gallery, Richmond, USA
- 2010 *"Pink Agent"*, Galería Cámara Oscura, Madrid, Spain
- 2010 *"Beautiful Hooligans processions"*, Vecteur gallery, Charleroi, Belgium
- 2010 *Kill the author*, Caja Madrid, Zaragoza, Spain

Group Exhibitions

- 2023 *Contemporary Figuration: Between Body & Metaphor*, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK
- 2023 *Past, Present, Future*, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK
- 2022 *Iberian Contemporaries: The Resurgence of Spanish Art*, Fabien Fryns Fine Art, Dubai, UAE
- 2022 *Carnivals of Clouds*, Janet Rady Fine Art
- 2021 XIV Certamen Fundación Unicaja, Malaga, Spain
- 2021 Aragón Park, Madrid, Spain
- 2021 Festival Mar de Música, Cartagena, Colombia
- 2019 Espositivo *"Jumanji"*, Madrid, Spain
- 2018 Ada Gallery, Richmond, Virginia, United States
- 2017 *Re-construir el paisaje*, espacio Dorffi – Lanzarote, Las Palmas, Spain
- 2017 *La précarité notre triomphe*, Centro de Historia, Zaragoza, Spain
- 2017 *Parlamento la Rioja*, Logroño, Spain
- 2016 *Convent Sant Domenech*, Xàtiva, Borgia, Italy
- 2016 *Permanent Vacation*, Bordeaux, France
- 2016 *Bienal Guericabeitia*, Valencia, Spain
- 2016 *Galería 6+1*, OPFM, Madrid, Spain

- 2015 *Ultraviolence*, CAMARA OSCURA GALERIA DE ARTE, Madrid, Spain
- 2015 «*Demain ça ira mieux*», Galerie Anouk Le Bourdier, Paris, France
- 2015 «*Nepotismo ilustrado*», Galería Fernando Pradilla, Madrid, Spain
- 2015 CAC MALAGA, “*Made in Spain*”, Fundación Benetton, comisariado por F. Francés, Treviso, Italy
- 2015 *FocusAbengoa*, Sevilla, Spain
- 2015 “*De la mano*” (con M. Barcelo, J.Uslé, J.Ugalde), Palacio de Cibeles, Madrid, Spain
- 2015 *Muestra final Real Academia Española en Roma*, Rome, Italy
- 2015 *Firebrands*, Mullherin&Pollard Gallery, New York, USA
- 2013 *Th3 Fa11*, Festival Octavo asalto, Zaragoza, Spain
- 2011 *The Cheaper show*, Vancouver, Canada
- 2010 *Bienal de Arte contemporáneo de PAMPLONA*, Pamplona, Spain
- 2010 *CUARTO ESPACIO*, Premio Isabel de Portugal, Zaragoza, Spain
- 2009 *MUSEO CAMON AZNAR*, Gobierno de Aragón, Zaragoza, Spain
- 2009 *Ópera Prima. Ciclo de vídeo arte CAJA MADRID*, Madrid, Spain
- 2009 *MUSEO DE LA CIUDAD, MADRID*– Fundación Gregorio Prieto, Madrid, Spain
- 2008 *Drawings*, Galería Pepe Rebollo, Zaragoza, Spain
- 2008 *Y. Leto, P. Martínez y O. Carasco*, Galería Luís Adelantado, Valencia, Spain
- 2007 *IX Convocatoria Internacional Jóvenes Artistas*, Luís Adelantado, Valencia, Spain

Art Fairs

- 2023 *Untitled Art, Miami Beach*, JD Malat Gallery, Miami, USA
- 2023 *Art021*, Galeria Yusto Giner, Shanghai, China
- 2023 *UVNT Urvanity Art Fair*, Galería Yusto Giner, Madrid, Spain

- 2023 *Art Busan*, Galería Yusto/Giner, Busan, South Korea
- 2023 *ArtDubai*, Galería Yusto/Giner, Dubai, UAE
- 2022 *Roma Arte in Nuvola 2022*, Andrea Festa Fine Art, Rome, Italy,
- 2022 *ART021 Shanghai Contemporary Art Fair 2022*, Andrea Festa Fine Art, Shanghai, China
- 2022 *Art Busan*, Galería Yusto/Giner, Busan, South Korea
- 2022 *ZONA MACO*, Galería Yusto/Giner, Mexico City, Mexico
- 2020 *ARCO 2020*, Galería T20, Madrid, Spain
- 2019 *ARCO 2019*, Galería T20, Madrid, Spain
- 2018 *T20 at ARCOmadrid 2018*, T20, Madrid, Spain
- 2018 *Artbanchel 2018*, U studio, Madrid, Spain
- 2018 *Estampa 2017*, Matadero, Madrid, Spain
- 2017 *ARCOmadrid 2017*, Galería T20, Madrid, Spain
- 2017 *Estampa 2017*, Matadero, Madrid, Spain
- 2016 *ARCOmadrid 2016*, Galería T20, Madrid, Spain
- 2015 *"Congress topless"*, *ARCOmadrid 14*, Galería T20, Madrid, Spain
- 2015 *Summa 15*, Galería T20, Murcia, Spain
- 2015 *Sanchinarro Art Fair*, Sanchinarro, Madrid, Spain
- 2015 *ArtMiami 14*, Galería Cámara Oscura, Miami, United States
- 2013 *"Firebrands" (With KottiePaloma)*, Mullherin& Pollard Gallery, NY, United States
- 2013 *Summa 13*, Galería T20, Madrid, Spain
- 2013 *ARCO 13*, Galería T20, Madrid, Spain
- 2012 Galería LUIS ADELANTADO-Valencia, Con P. Martínez y O. Carrasco, Valencia, Spain

- 2011 *ARTE FIERA*, Bologna Artfair, Italy
- 2011 *ART AMSTERDAM*, Cámara Oscura, Holland, Netherlands
- 2010 *ESTAMPA 10*, Galería Cámara Oscura, Madrid, Spain
- 2009 *CIRCA 09, PUERTO RICO* –Galería L. Adelantado, Puerto Rico
- 2008 *ART SHANGAI 08*, Galería Luís Adelantado, China
- 2008 *TORINO 08*, Galería Luís Adelantado, Turin, Italy
- 2008 *MACO 08*, Galería Luis Adelantado, México, Mexico
- 2008 *ARCO 08*, Galería Luis Adelantado, Madrid, Spain
- 2008 *ARTBO 08*, Galería Luis Adelantado, Bogotá, Colombia

Awards, Grants, and Residences

- 2023 Artistic Residency at Adhesivo Contemporary, Mexico City, Mexico
- 2018 Guash Corranty Award, Piramidon Art Centre, Barcelona, Spain
- 2017 Artistic Residency Al Jallo, Lanzarote, Spain
- 2016 Beca de producción EmergenT, Torremolinos, Málaga, Spain
- 2014 Beca MAEC-AECID en Roma para artistas españoles y extranjeros (Noviembre 14 – Junio 15), Rome, Italy
- 2014 Beca de creación artística, Ayuntamiento de Zaragoza, Zaragoza, Spain
- 2011 Finalista en The Cheaper Show, Vancouver, Canada
- 2011 Finalista en el Festival “Art takes Miami”, Miami, USA
- 2007 IX Convocatoria Internacional de la Galería LUIS ADELANTADO
- 2007 Premio WTC (World Trade Center) ART FEST, Mexico, Mexico

Selected Works



Yann Leto
A Sleeping Man, 2023
Oil and airbrush on linen
180 x 140 x 3.5 cm
70 7/8 x 55 1/8 x 1 3/8 in



Yann Leto
Game Set and Match, 2023
Oil and airbrush on linen
180 x 140 x 3.5 cm
70 7/8 x 55 1/8 x 1 3/8 in