

John Copeland

John Copeland (b.1976) is a California-born artist who currently lives and works in New York City. By 1998, the artist gained his Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) degree at California College of Arts and Crafts. John Copeland is an established artist, whose practice mainly focuses on the ambivalent relationship between abstraction and figuration. As Copeland states, 'I'm more interested in using the language of painting and working with the edge of abstraction, working with the push and pull of paint, image, readability and texture.'



Embarking on the journey in the search of equilibrium between the abstract and the figurative, Copeland simultaneously explores established art historical tropes such as the nude, the table and the skull, while suffusing his canvases with abstract mark making. Through the survey of complexities of image-making and representation, Copeland fuses figures into the background, revealing his very own colouristic sound and ensuring that no single colour dominates the canvas.

Drawing inspiration from previously encountered images, Copeland distorts the figures and shapes in thick layers of paint. Such technique allows the artist to incorporate a dimmer tone in his expressionist paintings, which is designed to conceal the ultimate lascivious human nature disguised under the experiences of everyday life. Copeland is driven to explore the balance between the daily realities and the violence and dark nature which naturally underlies human existence.

John Copeland's work has been widely recognised and exhibited internationally in Copenhagen, Bologna, Zurich, New York, Leipzig and most recently at the Newport Street Gallery in London.

Selected Works



John Copeland
MUSIC BY MAIL ORDER, 2022
Oil on canvas
42 x 48 in
106.7 x 121.9 cm

John Copeland CV

B. 1976 – Los Angeles, CA

Lives and works in NYC

Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2022 *Destino Matar*, Eighteen Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 2022 *This Is Not My Beautiful House*, Galeria Hilario Galguera, Mexico City, MX
- 2021 *Heavy Reverb*, Huxley-Parlour, London, UK
- 2020 *I Feel It In My Bones*, V1 Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 2018 *Your Heaven Looks Just Like My Hell*, Newport Street Gallery, London, UK
- 2018 *If You Can Read This, You're In The Wrong Place*, Eighteen Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 2016 *Wolves Wait At Your Door*, V1 Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 2014 *Electric*, V1 Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 2013 *All We Ever Wanted Was Everything*, Galerie Alex Daniels-Reflex Amsterdam, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- 2012 *You'll Never Be The Same*, Galleria Marabini, Bologna, Italy
- 2012 *Answers to Questions I Never Asked*, V1 Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 2010 *Times of Grace*, Galerie Alex Daniels-Reflex Amsterdam, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- 2010 *High Life*, V1 Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 2009 *Old Glory*, Nicholas Robinson Gallery, New York, NY

- 2007 *Galerie de Meerse, Hoofddorp, The Netherlands*
- 2006 *Undercurrents, 31Grand, Brooklyn, NY*
- 2004 *Moonshiner, 31Grand, Brooklyn, NY*
- 2001 *BBH Gallery, New York, NY*

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2023 *Past, Present, Future, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK*
- 2021 *Ten Year Anniversary Exhibition, Halsey McKay, East Hampton, NY*
- 2021 *It Was Askew, V1 Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark*
- 2021 *Lampadephoria, V1 Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark*
- 2020 *Today's Special #1, V1 Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark*
- 2020 *Today's Special #7, V1 Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark*
- 2019 *New Mythologies: Figurative Abstraction in Contemporary Painting, Huxley-Parlour, London, UK*
- 2019 *MINE III, V1 Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark*
- 2017 *Simulation/Skin; Selected Works from the Murderme Collection, Newport Street Gallery, London, UK*
- 2017 *Paint It Black, Chart with V1 Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark*
- 2017 *Nude, V1 Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark*
- 2017 *Mine, V1 Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark*
- 2016 *ArtHerning, V1 Gallery, Herning, Denmark*

JD MALAT GALLERY

- 2015 *13*, V1 Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 2013 *Bad Painting. John Copeland & Katherine Bernhardt*, V1 Gallery at Spinnerei, Leipzig, Germany
- 2013 *Summer Reading*, The Hole, New York, NY
- 2013 *Chicken or Beef*, The Hole, New York, NY
- 2012 *Wonders – Masterpieces from Private Danish Collections*, The Museum Of Modern Art Aalborg, Denmark
Hell Raisers, Galerie des Filles du Calvaire, Paris, France
- 2012 *Hell Raisers*, Galerie Lange + Pult, Zurich, Switzerland
- 2011 *I am who I am: The Portrait Reconsidered*, Steven Zevitas Gallery, Boston
- 2011 *What's He Building in There?*, Fuse Gallery, New York. Curated by Jesper Elg and Mikkel Gronnebaek
- 2011 *Status- Somewhere between Position and Condition*, V1 Gallery, Copenhagen
- 2010 *Big Picture*, Priska Juschka Fine Art, New York, NY
- 2010 *Album*, V1 Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 2009 *Selector*, PLSMIS Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
- 2009 *The New Yorkers/Off the Grid*, V1 Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 2008 *The Boys are Back in Town*, V1 Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 2008 *Sex, Drugs and Rock + Roll*, Steven Zevitas Gallery, Boston, MA
- 2008 *Glass Houses*, Werkstatte Gallery, New York, NY
- 2008 *The Boys Are Back in Town*, Romo Gallery, Atlanta, Georgia
- 2008 *Strangefolks*, John Copeland, Eliazabeth Huey, and Logan Grider, Allston Skirt Gallery, Boston, MA

JD Malat Gallery
30 Davies St, Mayfair,
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+44 20 3746 6830

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- 2007 *I Remember Nothing*, Sehlman Helwaser Art Gallery, New York, NY
- 2007 *We are Moonrakers*, OKOK Gallery, Seattle, WA
- 2007 *Also Known As*, Fette's Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2007 *We Are Near*, Allston Skirt Gallery, Boston MA
- 2007 *Personal Effects*, Fette's Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2006 *Private Viewing*, Columbia University, New York, NY
- 2006 *Grand Union*, The Front Room, Brooklyn, NY
- 2005 *John Copeland / Nicola Lopez*, Irvine Contemporary Art, Washington D.C., Featured artist with 31Grand, ScopeNY
- 2005 *Life in a Box*, Fabrica Features Gallery, Kowloon, Hong Kong
- 2005 *Young Americans*, Wake Forest University, Charlotte and Philip Hanes Art Gallery, Winston-Salem, NC
- 2004 *Vote With Your Art*, OK Harris, New York, NY
- 2004 *Russian Doll Show*, Hope Street Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
- 2003 *Scratch*, Chelsea Art Museum, New York, NY
- 2003 *Lead Poisoning*, New Image Art Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2003 *Strange Bedfellows*, Art Department, Manchester, MI
- 2003 *Assembly*, The Front Room, Brooklyn, NY
- 2003 *I Walk the Line*, 31Grand, Brooklyn, NY
- 2002 *Dime Bag*, New Image Art Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2002 *Decipher*, NYArts Gallery, New York, NY

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- 2002 *Ten Fold*, The Project, New York, N
- 2000 *Sketch*, Juice Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 1999 *Open*, Juice Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 1998 *Introductions*, Laurence L. Hulberg Fine Art, San Francisco, CA

International Art Fairs

- 2009 *Volta*, V1 Gallery, Basel, Switzerland
- 2009 *John Copeland-Florian Sussmayer*, NEXT fair with Nicholas Robinson Gallery .
Chicago, IL
- 2010 *Dirty Old Town*, Volta with V1 Gallery, New York, NY
- 2011 *ArtBrussels*, V1 Gallery, Brussels, Belgium
- 2012 *Volta Basel 8*, with V1 Gallery, Basel, Switzerland
- 2012 *ARCO*, Galerie Alex Daniels-Reflex Amsterdam, Madrid, Spain
- 2012 *Market*, V1 Gallery, Stockholm, Sweden
- 2013 *Volta Basel 9*, V1 Gallery, Basel, Switzerland
- 2014 *Volta 10*, V1 Gallery, Basel, Switzerland
- 2015 *Volta 11*, with V1 Gallery, Basel, Switzerland
- 2015 *Chart Art Fair*, with V1 Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 2015 *Market Art Fair*, with V1Gallery, Stockholm, Sweden
- 2015 *ArtHerning*, with V1 Gallery, Herning, Denmark
- 2016 *Volta 12*, V1 Gallery, Basel, Switzerland

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- 2017 *NY Art Book Fair, PS1, New York, US*
- 2018 *Tables, Pots & Plants – A song for Matisse, V1 Gallery at VOLTA14, Basel, Switzerland*
- 2019 *The Birds, CHART Art Fair with V1 Gallery, Kunsthal Charlottenborg, Copenhagen, Denmark*
- 2020 *Art Herning, Group Presentation with V1 Gallery, Herning, Denmark*

Special Projects

Whitney Museum Commission for 2007 Summer of Love Art Party Artist Collaboration

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