

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.

Selected Works



Yann Leto

Queen is dead, 2022

Oil on canvas

55 1/8 x 39 3/8 in

140 x 100 cm

(LET003)



Yann Leto

The girls locker room, 2023

oil and spray on canvas

78 3/4 x 66 7/8 in

200 x 170 cm

(LET011)

Yann Leto

b. 1979, Bordeaux, France

Solo Exhibition

- 2023 *Big City*, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK
- 2022 *La Arteria* (Badajoz), Badajoz, Spain
- 2022 *ONE OF US*, Galeria Yusto / Giner, Malaga, Spain
- 2020 *"Boxthings"*, USJ, Zaragoza, Spain
- 2019 *Cabin L.A.*, La Brea studio Residency "Round 2", Los Angeles, United States
- 2019 *"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
- 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 *Past, Present, Future*, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK
- 2022 *Carnivals of Clouds*, Janet Rady Fine Art
- 2021 *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 Guerricabeitia*, 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 Bourdieu, 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.
- 2013 *Th3 Fa11*, Festival Octavo asalto, Zaragoza, Spain.
- 2011 *TheCheaper show*, Vancouver, Canada.
- 2011 ARTE FIERA, Boloña Artfair, Italy.
- 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.

Art Fairs

- 2022 Andrea Festa Fine Art at Roma Arte in Nuvola 2022, Andrea Festa Fine Art
- 2022 Andrea Festa Fine Art at ART021 Shanghai Contemporary Art Fair 2022, Andrea Festa Fine Art
- 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.
- 2016 ARCOMadrid 2016, Galería T20, Madrid, Spain.
- 2015 *"Congress topless"*, ARCOMadrid 14, Galería T20, Madrid, Spain.
- 2015 Summa 15, Galería T20, Murcia, 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.

Grants and Residences

2016 Beca de producción EmergenT Torremolinos

2014 Beca 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 TheCheaper 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.