

Mathieu Bassez

Mathieu Bassez, was born in Flanders, Belgium in 1969, but lives and works in Bizanet, a historical wine village in South-France. The son of an architect, Bassez grew up in Ghent, home of the Flemish Primitives such as Van Eyck, Breughel and Rubens.

Passionate about art, he started painting in his early teens, but it was at university, after writing a thesis on Utamaro, the 19th century Japanese painter of daily life scenery (the floating world) that his interest in art intensified, culminating in his studying painting and etching at the Tokyo University of Fine Arts, where he was the only foreigner in his class.

His real passion however is the authentic oil technique of the Italian and Flemish master painters, which he applies for a daring contemporary mix of Japanese Zen-purification and French cabaret-elements.

With a return to his roots, Mathieu Bassez applies oil paint to finely woven, handmade linen, sourced from a centuries' old Flemish company, the end result having the smoothness of Old Master paintings.

Then there is red, the all-pervading colour in his work, shared with a monochrome palette of brownish shades. "Red is wide ranging, going from passionate to nostalgic. Red is the colour of love and life, of violence – blood, danger, death", he says, mentioning his red was used by Vittore Carpaccio, the 16th Century Venetian painter, after whom the famous dish is named.

After an exhibition in Osaka organised by the Belgian government in 1994, he quickly built up an international career closely cooperating with renowned galleries in Antwerp, Brussels, Paris, Honfleur, Saint-Paul de Vence, London, Barcelona, Marbella, Berlin, Osaka, New York, Los Angeles, Dubai, etc.

In 2007 the new MEAM-museum in Barcelona buys two paintings of Mathieu Bassez, and recently ordered a monumental original oil painting of 17 by 9 feet, which Mathieu Bassez is executing at this very moment. From 2010 onwards his work will be part of the permanent collection of the museum, which is situated next to the Picasso Museum in Barcelona.

Selected exhibitions:

2004

Collective Exhibition - Gallery Revel Soho New York, USA

Collective Exhibition - "Angels" Tempera Fine Art Gallery Brussels, Belgium

Individual Exhibition - Leonhards Fine Art Gallery Antwerp, Belgium

Participates at "Los Angeles Art Show"

2005

Collective Exhibition - Gallery Revel Soho New York

Collective Exhibition - Galerie d'Art Elysées Paris, France

Collective Exhibition - Leonhards Fine Art Gallery Antwerp, Belgium

2006

Individual Exhibition - Leonhards Fine Art Gallery Antwerp, Belgium

Collective exhibition "The Female Poser" - Sammer Gallery Marbella, Spain

2007

Participates at Art Fair "Luxury Please" - at the Imperial Palace Hofburg Vienna

Fundación de las Artes y los Artistas buys two oil paintings for the permanent collection of the new MEAM-museum Barcelona

2008

Collective exhibition "Realism" – Sammer Gallery Marbella, Spain

Participates at Art Fair "Art Nocturne" – Knokke, Belgium

2009

Collective exhibition "Realism Redefined" – Cuadro Museum & Fine Art Gallery Dubai

Fundación de las Artes y los Artistas commissions a monumental 5m (17feet) original oil painting for the permanent collection of the new MEAM-museum Barcelona, Spain

Collective Exhibition - Art Mix Gallery Antwerp, Belgium

Collective Exhibition – Collection Privée Art Gallery, Miami, USA