

GOMAD the Artist

I was born in 1972 in Geleen, a former coal mining town in the south of the Netherlands, where I continue to live and work today. Geleen sits at the crossroads of Belgium and Germany, and growing up between three countries meant I was exposed to - and shaped by - multiple cultures from an early age.

I painted my first mural at the age of 8. The subject: an Easter bunny. The medium: a permanent blue marker. The canvas: the wall of our family garage. My mother had never been prouder.

My passion for graffiti was sparked in the 1980s, inspired by two iconic cultural works: Beat Street by Harry Belafonte and the documentary Style Wars by Henry Chalfant. Immersed in Hip Hop culture, I began painting graffiti at twelve, alongside breakdancing and rapping. Graffiti and Hip Hop became my world throughout my teenage years. Yet, at the time, I lacked the courage to imagine a career as a professional artist. Seeking stability, I pursued studies in Illustrative Design at the Academy of Arts in Sittard (1992–1996), followed by 20 years as a graphic designer.

Still, art never left me. My first commissioned graffiti work dates back to 1988, but it wasn't until 2014 - after years of personal and artistic growth - that I finally committed to life as a full-time artist.



Today, my work is a synthesis of everything that shaped me: my formal design education, my years in the graphics industry, and my lifelong love for Hip Hop culture and graffiti. My murals and paintings blend realism with surreal, highly detailed elements, enriched by my own signature shapes - the GOMAD trademark - and visual language.

Now, as an international muralist and urban fine art painter, my art takes me around the world - transforming walls into stories, and public spaces into living canvases.

And yet, every wall I paint still connects back to that little boy in Geleen, marker in hand, discovering the power of art for the very first time.

Marcus Debie aka GOMAD



Title

SAYURI

Technique

Spray paint and acrylics on wall

Size

10 stories high

Location

Geleen, Netherlands

Year

2020

Collab

SMUG

This mural portrays Sayuri (7), a young girl from the neighborhood on the south side of Geleen, where this artwork rises tall.

She holds what looks like a birdhouse, but is in fact a miniature version of the local church, a landmark in the same community. Around her, swallows - frequent visitors of the area - are depicted in flight, symbolizing freedom and connection.

The magnolia tree represents the ongoing renewal of this once disadvantaged neighborhood, now transforming into a more vibrant and desirable place to live. The magnolia also grows in the garden right beside this building, measuring 30x13 meters (100x45 ft), grounding the mural in its very surroundings.

My first high-rise mural.



Tech Size

Spray paint on wall

Spray paint on wall
7 stories high
Calais Street Art Festival
Calais, France
2023





Rooftop mural, Smyrna, USA 2023

Title

SUN KISSED

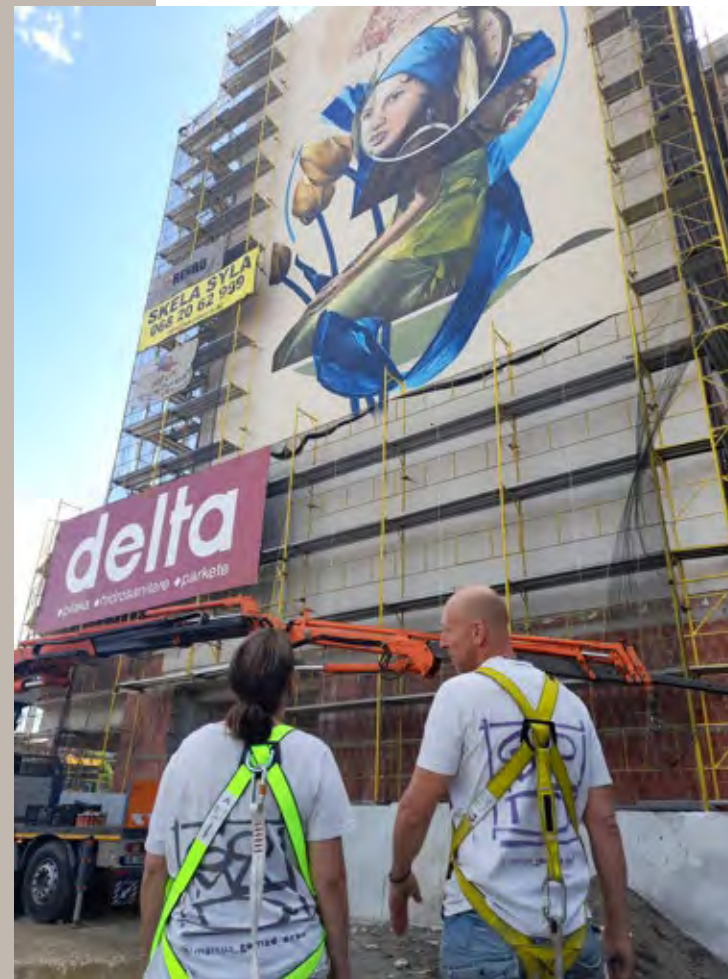
Technique
Size
Location
Year

Spray paint on wall and wood
5x16 meters, 16x52 feet
Smyrna, Atlanta, USA
2023

The second mural, located on the right, is an ode to the multicultural community of Atlanta and its surroundings. It also honors International Women's Day through the depiction of two women - one of color and one white - shown in unison as a powerful symbol of integration and harmony.

The Jonquil flower (or Narcissus), abundant in Smyrna during spring, represents renewal, regeneration, and the promise of new beginnings. This theme of hope is further echoed by the Pine Warbler, a common bird in Georgia, which embodies freedom, resilience, and the ability to adapt to change. Together, these elements create a visual dialogue about unity, diversity, and the strength found in new growth.





Title

MY GIRL WITH THE PEARL

Technique
Size
Project
Location
Year

Spray paint on wall
11 stories high
Mural Fest Tirana
Tirana, Albania
2023

This mural is my contemporary interpretation of Vermeer's iconic painting Girl with a Pearl Earring (1665).

The two female portraits both depict my mother: on the left, as a 16-year-old girl; on the right, as the woman she is today (80). Together, they symbolize the journey of a lifetime. The classic pocket watch represents the inevitable passage of time, while the tulips pay homage to our homeland, the Netherlands.

The piece is both an ode to Vermeer's timeless art and a deeply personal tribute to my beloved mother. Interestingly, the people of Tirana have affectionately nicknamed the mural 'Mother Teresa.'

Title

HIP HOP REIMAGINED

Technique

Spray paint and acrylics on wall

Size

11x11 meters, 36x36 feet

Project

Urbaner Kunstraum

Location

Wuppertal, Germany

Year

2023

As shared in my biography, Hip Hop culture entered my life in 1984 when I was just 12 years old, and its influence has shaped me ever since. For this mural, however, I was determined not to interpret Hip Hop too literally. My organic style - rooted in portraits, animals, flowers, and a modest, nuanced color palette - stands in deliberate contrast to the bold, vibrant aesthetics traditionally associated with graffiti and Hip Hop art. Staying true to my own artistic voice, while honoring the theme, became my central focus.

The composition begins with a photograph of myself and Nancy, captured in a pose reminiscent of a 'Freeze' - a B-boy move that suspends the body in perfect balance. If you rotate this image 90 degrees counterclockwise, the original pose reveals itself, hidden within the mural's surreal flow.

From there, I wove in symbolic elements. A 'Ghetto Blaster' emblematic of the 1980s, is reimagined as a classical gramophone whose horn blossoms into a radiant flower. This object bridges past and present, standing for the DJ-ing and scratching that defined Hip Hop, while transforming into an organic metaphor for growth and beauty.

The flower I chose is the rhododendron - closely tied to the city of Wuppertal, flourishing in its botanical gardens, and a symbol of the city's growing reputation as a hub for the arts and street culture.

And, as in much of my work, birds take flight across the composition. For me, they embody freedom of speech and expression - core values of the Hip Hop movement itself. Their presence connects the mural to both the universal language of art and the liberating spirit of Hip Hop.



Title

FRANK & KAT

Technique
Size
Project
Location
Year

Spray paint and acrylics on wall
8x14 meters, 26x46 feet
The Big Picture Fest
Frankston, Melbourne, Australia
2024

This mural portrays the unique bond between Frank - Frankston for short - and his devoted owner, Kat.

Like many cats, Frank is independent, a little stubborn, and often behaves as though he owns the human rather than the other way around. Yet beneath that attitude lies a relationship grounded in trust, love, and affection.

Beyond this personal story, the mural highlights the broader value of pets in our lives. Companionship with animals not only brings joy but also supports mental health, emotional balance, and overall well-being.





Title	TIMELESS GAZES
Technique	Spray paint on wall
Size	22 meters, 72 feet high
Project	North West Walls, Rock Werchter
Location	Werchter, Belgium
Year	2024

Timeless Gazes was painted on a tower of eight stacked containers for North West Walls at the Rock Werchter festival site. The work transforms cold industrial architecture into a living monument of humanity and nature.

At the heart of the mural appears a young woman gazing skyward. Behind her emerges a second female figure, inspired by a photograph of Erwin Olaf, in a distinctly seventies look: her hairstyle, posture, and clothing evoke an era defined by freedom, ideals, and youth culture, placing past and present in subtle dialogue. This dual gaze reflects layers of memory and future, timelessness and transience.

The palette reinforces this retro atmosphere - warm greens, soft yellows, and earthy tones intertwine with vibrant floral pinks and sky blues. It recalls the colors of the 1970s while maintaining a contemporary intensity, bridging nostalgia with the present moment.

Across the steel surfaces, flowers bloom - fragile yet resilient - and birds take flight as messengers of freedom and imagination. The mural thus balances the organic with the industrial, the intimate with the monumental.

Timeless Gazes invites viewers to look up and lose themselves in two faces, two gazes - born of different times, yet united in a universal longing for beauty, hope, and freedom.



Title **AUTUMN IS
A SECOND SPRING
WHEN EVERY LEAF
IS A FLOWER** (Albert Camus)

Technique Spray paint and acrylics on wall
Size 12x12 meters, 40x40 feet
Location Geleen, Netherlands
Year 2024

Painted in my hometown of Geleen, this mural is located on Oranjelaan (Orange Lane). With the arrival of autumn 2024, I chose a warm palette of oranges and browns to echo both the street's name and the season.

The mural depicts two women surrounded by an abundance of flowers and a bird, transforming what was once a plain white wall into a surreal, dreamy and inviting scene. The women symbolize strength and connection, while the flowers represent growth and renewal. The bird adds a sense of freedom and hope, tying the work to the natural cycles that shape both the seasons and our lives.

Title **OLIVIA, ISABELLA & CHOCO**

Technique Spray paint and acrylics on wall
Size 11x9 meters, 36x30 feet
Location Maastricht, Netherlands
Year 2024

This mural portrays my two second cousins, Olivia and Isabella, together with their dog Choco. At its heart lies a universal truth: the comfort of companionship.

The presence of pets brings not only joy but also emotional support, especially for people facing difficult circumstances. By depicting the girls tenderly united with their dog, the mural reflects the healing power of animals and the deep sense of belonging they create within a community.

It is both a personal and collective image: a reminder of how pets enrich our lives and strengthen the social fabric of neighborhoods—offering comfort, resilience, and unconditional love.





Title **IN BLOOM AND PORCELAIN**

Technique Spray paint on wall
Size 10x12 meters, 33x40 feet
Location Maastricht, Netherlands
Year 2024

'In Bloom and Porcelain' subtly intertwines life's fragility with Maastricht's rich heritage. The mural shows a young girl holding a flower, symbolizing nature's transience, beside a blue vase from the iconic Mosa porcelain factory, representing the city's artistic tradition and lasting craftsmanship.

This artwork highlights the contrast between the fleeting beauty of youth and the enduring strength of heritage. It reminds us to cherish both our past and everyday moments, as the combination of the natural forms and refined Mosa vase speaks to the timeless value of tradition and simple beauty.



Title **THE BELL FOUNDER**

Technique Spray paint on wall
Size 10x12 meters, 33x40 feet
Location Venlo, Netherlands
Year 2025

'Bell Founder' is the name of the street where this mural is located. Inspired by this heritage, I chose the image of a traditional foundry worker casting a church bell as the central subject.

In his hands, the bell is held upside down, transforming it into a flower vase. This transformation symbolizes the transience of church buildings in the Netherlands. Many churches today stand empty, are demolished, or find new life through adaptive reuse. The bell, once a sacred instrument of faith, here becomes a vessel for flowers - a symbol of renewal, fragility, and the possibility of new meaning.



Title **THE SPACE BETWEEN**

Technique Spray paint on wall
Size 10x12 meters, 33x40 feet
Location South Salt Lake, USA
Project The Mural Fest
Year 2025

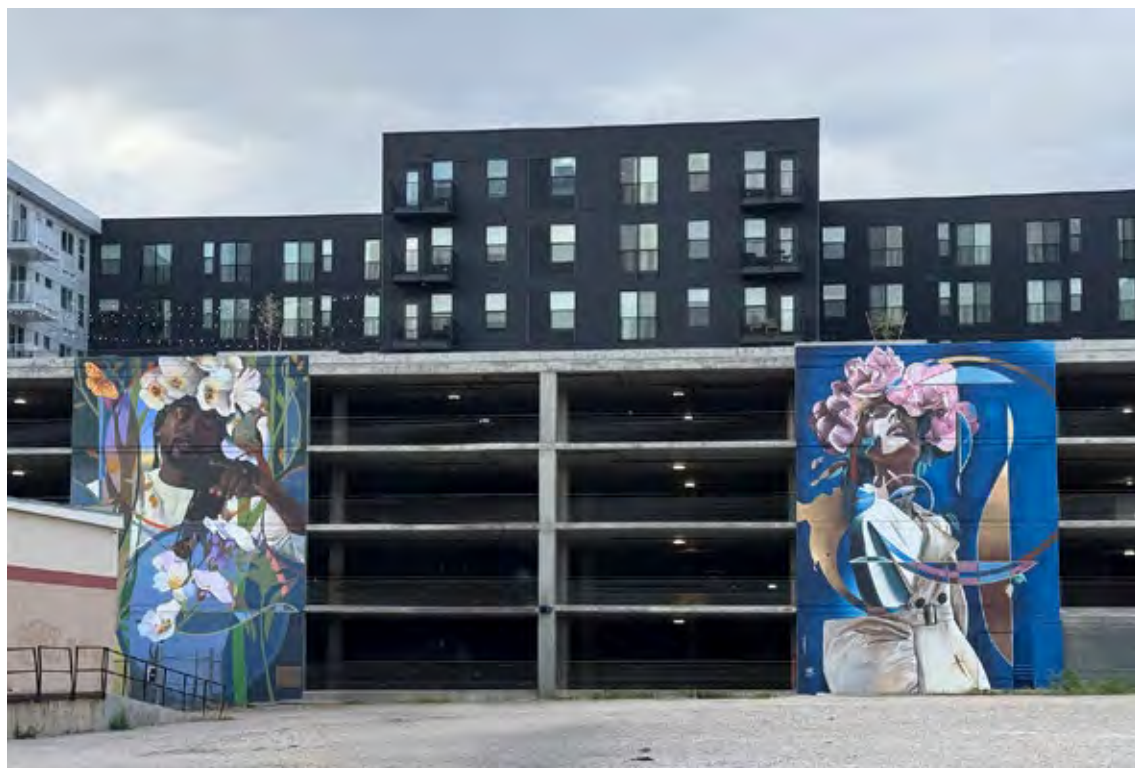
Two walls, two worlds

This is a duo-wall, next to artist Osiris Rain. The location of both murals is at the 'Bowers Residences' in South Salt Lake named after the bowerbird, known for building intricate display nests called bowers, not for shelter, but to attract a mate. Many species are especially drawn to the color blue, like the wall, carefully collecting and arranging blue objects to decorate their bowers. This ritual reflects a unique blend of intention, aesthetic instinct and creativity.

A man and a woman, crowned in flowers, watched by birds of instinct and grace. One looks, the other looks away. One builds, the other shelters. They orbit each other

without touching, connected, but apart. The male bowerbird seeks to impress; the female shields and nurtures, like nature herself. She does not return the gaze, she holds the gaze of something deeper. Together, these murals form a quiet dialogue about attraction and distance, creation and care. About beauty not just displayed, but protected.

The woman's dress, inspired by a photograph I took at an exhibition of gowns worn by Dutch Queen Máxima and designed by fashion designer Mohamed Benchellal, carries a touch of regal elegance. It bridges contemporary art, couture craftsmanship, and national identity - a nod to refined Dutch artistry within an urban, industrial landscape.



Title	TIME AND TOON
Technique	Spray paint on wall
Size	7x11 meters, 23x36 feet
Location	Eindhoven, Netherlands
Year	2025



Inspired by the poem *De Tuin* (The Garden) by Dutch comedian, poet and cabaret artist Toon Hermans, this mural reflects on the cyclical nature of life - how everything that fades returns in new form. Falling leaves, a young poplar sprouting from a wooden clog, and an elderly woman gazing peacefully at the sky come together in a quiet meditation on time, change, and renewal.

The central figure, touched by a warm glow, embodies serenity and vitality. Her presence evokes both personal memory and universal rhythm - she is a symbol of Mother Nature, gracefully inhabiting the final season of life.

Two robins, one resting and one in flight, accompany her gaze. As lifelong partners, they represent hope, love, transformation, and the magic of connection. The wooden clog has been gently reimagined as a birdhouse - a humble object of human heritage transformed into a symbol of shelter, care, and new beginnings.

Warm earth tones and soft circular shapes echo the sun and moon, anchoring the work in both architectural harmony and symbolic depth. Created in dialogue with residents and staff of Peppelrode, this mural offers more than a view: it is a window into the cycles that shape us all - a moment of reflection, quiet joy, and natural grace.

Title **GARDEN OF FEATHERS**

Technique Spray paint on wall

Size 12x12 meters, 40x40 feet

Location Kortenberg, Brussels, Belgium

Year 2025

This mural is an ode to the birds that circle our homes - fluttering between branch and garden, forest edge and wall. They remind us that nature is not some distant world, but a living connection right at our doorstep. Their feathers, flowers and drifting leaves form a fragile, colorful circle: a quiet dialogue between people and nature. Here, in this Garden of Feathers, the birds bring freedom and closeness together - whisperers of the seasons who make a house a home.





Title **ROOTS IN BLOOM**

Technique Spray paint on wall

Size 13x4 meters, 43x13 feet

Project Aruba Art Fair

Location San Nicolas, Aruba

Year 2025

In the streets of San Nicolas, Aruba's Sunrise City, a wall for Aruba Art Fair 2025 has become a canvas of memory and future. On the side of the island's oldest flower shop, once lovingly ran for 35 years by a remarkable woman, Bertha Janga, blooms a tribute to heritage, resilience and community. A proud elderly woman crowned with flowers embodies wisdom and tradition. Next to her, professional dancer and choreographer KG-Cooled with a beard of blossoms, radiates the energy of youth and creativity. The blue abstract shapes - my signature - carry flowers like coral beneath the waves, uniting land and sea, roots and rhythm, past and future.

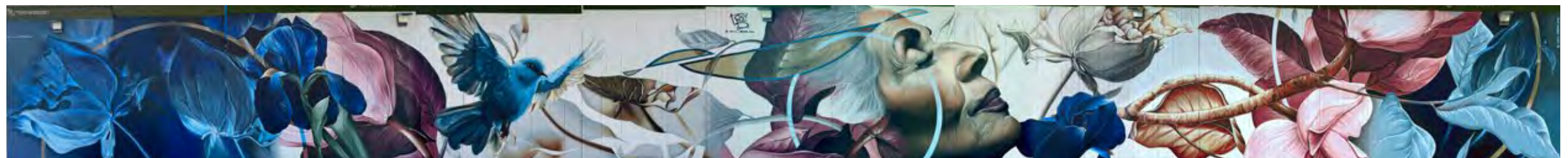
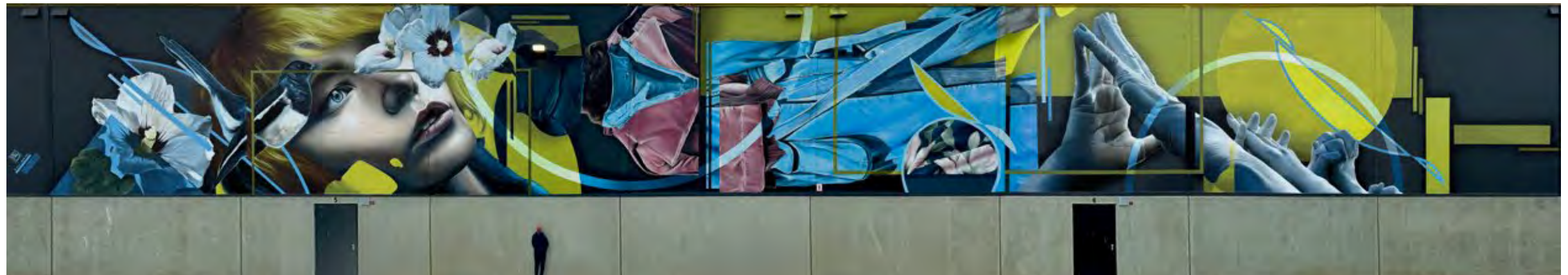
Painting this mural was no easy feat: six days in 95°F heat, with relentless strong side winds, yet every stroke carried the island's heartbeat. This is not just paint on a wall - it is a story in bloom.

XL LANDSCAPE MURALS



Title
Size
Location
Collab

GEWEBTE GESCHICHTEN (Woven Stories)
50x6 meters, 165x20 feet
Delmenhorst, Bremen, Germany 2024
James Jetlag



COLOFON

ART EDUCATION

1992-1996 BA in ‘illustrative design’, Academy of Arts, Sittard, Netherlands.

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ACHIEVEMENTS

- 2011 Winner of Dutch graffiti battle, Tilburg, Netherlands
- 2018 Nominated for People’s Favorite at the Dutch Street Art Awards, Rotterdam, Netherlands
- 2019 Biggest mural of Holland, 2000 m2 (21500 ft2), Oss, Netherlands
- 2020 2nd place for best mural of 2020 by Street Art Cities
- 2021 Highest mural of Holland, 40 meters (130 feet), Sittard, Netherlands
- 2021 Greenpoint Earth Screens award winner, New York, USA
- 2021 Mural projection for Open Art Shuffle festival at the ancient site of Petra, Jordan
- 2022 Live painting at the ancient site of Pompeii, Italy
- 2023 Nominated for 2 awards, Intense Mural and People’s Favorite at the Dutch Street Art Awards, Amsterdam, Netherlands

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COUNTRIES

Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, France, UK, Ireland, Italy, Croatia, Albania, Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Switzerland, Sweden, Greece, Spain, Aruba, USA, Australia.

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FESTIVALS AND JAMS from 2015

Boogie Down, IBE, Step in the Arena, Kings of Colors, Colors Unite, Urban Colours, Mark Some, MOS, Zedre Art, Upfest, Street Art City, Step out of the Arena, Tunnel Vision, Pow!Wow, Shine, Miramar, Uninhibited Art, ARTinfect, Wynwood Mural Fest, Basel House, aWall, Street Art Streets, Just do Paint, Waterford Walls, Graffic Art, Writer’s Block, Silo Art Tour, Off the wall, Wallin’ Goldmine, Pompei Street Festival, Calais Street Art Festival, Mural Fest Tirana, Urbaner Kunstraum Wuppertal, The Big Picture Fest, The Mural Fest SSL, North West Walls, Pulpa Festival, Aruba Art Fair.

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EXHIBITIONS AND SHOWS

From the Streets, Getting Up, The Art of Painting, Urbanity, HeArt gallery, KvadrArt, Vandal Art, ASA Go show, Red Dot Miami, Marx & Marx, Street Art City, Aachener Kunstroute, C-Proof, Novelty, KUS Kultur-Späti, Zenith Art, Upfest, Street Art Inside, Cava Baja gallery, Bomb Shelter, 19 Karen gallery, UnFramed, HQ gallery, Galerie Sakura, ARTinfect, Blank Walls, Hung Up, Surface gallery, Take a Butcher’s gallery, Alphen Art, KiV, X23 gallery, Artist Replete, Wynwood Mural Fest, Urban Art Now, Open Art Museum, Pow!Wow!, Waterford Walls, Urbaneez, Wallin’ Goldmine, Akutiga gallery, District 13 Art Fair, Expo Transition les Portes, Luxembourg Art Fair, GCA gallery, Urban Art Fair Lausanne, Cube gallery, Stroke Art Fair.

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PUBLICATIONS

Graffiti All Stars, SAM, The Cathedral of Art and Inspiration, Upfest, Hotel 128, Europe Street Art & Graffiti, Chemistry, Voyage MIA, I Support Street Art, Artist Replete, Speak the Streets, ASA, Streetart360, Stuart, El Rincón de las Boquillas, The Hague Street Art, Greenpoint Earth, Transition Les Portes, Arts Urbains en Bretagne, Navenant, Urbaneez, Street Art in Action, Urbanyte, Not Just a Brick in the Wall, WxllSpace, Trafikverket, Signature Magazin.

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PHOTO CREDITS

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