

JONATHAN LEVINE GALLERY

Blek le Rat

Blek le Rat was born Xavier Prou in Paris, France in 1951. A pioneer of graffiti writers in Europe, he was one of the first to use stencils for creating icons instead of writing his name. He was first exposed to graffiti in 1971, in New York, but didn't start making his own until ten years later, in Paris. Inspired by a stenciled portrait of Mussolini he created a silhouette of a rat running along the streets, which quickly became recognized around Paris. Blek's work has been exhibited in galleries around the world and featured in publications such as TIME Magazine, [The New York Times](#) and The Los Angeles Times. In 2008, his first monograph, [Blek le Rat – Getting Through the Walls](#), was published by Thames + Hudson. In 2011, Art Publishing, Ltd. released *Blek le Rat: 30 Year Anniversary Retrospective*.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2016 *Propaganda*. Wunderkammern. Milan Italy
- 2016 *The Man Who Walks Through the Walls*. Galerie Kronsbein. Munich, Germany
- 2015 *Your Kids Can't Do This*. Curated by Luke Cornish. Ambush Gallery. Sydney, Australia
- 2014 *Escaping Paris*. Curated by DK Johnston. The Quin Hotel. New York, NY
- 2013 *Ignorance is Bliss*. Jonathan Levine Gallery. New York, NY
- 2012 *Blek Le Rat*. Opera Gallery. London, UK.
- 2009 *Blek Le Rat*. Metro Gallery. Australia.
- 2008 *Paris—NY, NY—Paris*. Jonathan Levine Gallery. New York, NY
- 2008 *Art Is Not Peace But War*. Subliminal Projects Gallery. Los Angeles, CA.
- 2008 *Blek le Rat // Life Before Banksy...* Kunstachometer. Palma de Mallorca
- 2008 *Blek Le Rat Retrospective*. Black Rat Gallery. London, UK.
- 2006 *Blek Le Rat in London*. Leonard Street Gallery. London, UK.
- 2002 *Blek Was Here*. Urban Art Gallery. Berlin, Germany. (first exhibition since 1993)
- 1993 *Graffiti in the Castle*. Castle Paul Ricard. Paul Ricard, France.
- 1991 *Blek le Rat from Paris to Tokyo*. Takarashi Gallery. Tokyo, Japan.
- 1991 *Stencils on Wood*. Galerie Christophe. Paris, France.
- 1991 *Exhibition Schabonen Graffiti Blek le Rat*. Ephemere Gallery. Leipzig, Germany.
- 1991 *Performance*. Concert Hall of Elysée Monmartre. Paris
- 1990 *Permanent Exhibition*. Galerie Christophe. Paris, France.
- 1990 *Installation*. Galerie Patrick Riquelme. Vannes, France.
- 1989 *Installation*. Huber Volker Gallery. Lisbon, Portugal.
- 1988 *Exhibition*. French Institute of Mainz. Mainz, Germany.
- 1988 *Nuit du Palace*. Le Palace. Paris, France.
- 1987 *Performance*. Salon du Livre. Sainte-Etienne, France.
- 1986 *Installation*. Forum of Rock. Montreuil, France.
- 1985 *Peinture Sauvage*. Galerie Saint Claude. Paris, France.

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2016 *Sons of Pompeii*. Gregorio Escalante Gallery. Los Angeles, CA
- 2015 *Urban Patriot*. Reem Gallery. Camberley, UK
- 2015 *URBANPOTT. 44309 Street Art Gallery*. Dortmund, Germany
- 2015 *Oh, The Places We Have Been: Rediscovering the Past*. Jonathan Levine Gallery. New York, NY
- 2015 *Sleeping Beauty*. Magda Danysz Gallery. Paris, France
- 2013 *America's Finest (and Others)*. Belgrave Gallery. St. Ives Cornwall, England
- 2013 *Writing's on the Wall*. Metro Gallery. Australia.
- 2012 *Off The Wall*. Contemporary Wing. Washington, DC
- 2012 *Stock Show*. Metro Gallery. Australia.

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- 2012** *Graff the Peace!* Opera Gallery. Paris
- 2012** *Arts & Toys- Collection Selim Varol.* Me Collectors Room. Berlin, Germany
- 2012** *Black' n White.* Galerie Kasten. Mannheim, Germany
- 2012** *Look Closer.* Warrington Museum and Art Gallery. Warrington, England
- 2012** *Streets of the World.* Opera Gallery. New York, NY
- 2011** *Paris Forever 100th Exhibition.* Madga Danysz Gallery. Paris, France
- 2011** *Late to Dinner.* Carmichael Gallery of Contemporary Art. Culver City, CA
- 2011** *Outside: Urban Street Group Exhibition.* 34 Fine Art. Cape Town, South Africa
- 2011** *Street Art- Contemporary Prints.* Galerie Kasten. Mannheim, Germany
- 2011** *Urban Art Show 2011.* Belgrave Gallery St. Ives. St. Ives Cornwall, England
- 2011** *Shadows and Reflections.* Madga Danysz Galerie. Paris, France
- 2010** *Winter Group Show.* White Walls Gallery. San Francisco, CA
- 2010** *Never Judge...?* Stolenspace Gallery. London, England
- 2010** *Street and Studio- Von Basquiat bis Seripop.* Kunsthalle Wien. Vienna, Austria
- 2010** *Street Smarts.* Affirmation Arts. New York, NY
- 2010** *Fourth Element II.* The Watermill. Aberfeldy, Perthshire, Scotland
- 2010** *Blek le Rat & Above.* White Walls Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2010** *Girls, Girls, Girls.* Signal Gallery. London, England
- 2010** *Five Year Anniversary.* Jonathan LeVine Gallery. New York, NY
- 2010** *Wreck the Walls.* Subliminal Projects. Los Angeles, CA
- 2010** *Friends with Knives.* Crewest Gallery. Los Angeles. CA
- 2010** *Faces in the Mirror.* White Walls Gallery. San Francisco, CA
- 2010** *Looking East.* Yves Laroche Galerie d'art. Montreal, QC, Canada
- 2010** *On the Wall: International Street Art Group Show.* Metro Gallery. Australia.
- 2009** *From Style Writing to Art.* 18Galelry Shanghai- Bund18, Shanghai
- 2009** *108 Christmas Exhibition- Little Pictures.* 108Fineart. Harrogate, North Yorkshire, England
- 2009** *The Northern Art Fair.* 108Fineart. Harrogate, North Yorkshire, England
- 2009** *Installation Five.* Anno Domini. San Jose, CA
- 2009** *Blue Print for Space for Art Basel 2009.* Art Center. South Florida, Miami Beach
- 2009** *Whole in the Wall.* Helenback Gallery, New York, NY
- 2008** *Off the Wall- From Vandalism to Urban Art.* Wilde Gallery. Berlin, Germany
- 2008** *Apocalyptic Colors.* Galerie Gabriele Senn. Vienna, Austria
- 2008** *The Cans Festival.* The Cans Festival. London, England
- 2008** *Titanium Expose.* Fecal Face Dot Gallery. San Francisco, CA
- 2007** *Streets of Europe.* Jonathan LeVine Gallery. New York, NY
- 2007** *White Noise.* Black Rat Press. London, UK
- 2006** *11 Spring Street.* Curated by Marc & Sara Schiller of Wooster Collective. New York, NY
- 2005** *Urban Wallpaper.* Taipei Artist Village. Taipei, Taiwan
- 2003** *Workshop in The Open City: Models For Use.* Kokerein Zollverein. Essen, Germany.
- 2002** *Blek Was Here.* Urban Art Gallery. Berlin, Germany
- 2002** *Installation with Lee Quineones.* Reitschule. Bern, Switzerland.
- 1993** *La Belle et la Bête.* Galerie Arnaud Brument. Paris, France.
- 1992** *L'Art Vif, la Revue Parlée.* Centre George Pompidou. Paris, France.
- 1992** *L'Art Vif.* Espace Carnot. Lille, France.
- 1992** *Un Regard sur l'Art.* Musée Creusot. Creusot, France.
- 1992** *Fin de Millenaire.* Espace Belleville CTFD. Paris, France.
- 1992** *Graffiti in Cavern.* Galerie Le Cailar. Le Cailar, France.
- 1991** *Street Art.* Globus Gallery. Leipzig, Germany.
- 1989** *Les Rencontres de Marrakech.* French Institute of Marrakech. Marrakech, Morocco.
- 1989** *And der Wand (On the Wall).* Kunstverein Wiesbaden. Wiesbaden, Germany.
- 1989** *Schablonen Graffiti (Stencil Graffiti).* Kunstverein Heidelberg. Heidelberg, Germany.
- 1989** *Schablonen Graffiti (Stencil Graffiti).* Gemeentemuseum. Helmond, Netherlands.

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- 1989 *Cannes Biennial*. Palais des Festivals Cannes. Cannes, France.
- 1989 *Art Urbain (Urban Art)*. Hotel de Ville Buffemont. Val d'Oise, France.
- 1988 *Graffiti in the Street, Exhibition in the Institute*. French Institute of Naples. Naples, Italy.
- 1988 *Histoire des Rockers*. La Villete. Paris, France.
- 1988 *Shadow and Light*. Lara Vinci Gallery. Paris, France.
- 1987 *Musée International de Graf*. Galerie L'Autre Rive. Paris, France.
- 1986 *Pochoirs (Stencils)*. Agnes B Gallery. Paris, France.
- 1986 *Emotion*. Ministry of Culture. Saint Quentin, France.
- 1986 *Stencil Graffiti in Tullés*. Peuple et Culture. Tullés, France.
- 1986 *Urban Art Show*. Galerie Jean Marc Patras. Paris, France.
- 1986 *In Between Out*. Palais des Papes. Avignon, France.
- 1986 *Verbes d'États*. Centre National des Arts Plastique. Nice, France.
- 1985 *Les Artistes au Telephone*. Galerie Pierre Lescot. Paris, France.
- 1985 *Affiches Detrounees*. National Center of Contemporary Art. Paris, France
- 1985 *Frescoes on Walls*. French Ministry of Culture. Paris, France.

SELECTED PRESS and PUBLICATIONS

TIME Magazine, Swindle, Juxtapoz, NYLON, XLR8R, New York Magazine, Los Angeles Times, The Independent, FecalFace, Inked Magazine, Le Monde, Scion, Spot Magazine, Pochoir, Stencil Graffiti, The Art Of Rebellion 2, Escape Into Life, Daily Mail, Fine Art Views, Liberation (French)

Blek le Rat: Getting Through The Walls. 2008. Softcover, published by Thames & Hudson