

MARK RYDEN

Mark Ryden came to preeminence in the 1990's during a time when many artists, critics and collectors were quietly championing a return to the art of painting. With his masterful technique and disquieting content, Ryden quickly became one of the leaders of this movement on the West Coast.

Upon first glance Ryden's work seems to mirror the Surrealists' fascination with the subconscious and collective memories. However, Ryden transcends the initial Surrealists' strategies by consciously choosing subject matter loaded with cultural connotation. His dewy vixens, cuddly plush pets, alchemical symbols, religious emblems, primordial landscapes and slabs of meat challenge his audience not necessarily with their own oddity but with the introduction of their soothing cultural familiarity into unsettling circumstances.

Viewers are initially drawn in by the comforting beauty of Ryden's pop-culture references, then challenged by their circumstances, and finally transported to the artist's final intent – a world where creatures speak from a place of childlike honesty about the state of mankind and our relationships with ourselves, each other and our past.

Clearly infused with classical references, Ryden's work is not only inspired by recent history, but also the works of past masters. He counts among his influences Bosch, Bruegel and Ingres with generous nods to Bouguereau and Italian and Spanish religious painting.

Over the past decade, this marriage of accessibility, craftsmanship and technique with social relevance, emotional resonance and cultural reference has catapulted Ryden beyond his roots and to the attention of museums, critics and serious collectors. Ryden's work has been exhibited in museums and galleries worldwide, including a recent museum retrospective "Wondertooneel" at the Frye Museum of Art in Seattle and Pasadena Museum of California Art.

Mark Ryden was born in Medford Oregon. He received a BFA in 1987 from Art Center College of Design in Pasadena. He currently lives and works in Los Angeles where he paints slowly and happily amidst his countless collections of trinkets, statues, skeletons, books, paintings and antique toys.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2017 *The Art of Whipped Cream*, Paul Kasmin Gallery, New York, NY
The Art of Whipped Cream, Arnold and Marie Schwartz Gallery Met, Lincoln Center, New York, NY
- 2016 *Cámara de las Maravillas*, Centro de Arte Contemporáneo de Málaga, Spain
Diversiform, Hidari Zingaro, Tokyo, Japan
- 2015 *Dodecahedrom*, Paul Kasmin Gallery, New York, NY
- 2014 *The Gay 90s West*, Kohn Gallery, Los Angeles, California
- 2010 *The Gay 90s Old Tyme Art Show*, Paul Kasmin Gallery, New York, NY
- 2009 *Snow Yak*, Tomio Koyama Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
- 2007 *The Tree Show*, Michael Kohn Gallery, Los Angeles, California
- 2005 *Wondertoone!*, Pasadena Museum of California Art, Pasadena, California
- 2004 *Wondertoone!*, Frye Art Museum, Seattle, Washington
- 2003 *Blood*, Earl McGrath Gallery, Los Angeles, California
Insalta Mista, Mondo Bizarro Gallery, Bologna, Italy
- 2002 *Bunnies and Bees*, Grand Central Art Center, Santa Ana, California
- 2001 *Bunnies and Bees*, Earl McGrath Gallery, New York, New York
Amalgamation, Outre Gallery, Melbourne, Australia
- 1998 *The Meat Show*, Mendenhall Gallery, Pasadena, California

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2017 *Naturalia*, Paul Kasmin Gallery with Sotheby's Gallery, New York, NY
- 2016 *Turn the Page: the First Ten Years of Hi-Fructose*, Virginia Museum Of Contemporary Art, Virginia Beach, Virginia
Juxtapoz x Superflat, Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver, Canada
Takashi Murakami's Superflat Collection, Yokohama Museum of Art, Yokohama, Japan

- Cat Art Show LA*, Think Tank Gallery, Los Angeles, California
- 2015 *Hey! Modern art & pop culture / Act III*, Musée de la Halle Saint Pierre, Paris, France
Fade to Black, Riverside Art Museum, Riverside, California
- 2014 *Lowbrow Insurgence: The Rise of Post-Pop Art*, Harwood Museum of Art, Taos, New Mexico
- 2012 *WONDERFUL – Humboldt, Krokodil & Polke*, me Collectors Room, Berlin
LA MIXTAPE, curated by Jessicka Addams and Brian Wakil, LeBasse Projects, Los Angeles
- 2010 *25th Anniversary Show*, Michael Kohn Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
The Artist's Museum: Los Angeles Artists 1980 – 2010, The Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), Los Angeles
Art Shack, Laguna Art Museum, Laguna Beach, CA
- 2009 *True Self*, Jonathan LeVine Gallery, New York, NY
Naked, Paul Kasmin Gallery, New York, NY
Pictopia—Festival of New Character Worlds, Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin, Germany
End of the World, Copro Gallery, Santa Monica, CA
- 2008 Prints from the Cal State Fullerton University Collection II, Cal State Fullerton Main Art Gallery, Fullerton, CA
- 2007 *Charity by Numbers*, Corey Helford Gallery, Culver City, CA
El rey de la casa, Institut de Cultura de Barcelona, Spain
- 2006 *Drawn to Expression*, Art Center College of Design, Pasadena, CA
- 2005 *Au Pays de Merveilles*, Galerie Magda Danysz, Paris, France
- 2004 *Innocence Found*, DFN Gallery, New York, New York
100 Artists See Satan, Grand Central Art Center, Santa Ana, California
Age of Aquarius, Copro-Nason Gallery, Culver City, California
Modern Love, M Modern Gallery, Palm Springs, California
From Your Valentine, Copro-Nason Gallery, Culver City, California
Juxtapoz 10th Anniversary Group Show, 111 Minna Gallery, San Francisco, California
- 2003 *Dark Fairytales*, Roq La Rue Gallery, Seattle, Washington
Group Show, La Luz De Jesus Gallery, Los Angeles, California
Raising the Brow, Earl McGrath Gallery, Los Angeles, California
- 2002 *Hello*, PressPop Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
Gods and Monsters, Roq La Rue Gallery, Seattle, Washington

- Group Show, La Luz De Jesus Gallery, Los Angeles, California
Draw, Roq La Rue Gallery, Seattle, Washington
Von Dutch an American Original, Northridge Art Galleries, Northridge, California
- 2001 *Representing LA, Pictorial Currents in Southern CA Arts*, Frye Art Museum, Seattle, Washington
Representing LA, Pictorial Currents in Southern CA Arts, Laguna Art Museum, Laguna California
 Group Show, La Luz De Jesus Gallery, Los Angeles, California
- 2000 *Margaret Keane and Keaneabilia*, Laguna Art Museum, Laguna Beach, California
Luck of the Draw, La Luz de Jesus Gallery, Los Angeles, California
Retrospective, Mendenhall Gallery, Pasadena, California
Invitational III, La Luz de Jesus Gallery, Los Angeles, California
Up From the Underground, Hollywood Arts & Culture Center, Hollywood, Florida
- 1999 Group Show, Copro-Nason Gallery, Culver City, California
Six Forms of Love and Despair, Merry Karnowsky Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Tiki Group Show, Huntington Beach Arts Center, Huntington Beach, California
Invitational II, La Luz de Jesus Gallery, Los Angeles, California
- 1998 *Kittens'n'Kads*, Merry Karnowsky Gallery, Los Angeles, California
Custom II, Acme Gallery, San Francisco, California
No Red Ribbons, Julie Rico Gallery, Santa Monica, California
Tribute to La Luz de Jesus, Track 16 Gallery, Los Angeles, California
 Group Show, La Luz de Jesus Gallery, Los Angeles, California
- 1997 *Calivera Kustom*, Merry Karnowsky Gallery, Los Angeles, California
The Secret Society of Dog Art, Random Gallery, Los Angeles, California
- 1996 *21st Century Tiki*, La Luz de Jesus Gallery, Los Angeles, California
- 1994 *Side Show*, Tamara Bane Gallery, Los Angeles, California