



## JENS HESSE

Born 1973 in Heessen, Germany.  
Lives and works in Antwerp.



After studying Fashion Design at Hanover University for art, design & media, since 2001 Hesse has worked as a stylist for various brands such as ESPRIT, WRANGLER and C&A, with particular attention to denim products, and since 2009 as an artist.

He paints malfunctions and side-effects from the media world with a photorealistic approach, often using corduroy and other structures to translate the digital character into paintings. His work is an eerily familiar reflection of our real-life experience, in our media saturated world; the artist wants to reveal the fakeness of this world, only existing behind a screen, full of clutter and noise and easy to manipulate. By painting these malfunctions, Hesse wants to create an area of conflict between the digital world and the traditional *medium* of painting.

Many of his work are influenced by digital distorted satellite signals, which involves a mix of abstract and realistic elements. While it is quite disturbing to have malfunctions when watching TV, as a still image it intensifies a visual experiment and reinforces emotional expressions. The beauty of abstraction, shapes and colours that we see on defective TV are thus translated into painting.

Hesse's work raises questions not just about digital art but also about the digital world in itself. The combination of old and new, the contradiction of subject and message, and most of all the demonstration that our digital world can question its own foundations. His version of digital art is not shaped by the potentialities of what can be achieved with the latest technology but by how that technology is affecting those who view his work.

**Cris Contini Contemporary**

London | Milano | Bruxelles

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## ARTIST'S BIOGRAPHY

### SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

#### 2021

Swissart Expo, with Artbox Projects, Zurich, Switzerland  
*Lockdown moods*, Plaza Real, Antwerp, Belgium

#### 2015

Expo Jens Hesse, solo show, Gallery Campo&Campo, Antwerp, Belgium

#### 2014

Art takes Miami, Scope Art, with See.Me, Miami, USA  
Oh Final, Gallery Campo&Campo, Antwerp, Belgium  
*Winter update*, Gallery van Campen & Rochtus, Antwerp, Belgium

#### 2013

*Story of the creative*, with See.Me presso Angel Orensanz Foundation, New York, USA  
*Summer in the city*, Gallery van Campen & Rochtus, Antwerp, Belgium  
*Een selectie uit de Canvascollectie*, De Bijl, Zoersel, Belgium

#### 2012

*Canvascollectie*, Musée Bozar, Brussels, Belgium

#### 2011

*My private disaster*, Ponyhof Pop-up Gallery at rue de Flandres 12, Brussels, Belgium  
*Recent works*, solo show, Ponyhof Pop-up Gallery at Ra, Antwerp, Belgium  
*Pop Secret*, Ponyhof Pop-up Gallery at Ra, Antwerp, Belgium  
Prix Marie-Louise Rousseau, Musée d'Ixelles, Brussels, Belgium

### AWARDS

#### 2022

Finalist of Arte Laguna Prize Venice, 16<sup>th</sup> edition – 2021/2022  
Winner of special Prize “*Artist in gallery*”, organized by Arte Laguna Prize Venice – 16<sup>th</sup> edition in collaboration with Cris Contini Contemporary

#### 2021

Swissart Expo, finalist of Artbox.Projects, Zurich, Switzerland

#### 2014

Art takes Miami, finalist of See.Me per Scope Art, Miami, USA

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**2013**

*Story of the creative*, selected for final exhibition of See.Me at Angel Orensanz Foundation, New York, USA

**2012**

*Canvascollectie*, selected for final exhibition at Bozar, Brussels, Belgium

**2010**

Prix Marie-Louise Rousseau, second price, Musée d'Ixelles, Brussels, Belgium

**2004**

Mittelmoda-fashion award, "best collection in experimentation & research", Grado, Italy

**2002**

4th European competition for fashiondesign, finalist, Apolda, Germany

**1999**

The Edge-competition of the Fashion Assembly, finalista, Riga, Latvia

Questnet-Award in fashion by the Klaus Steilmann-Institute, first price, Hannover, Germany

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