



OMAR HASSAN

Born in Milan, Italy in 1987



“In boxing, as in life, you are alone: Boxing requires hard work and daily effort. When you are knocked down, you must get back up on your feet and continue to fight.”

Omar Hassan

Omar Hassan graduated at the Academy of Fine Arts of Brera in 2010 and, after taking part in several group and solo exhibitions, he was invited by Vittorio Sgarbi, curator of the Italian Pavilion, to exhibit at the 54th Venice Biennale in 2011.

After 10 years of training as a professional boxer, Hassan was forced to stop boxing due to a diagnosis of diabetes; being unable to fully explore his passion, the artist returned to his second love, investing all his energy into the artistic practice.

In the series of paintings called “Breaking Through” Hassan combines painting and performance in a vigorously gestural technique inspired by his boxing career, which involves dipping his boxing gloves into paint and punching onto a large canvas. The series “Injections” consists of paintings with single dots and streams of paint dripping down from their core, and they refer to the artist’s daily shots of Insulin.

Hassan says he finds inspiration in the work of Graffiti pioneers such as Jean-Michel Basquiat and in Jackson Pollock’s masterful abstractions. Both his multilayered artworks on canvas and those cast in plaster or bronze reflect his strong attention to materiality. His creative impulse takes different forms, from whimsical dappled splotches to lines of wet paint that drip down picture frames to a street installation of massive cubes covered in rainbow tones.

Hassan has realized several public works both in Italy and UK. These include “One Wall” at the Palazzo della Regione in Milan, the Museum Mille Miglia in Brescia, the Academy of Fine Arts Aldo Galli in Como and “Colour Cube” in London’s Brick Lane. The latter work consisted in redecorating a concrete bollard located alongside the East London Line. All these artworks are characterized by the signature motif of the “Injections” series.



ARTIST'S BIOGRAPHY

EDUCATION

2010

He graduated at the Academy of Fine Arts of Brera, Milan, Italy

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2020

SottoSopra, Palazzo delle Arti Napoli, Naples, Italy

2019

Waiting For, Exhibition in a private house, Isorropia Home Gallery + Artissima Art Fair, Turin, Italy
First Performance of Breaking Through Black in Miami at 5Th Gym World Famous Mohamed Ali, Miami, Florida

2018

L'Essenziale è Invisibile agli Occhi: a dialogue with Wassily Kandinsky, Orangerie of the Royal Palace of Monza, Italy
Breaking Through, Performance & Art Show, Bel-Air Fine Art, Saint-Tropez, France

2017

Breaking Through Miami Round 2, 179 NW 25th Street, Miami, USA
Miami SCOPE Beach Art Fair, Miami, USA
Breaking Through Lugano, Lugano, Switzerland
Do Ut Des, Chiesetta della Misericordia, Venice, Italy
Breaking Through Bologna, Royal Carlton, Bologna, Italy

2016

Breaking Through New York, UNIX Gallery, New York, USA
Breaking Through Milan, M.A.C Centre, Milan, Italy

2015

Breaking Through, ContiniArtUK, London, UK

2014

L'essenziale è Invisibile agli Occhi , Montesegale Castle, Pavia, Italy

2012

Jab, Jab!! , Colossi Arte Contemporanea, Brescia, Italy

2011

H.O.2, Fabbrica Eos, Milano, Italy



2009

Gaijin, Musashy Gallery, Tokyo, Japan

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2017

Beirut Art Fair, ContiniArtUK, Beirut International & Leisure Centre Down Town, Beirut, Lebanon
Bologna Arte Fiera, Bologna Exhibition Centre, Bologna, Italy, nominated for the 11th edition of the 'Euromobil Prize Under 30' in Bologna

2016

"Colour and Matter", Pied a Terre, Porto Cervo, Italy
Motomorphosis: Special project with Ducati and Sotheby's, La Triennale di Milano, Milan, Italy
START, Saatchi Gallery, London, UK
WOP Art, Lugano, Switzerland

2015

Premio Cairo, Group exhibition as a finalist for Cairo Art Prize, Palazzo della Permanente, Milan, Italy
"Breaking Through Miami" in support of DRI in collaboration with St Regis and Rosenbaum Contemporary, Miami, Florida, USA
Summer Show, Just Cavalli, Ibiza, Spain
Miami Art Fair, Miami, Florida, USA
Group Exhibition, Rosenbaum Contemporary, Bal Harbour, Florida, USA
ART STAGE, Singapore, Singapore
ArtWynwood Miami, Rosenbaum Contemporary, Miami, Florida, USA

2014

Eccentrico Musivo, MAR, Museum of Contemporary Art, Ravenna, Italy
Qualcosa d'Impatto, Castello di Gambolò, Pavia, Italy

2013

Sedie d'Artista, SIM-PATIA, Triennale di Milano
Crystal Le Club, Crystal Palace, Brescia, Italy
ArtVerona, Colossi Arte Contemporanea, Verona, Italy
Bubble, Terrazza Aperol, Duomo Square, Milan, Italy
Orientalmente, Palazzo Te, Mantova, Italy
Refreshing Art, Art Factory, Catania, Italy
Bologna Arte Fiera, Colossi Arte Contemporanea, Bologna, Italy

2012

Bergamo Arte Fiera, Colossi Arte Contemporanea, Bergamo, Italy
ArtVerona, Colossi Arte Contemporanea, Verona, Italy
Restart, Fabbrica Eos, Milan, Italy
Roma Contemporary, Fabbrica Eos, Rome, Italy

CRIS CONTINI CONTEMPORARY

15-16 Brook's Mews, W1K 4DS London

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Arte Accessibile, Sole24ore, Milan, Italy

Robert F. Kennedy Foundation of Europe, Hangar Bicocca, Milan, Italy

2011

54th Venice Biennale, Italian Pavilion, Venice, Italy

Una Mano per Ail, il giusto mezzo, Charity auction at Pomodoro Foundation, Christie's, Milan, Italy

AAM, Sole24Ore, Milan, Italy

2010

Creativeworld, Frankfurt, Germany

Scrittura Visiva, Marelia Gallery, Bergamo, Italy

ArtVerona, FabbricaEos, Verona, Italy

M(A)mbiguity, Fabbrica del Vapore, Milan, Italy

Kilometro 20+1, Torrione Farnese, curated by Dany Vescovi, Castell'Arquato, Italy

Il MA, Katy House Gallery, Monfalcone, Italy

In-Tortona, Spazio Concept, Milan, Italy

2009

Tokio Flash, Fabbrica del Vapore, Milan, Italy

26 for Tibet, Tsetan Sonam, Milan, Italy

26 for Tibet, Centro Guarinoni, Fortunago, Italy

Streets without Wall, Misericordia Museum, curated by Chiara Canali, Florence, Italy

Attuttotondo, Villa Orsini, Scorzè, Venice, Italy

Incursioni, Associazione Culturale Artificio, Milan, Italy

Una Mano per l'AIL, Palazzo Clerici, Milan, Italy

2008

Group Exhibition, Bagolino, Brescia, Italy

COLLECTIONS AND MUSEUMS

Puzzle Public, Bagolino, Brescia, Italy

Rimembranze di Conte Rosso, Milan, Italy

Dolce Far Nulla, Montesegele, Pavia, Italy

One Wall, Palazzo della Regione, Milan, Italy

Borgio Verezzi in Wonderland, Borgio Verezzi, Italy

Columns of San Donato Milanese Station, San Donato Milanese, Italy

Mille Miglia of Colors, Mille Miglia Museum, Brescia, Italy

Aldo Galli Fine Art Academy, Como, Italy

Color Cube, Brick Lane, London, UK

MAR Art Museum of Ravenna, Ravenna, Italy

Fondazione Maimeri, Italy

Fondazione Peruzzo, Italy

LyfeBulb, USA

Private Collection, Tokyo, Japan

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Private Collection, London, UK
Private Collection, Miami and New York, USA
Private Collection, Madrid, Spain
Private Collection, Milan, Italy

PUBLICATIONS

2017

“Do Ut Des”, Exhibition book, Peruzzo Editore,
Essays by Dr. Claudio Strinati, Francesca Gavin
“Breaking Through Lugano”, Exhibition catalogue, Peruzzo Editore

2016

Breaking Through Milan, Solo exhibition catalogue, with forewords by Luca Beatrice, Gianni Maimeri, Saturnino Celani
Breaking Through New York, Solo exhibition catalogue, with foreword by Dr. Karin Hehenberger MD PhD

2015

Breaking Through, Solo exhibition catalogue, with forewords by Baroness Barbara Young and Cedar Lewisohn
16th Premio Cairo, Award Shortlist Catalogue

2014

Eccentrico Musivo, Exhibition Catalogue, MAR Art Museum of Ravenna

2013

London Street Art, by Frank Steam 156 Malt

2011

Lo Stato dell'Arte, 54th Venice Biennale official catalogue
H.O.2, Solo exhibition catalogue, with foreword by Ivan Quaroni