



GALERÍA ESTÉREO

RETNA

Marquis Lewis AKA RETNA (Los Angeles, 1979) es un artista contemporáneo, reconocido internacionalmente por su graffiti art. Con raíces Afroamericanas, Salvadoreñas y Cherokee, Marquis creció en Los Ángeles influenciado por el mundo de las pandillas y su graffiti. Comenzó su carrera a principios de los 90 desarrollando un estilo en calles derivado de la caligrafía, los jeroglíficos egipcios, la escritura árabe, la hebrea y el graffiti old school.

Desde una edad temprana RETNA se dio a conocer en la cultura mural de L.A. liderando uno de los colectivos de arte y graffiti más importantes, MSK. Su estilo se destaca por su técnica ornamental usando pinceles en conjunto con aerosoles creando obras con una gran precisión e impacto visual.

A primera vista la obra de RETNA parece un texto antiguo recién descubierto, una serie de símbolos hipnóticos, complejos, hermosos y cautivantes. Otra de sus facetas reconocidas es apropiarse de la publicidad de moda a través de ornamentar las imágenes. Sus múltiples capas de texto creando obras que se convierten en clásicos instantáneos. Cada pieza guarda un significado, un mensaje encriptado de un diálogo o suceso que el artista experimentó.

RETNA ha creado un alfabeto original que integra lingüística visual, poética urbana y apropiación de la imagen para explorar todo tipo de medios, incluyendo graffiti, fotografía, escultura y pintura. RETNA es hoy en día uno de los artistas contemporáneos más prolíficos y reconocidos del mundo siendo identificado por su estilo icónico que ha logrado cruzar las barreras entre el fine art y las calles, llegando a públicos que van desde los jóvenes amantes del street art, hasta los coleccionistas y curadores más importantes del mundo, celebridades de Hollywood, de la industria de la moda y la música. Ganando la atención de coleccionistas como Jeffrey Deitch (Director de MOCA hasta 2013), Damien Hirst, Eugenio López, Emilio Azcárraga Jean Usher, Justin Bieber, Swizz Beatz, Kim Kardashian entre otros.

Su obra ha sido exhibida en galerías en Los Angeles, Miami, Londres, Nueva York, México, Hong Kong (Michael Kohn en Los Ángeles, Don Gallery en Milán, Yves Laroché Galerie d'Art en Montreal, Art for All en Málaga, entre otras). Además ha participado en numerosas exposiciones internacionales en museos como MOCA (Museum of Contemporary Art Los Angeles), Dallas Contemporary Museum of Art, Pasadena Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles County Museum, Wende Museum, MACO Oaxaca y MARTE, El Salvador.



ESTÉREO

Selected Shows

2018

- The Long Count solo show, MACO Museo Arte Contemporáneo Oaxaca
- London, Summer Contemporary - Mayfair
- London, Summer Contemporary - Westbourne Grove

2017

- New Image Art, West Hollywood, Retna: Mano A Mano

2016

- Casterline | Goodman Gallery, Aspen, S P E A K E A S Y

2015

- HG Contemporary, New York, "Articulate & Harmonic Symphonies of the Soul"

2014

- Exhibition, MARTE Museum, El Salvador

2013

- Michael Kohn Gallery, Art Basel
- Miami Beach Mural
- Petty Cash Restaurant, Los Angeles CA

2012

- New Paintings and Works on Paper, Michael Kohn Gallery, Los Angeles, CA A Conversation With A Great Friend, Houston/Bowery Wall, New York, NY The Boneyard Project: Return Trip, Pima Art, and Space Museum, Tucson, AZ

2011

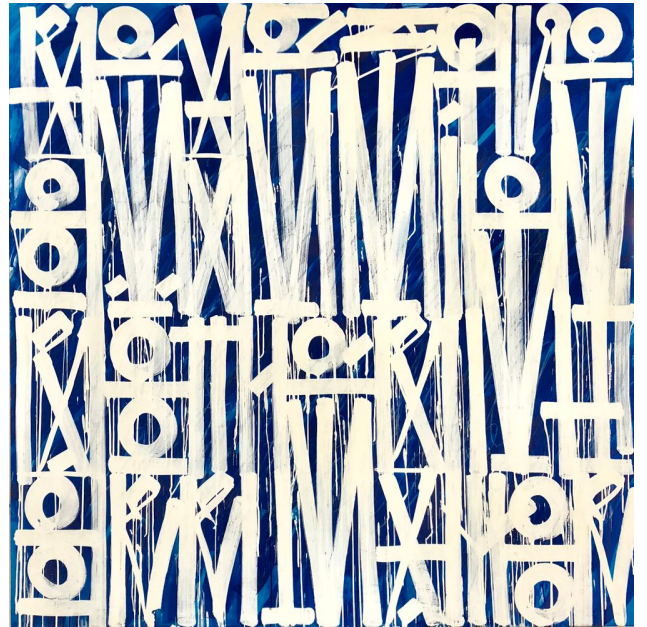
- Art in The Streets, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA Brimstone, Wynwood District, Miami FL (mural)

2010

- Freedom, Known Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- DESATURATED, New Image Art Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- RETNA, Rivera & Rivera, Los Angeles, CA
- JUSTICE, for Manifest Equality, with El Mac and Kofie, Los Angeles, CA (mural) Art For All, Malaga, Spain (mural/exhibit)

2009

- Primary Flight III, Miami FL, Margulies Warehouse (mural)
- Vagos Y Reinas, with El Mac, Robert Berman Gallery, Los Angeles, CA 2009 Follow the Line, The Don Gallery Milan Italy

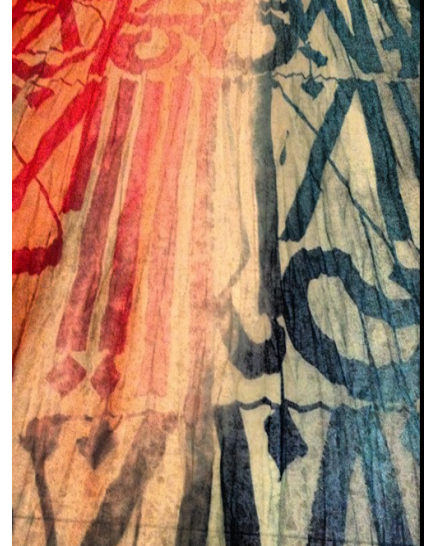


Untitled, RETNA, 2016, 182x182 cm



He is a criminal no different from me, RETNA

ESTÉREO



In 2012 graffiti artist RETNA designed a huge mural for the front of the temporary Louis Vuitton store in Miami before it moved to its permanent location. As part of a new aesthetic for the brand, the mural featured a unique alphabet that RETNA, aka Marquis Lewis, created inspired by ancient calligraphy, hieroglyphics and Hebrew texts and it incorporated the brand's iconic logo.

The massive letters were painted on the facade using bright pink, purple and teal and were initially thought to be vandalism. The mural also coincided with a printed scarf that was released using the design for the high end fashion brand hinting, at the time, at rumours that he was next official artist for Louis Vuitton.

Justin Bieber's album cover



In 2015 Justin Bieber revealed the cover of his new album. In this case, it's Marquis Lewis, whom you probably know better as Retna, an LA-based calligraphy artist, who was chosen to design the cover of said album. The two teamed up to create the cover of the singer's album, entitled Purpose.

On October 9th, through a series of images posted on his Instagram, the popular singer created a collage which unveiled the final image designed by Retna. Using his signature calligraphic scripts, the street artist covered up the photograph of Bieber in the nude, with three versions: with blue, black and white lettering.

ESTÉREO

Restoration Hardware



Los Angeles artist RETNA has been expanding his reach, applying his intricate, hieroglyph-and calligraphy-inspired graffiti to projects as diverse as opera sets for the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., and an album cover for Justin Bieber. His latest canvas? RH. The company's CEO, Gary Friedman, enlisted him to embellish the rear façade of the latest RH Gallery, an 80,000-square-foot emporium that recently opened in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Designed by architect James Gillam of Backen, Gillam & Kroeger, the four-level building not only showcases furnishings for every area of the home but also features wine-tasting rooms and a rooftop restaurant. RETNA, for his part, describes it as "a modern monument." Even more so thanks to him.

Gallery Magazine

ESTÉREO