

## JOAN ILL | BIOGRAPHY

Born in Vilanova i la Geltrú (1954).

Lives and works between Barcelona and Camp de Tarragona.

Joan Ill's main interest focuses on research into the limits of painting, with particular emphasis on his work on transparency. Remaining faithful to the concept of the pictorial window, the frame imposes itself as a means of access to enigmatic universes and intensely poetic mental spaces. With textures and transparencies, the artist manifests the telluric link with his territory.

With the *Sacralis* series (2017), the elimination of any form of representation brings out the meaning of the work. A work produced with austere materials –wood, linen cloth and gold paint– which, for a few moments, solely through the transparency and format of the frames, seeks to draw the spectator into a mystical silence. From here on, and always with the idea of pictorial research, in the subsequent series *Mediterran*, *Our Sea*, *Natura Morta* and *Disseminat*, transparency integrates iconic images. The desire to maintain the focus on the contrast of textures and his idea of territory inspires him to innovate in new formats and various plans that coexist in the same pictorial space.

At the same time, his installations, usually site specific, combine materials from nature or from the territory and different techniques, such as light, sound, printing on canvas or video.

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Joan Ill began painting in the 1980s, after studying art and interior design at the School of Arts and Crafts in Barcelona. He quickly identified himself with the informalist trend and opted for a pictorial line of large formats close to the neo-expressionism of the time. Between 1988 and 2001 he lived in Paris, where he developed part of his artistic career. Once he settled in Paris, he felt the need to abandon the impulsivity that guided his work and provoked a radical change in his job. It was at this time that the artist focused his interest on a concrete painting based on a rigorous expressive austerity.

The series *Gentilly, 3.6.9* (1993 - 1996) reflects a fully abstract creative process based fundamentally on the thematic aspect of the rectangle. The use of stitching and the pictorial stroke define the scarce representativeness of this very fruitful period. It is a work in which the frame gradually becomes an integral part of the painting.

The series entitled *Paradisos Perduts* (1997-2003) accentuates his interest in transparency, in the two-dimensionality of the work and in questioning the traditional concept of its support. From 2000 onwards, he has made his languages more versatile, moving into the field of video and installation.

In the *Limes* series (2004-2008) he added photographic images, the transparencies of pixelated fabric (digigraphy on polyester), treated and sometimes painted, together with the traditional stitching of fabrics. In this stage, a return to the representation abandoned in the 90s is proposed. In this case, the figurative image is fundamentally iconic and is based on a typically Mediterranean landscape theme: the horizon, the sea, rocks and vegetation.

Joan Ill has collaborated with several institutions, museums and galleries both nationally and internationally, participating in fairs such as ARCO Madrid, Arte Cologne, KunstRai Amsterdam, LOOP Barcelona, Beirut Arte Fair, etc. His work is part of public and private collections both nationally and internationally.

# CV

## STUDIES

- 1972-1975 Arts and Crafts School Barcelona. Barcelona, ES  
Interior Design. School IADE (UNESCO). Barcelona, ES
- 1982 Institut del Teatre de Barcelona. Scenography directed by Iago Perico. Barcelona, ES

## AWARDS AND RESIDENCES

- 2019 Awarded by Premi de Pintura Torres-García ciutat de Mataró, Barcelona, ES
- 2010 Selected for the Jamal Art Price, V&A Museum, Londres, GB
- 2008 2nd Prize. Video Art for Nike. Catalan Federation of Basketball. Barcelona, ES
- 2005 Finalist. HONDA Painting Award. Barcelona, ES  
Finalist. 3rd Contemporary Art Painting Award. Foundation Vilacasa. Barcelona, ES
- 2000 1st Place. International Competition of Pictorial Investigation. Salou, Tarragona, ES
- 1998 Residency Tallers Cristóbal Rojas, Caracas, VE
- 1989 Residency Usine Ephemere XIX Arrondissement, Paris, FR
- 1986 Finalist VI Bienal de Pintura Contemporània de Barcelona, ES
- 1982 Finalist IV Bienal de Pintura Contemporània de Barcelona, ES
- 1981 Finalist en el XXII Premi de pintura jove. Barcelona, ES

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2020 Reus. Galeria Pinyol. *Disseminat 35. Essències.*
- 2018 Beirut. Beirut Art Fair with L&B Gallery.  
Mainz. Art Center of Essenheim. *Adagio.*
- 2017 Barcelona. L&B Gallery. *Sacralis.*  
Barcelona. Open Day Poblenou Urban District.
- 2015 Barcelona. L&B Gallery. *Acallar los ojos para que los oídos vean (J/A).*  
Barcelona. L&B Gallery. *Hivernació.*
- 2011 Barcelona. L&B Gallery. *Limes.*
- 2009 Damascus. Khan Assad Basha / Instiuto Cervantes of Damascus.  
Damascus. Mustafá Ali Foundation. *Equorum iter.*
- 2008 Vilanova i la Geltrú. LA SALA Espai d'Art Contemporani. *Retrospective 1998 - 2008.*
- 2007 Paris. Centre d'estudis catalans de París. La Sorbonne. *Retrospective 1998 - 2007.*
- 2006 Reus. Galeria Antoni Pinyol.  
Reus. Art and History Museum. *Travelling 93-06. Impluvium.*  
Barcelona. Galeria Metropolitana of Barcelona. *Limes.*
- 2004 Barcelona. Galeria Safia. LOOP.  
Barcelona. Galeria Metropolitana of Barcelona.  
Fran Dauel Foundation. Off LOOP. Barcelona, ES
- 2003 Tarragona. La Caixa Foundation: Espai Zero. *Paradisos Perduts 60°/120°.*
- 2002 Barcelona. CCCB. Visions of Future. CCCB Projects.  
Vilanova i la Geltrú. Visions of future 2002 - Casa Olivella. TOC. *Envoi - Ruleta Russa.*
- 2001 Barcelona. Galeria Metropolitana of Barcelona. *Paradisos Perduts.*
- 2000 Reus. Antoni Pinyol Gallery. *Fusta, fil, pintura.*
- 1998 Caracas. Felix Gallery. *Hecho en Venezuela.*
- 1996 Barcelona. Verena Hofer Gallery. *Gentilly 3.6.9.*  
Intervention: "Ignorada Façana de Ponent". César hotel. VNG, Barcelona ES  
Vilanova i la Geltrú. Ismes Gallery. *Trajectes (80-86).*

- 1995 Intervention: "Paradisos perduts". Neteja del litoral. University of Paris VIII, VNG, Barcelona, ES  
 Intervention "Globus pintats". Happening with Josep Torrelló. VNG, Barcelona, ES
- 1993 Paris. Espace Niepce. *Comedores privados*.
- 1991 Paris. Keller Gallery. *Effets Personnels*.  
 Nova York. Alan Lawrence Gallery.
- 1990 Paris. Espace d'art France-Loisirs. *Troistableauxundessin*.  
 Vilanova i la Geltrú. Castle of la Geltrú.
- 1989 Paris. Atelier-ink. Alan Lawrence.  
 Barcelona. Gallery - Restaurant Bel Air.
- 1988 Barcelona. Pisolabis Gallery.
- 1987 Sitges. Art Ginesta.  
 Reus. Reading Center of Reus.
- 1985 Girona. Sala Vinardell i Roig, Aula Aliance Française.  
 Sabadell. Aula Aliance Française. Pintures.
- 1982 Barcelona. Joan de Serrallonga Gallery.
- 1981 Vilanova i la Geltrú. Aula Caixa Penedés.  
 Vilanova i la Geltrú. Aula A.E. Talaia.
- 1980 Vilanova i la Geltrú. Galeria de Vilanova.

#### GROUP SHOWS (selection)

- 2021 Barcelona. Galeria L&B. *Art KM 0. Keep calm and consume local art*.
- 2019 Barcelona. Can Framis Museum. Finalists Premi Pintura 2019 Fundació Vilacases.  
 Beirut. Tanit Gallery. *Towards the Sublime*.  
 Barcelona. Sant Lluc per l'Art de Mataró Association. *Premio de Pintura Torres-García*.  
 Barcelona. L&B Gallery. *Abstracciones*.
- 2018 Amsterdam. KunstRai Art Fair Amsterdam. L&B Gallery.
- 2017 Reus. Urban Art in Reus.
- 2015 Barcelona. Piramidón Contemporary Art Center.
- 2014 Barcelona. Ester Montoriol Gallery.
- 2013 Vilanova i la Geltrú. LA SALA Contemporary Art Center. *El mar*.
- 2007 Barcelona and Sète. Catalan Federation of Basket.  
 Milán. La Fabbrica del Uomo. Studio di Più.
- 2005 Köln. Art Cologne, Galería Metropolitana of Barcelona.  
 Torroella de Montgrí. III Contemporary Painting Prize. Fundació Vilacases. Finalist.
- 2004 Lleida and Tarragona. Painting Prize HONDA. Itinerant exhibition: La Garriga.  
 Barcelona. LOOP 2004. Safia Gallery. *Les Bonnes*. Video-installation Safia Gallery.  
 Köln. Art Cologne, Galería Metropolitana of Barcelona.  
 Madrid ARCO 04. Galería Metropolitana of Barcelona.
- 2003 Miami, USA. BLANC. Warehouse. *Tabula rasa 2003*.  
 Washington. BLANC. Itinerant show (Washington-Miami-Houston-Los Angeles-New York).
- 2001 Madrid ARCO 01. Galería Metropolitana Barcelona. Pintures.  
 Barcelona. Galería Metropolitana of Barcelona. *Cinq anys*.
- 2000 Salou 1st Prize Pictorial Research.  
 Reus. Antoni Pinyol Gallery.
- 1999 Madrid ARCO 99. Alternativa Gallery.  
 Paris. *Rencontres 99*. Prix de Peinture Antoine Marin.
- 1998 Barcelona. Galeria M. Castellví. *Del retrato al Autorretrato*. A. Nodar.
- 1997 Paris (Gentilly). ZIC-ZAC. Ateliers Ouverts.
- 1993 Barcelona. Verena Hofer Gallery.  
 Paris. Espace Niepce. *Petit Formats*.  
 Paris. Keller Gallery.
- 1992 Barcelona. Maeght Gallery. Papel Poesía.  
 Paris 13é Art. Ateliers Ouverts.

1991	Paris 13rd Art. Ateliers Ouverts.
1990	Paris 13rd Art. Ateliers Ouverts. Paris 35th Salon Montrouge. Barcelona. Hipermercat.
1989	Barcelona. Hipermercat.
1988	Girona. Caixa de Barcelona. <i>Camins</i> . Barcelona. Supermarket of Art, Jean Pierre Guillemot.
1987	Vilanova i la Geltrú. Foment Vilanoví. La Jove Mirada. Ardhara. Penedés Art Show. Itinerant. Sète (França). Le Sud Attaque Espais C. Art Contemporani (Girona) Painting (Happening).
1986	Cagliari. Cripta di San Domenico. Acque Traversate. Painting and installation with S. Ravo - P. Cossio. Barcelona. VI Biennial of Contemporary Painting of Barcelona. Olot. Comarcal Museum of la Garrotxa. Giròtica. Erotic Art Show. Vilanova i la Geltrú. La Cava Gallery. Painters from Vilanova. Andorra. Torrellardona Gallery.
1982	Barcelona. IV Biennial of Contemporary Painting of Barcelona.

## COLLECTIONS

La Caixa Foundation, Barcelona (ES)  
 UPC Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (ES)  
 Caixa Penedès, Catalunya (ES)  
 Vilacases Foundation, Barcelona (ES)  
 City Council of Salou - Torrevella (ES)  
 City Council of Girona (ES)  
 Municipal Institute of Museums of Reus, Tarragona (ES)  
 Museum of Art and History of Reus (ES)  
 Reading Center of Reus, Tarragona (ES)  
 City Council of Vilanova i la Geltrú (ES)  
 Mustafa Ali Art Foundation, Damasc (SY)  
 Mairie XIII Arrondissement, Paris (FR)  
 France Loissirs, París (FR)

## PRIVATE COLLECTIONS

Germany  
 Spain  
 France  
 Italy  
 Lebanon  
 Syria  
 Sweden  
 UK  
 USA  
 Venezuela