

# YOUSSEF BOUBEKEUR

"My drawing is an art of precision... but not of regret!"



## EARLY YEARS

**From comic books to Architecture the events that shaped the art of Youssef Boubekeur**

Born in 1981 in the town of Sarcelles, illustrator and artist Youssef Boubekeur was always curious and passionate about art. Youssef fell in love with drawing as a child and recalls being fascinated with a painting by Matisse named "La Tristesse du Roi", having fun reproducing it. Youssef harkens back to his younger years where he was banned from drawing by his father for focusing so much time on this early obsession. His early drawings were greatly influenced by manga and comics. Having read hundreds of them, Youssef studied their graphic universe, and the technique of their authors. However, before he picked up the biro to create works of wonder, he first focused on Architecture.

Youssef studied for 6 years at the Paris La Villette school of architecture, before moving to Tokyo to continue to study at Waseda University. It was during his time in Japan he immersed himself in Japanese culture and developed a passion for the their relationship between architecture and nature. Whilst living in Tokyo, Youssef worked in the Tezuka & Tezuka architecture studio and also Sanaa. Upon his return to Paris his most notable architecture work came when he worked on the renovation of the Molitor swimming pool, which originally constructed in the 1930's was repurposed into a Fancy hotel. A meeting with french artist JR in 2017 was the catalyst for the evolution of Youssef and his foray into the world of Art.

A Talented young artist Youssef decided on the Bic pen as his tool of choice. Youssef continues to use the simple biro almost exclusively in his works. His art is an art of precision and spontaneity and he works his drawings as one would sculpt matter.

*"I like the blue of Bic. It's funny, being an instrument of everyday life, of total banality, which has only utilitarian and absolutely non-aesthetic ends. But this blue is very beautiful. It allows me to cast a soft and peaceful veil over the hyperrealism of my drawings".*

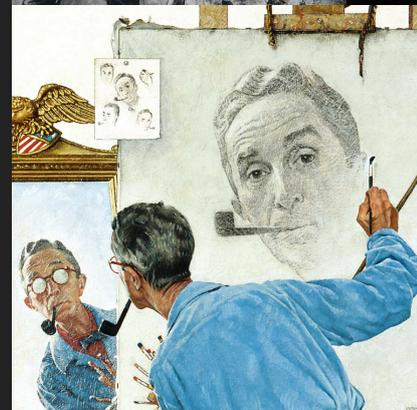
## INFLUENCE

**Youssef's works are created by means of a simple everyday instrument which is known and used by all, yet mastered by few.**

The Bic pen has become the tool of choice for Youssef Boubekour, who uses it almost exclusively. The line of the ballpoint pen is both precise, relatable and indelible. Youssef prides himself on creating the spectacular from the mundane, to give birth to something beautiful by means of the most simple instrument of everyday life. His drawings of soft monochromes reveal their precision and hyper-realism in all their beauty. Youssef sites his main sources of inspiration being Robert Longo, Ernest Pignon Ernest, above all due to the fact he was able to make the link between two of Youssef's greatest passions: drawing and street art. He also holds Norman Rockwell And Alex Ross as great sources of inspiration for his teenage years.

Having been trained in the now-famous Face2Face street art project and subsequently participating in numerous projects around the Globe, the influence of street art on Youssef is clear to see. It manifests itself in his fondness for large format works and for the desire for simple art, addressing as wide an audience as possible

Youssef's pieces often offer a nod to the quirkiness and humour of street art, a medium which heavily influenced him in his early years. His man-animal hybrids are beautifully created with various hybrids striking serious or more playful poses. They have a serene and unusual quality, creating an image that both captivates and provokes thought



## RECOGNITION & ACCOLADES

Youssef Boubekour is seen as an established mid-career contemporary artist who already enjoys a solid collector following and has a very bright future ahead of him. A recent corporate agreement with none other than **Mont Blanc**, has seen huge interest in Youssef's work, with him swapping the bic biro for Mont Blanc's luxury pen range, in addition to a special piece being created for their Head Office this year.

His most notable achievements to date include:

Collaborating with French artist, JR, on the now-famous Face2Face project.

"We Are One Family", Audrey Hatchikian Gallery

"Inauguration", MGM Gallery

"The Self-Drawing Hand", Danysz Gallery

"The future of the art world" an article written for SquareMile.

## STAND OUT PIECES

### A SELECTION OF SOME OF OUR FAVOURITE WORKS

Youssef was once quoted saying: *“I haven’t always drawn with a Bic pen, but it has become in recent years my favorite instrument. I like it because it’s precise, but... indelible. As precise as it is, it gives my drawing a more spontaneous character: I have to build with and on my mistakes. They are an integral part of my drawing, of my creation process. My drawing is an art of precision... but not of regret!”*



## ART AS AN INVESTMENT

Whether its the etchings of Doré, the sculptures of Michelangelo or the abstract works of Damian Hirst, Art captures the imagination and creates emotion, yet many investors worry about adding art to their portfolios. If you don't know Rembrandt from Monet, Banksy from Cezanne or simply which art will add growth to your portfolio then have no fear, Altvest can help.

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