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## Press Kit



## Nick Walker, *Mutations*

Exhibition from **Thursday the 9th of March** until **Saturday the 1st of April 2023**.  
Opening on **Thursday the 9th of March 2023**, from **6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

# Nick Walker

## *Mutations*

World-famous street-artist Nick Walker still amazes the spectators with his works. We are happy to organize *Mutations*, his forth solo show in the gallery.

His artworks, even if influenced by the 1980s Bristol street-art scene, are highly modern. Recognizable at first sight, his style combining stencil and freehand work is iconic in street art. In the 1990s, he was one of the most important source of inspirations for Bristol's underground scene and influenced, among others, Portishead, Massive Attack, Trip Hop, Bristol's DryBreadZ Crew (DBZ) and Banksy.

In this exhibition, Nick Walker stages in several works his most famous character Vandal, the elegant graffiti artist with a bowler hat. Thanks to this alter ego whose style clashes with the street-art world, the artist adds a humorous touch to his works.

Pictured while painting on walls covered with tags or on immaculate skies, Vandal reminds us of the artist, creating his first works in Bristol's streets. Sometimes, arrows – vectors – embodying creative energy surround him or burst out his body, as to suggest it cannot be contained. Fusing, his creativity is transposed by the aerosol paint spray to which he dedicates one of his canvas.

We can feel in these the strength of Nick Walker's works. Thanks to the stencils he uses, the characters of his works stand out, as if they were coming alive.

## Biography



Born in 1969, he emerged from the infamous and ground-breaking Bristol graffiti scene of the early 1980s. As a forerunner of the British graffiti phenomenon, Nick Walker's work has become a blueprint for hundreds of emerging artists. His work is constantly evolving and remains innovative, modern and thought-provoking.

Nick Walker draws on the energy and imagery of graffiti but he succeeds in combining the freedom the spray can bring, with very controlled and intricate stenciling. The results are highly sophisticated and infinitely desirable. The methods he uses retain their forcefulness and integrity on the traditional medium of canvas.

“In 1992 I began to combine stencils with my freehand work, which allowed me to juxtapose almost photographic imagery with the rawness which evolved from conventional graffiti styles. Stencils introduce an impact element to my work. The appeal of stencils is that they allow me to take an image from anywhere – dissect any part of life – and recreate it on any surface.

I try to add an element of humour or irony to some paintings to add a little light relief to the walls. Painting is a form of escapism for me and if my work allows the spectator to do the same thing, then I've achieved more than I set out to do.”

Nick Walker's highly recognizable style and humour have earned him worldwide recognition. In 2008, its iconic *Moona Lisa* (2006) was sold for 54,000 £ – more than ten times its estimated auction value at Bonhams, London. That same year, Nick Walker's soloshows were sold out in Los Angeles and London (where he sold for more than 750,000 £ worth of works), and collectors waited more than 24 hours to be among the first to obtain one of his latest editions (screen-printing and lithography). In 2011, he took part to *See no Evil* on his first playground, Bristol (where he still lives) and painted what some say was the most outstanding work of the event.

In 2013, Nick Walker became the first residential artist of the New York Quin Hostel's Quin Arts program; he then created for the Quin's permanent collection 15 original in-situ works. Even after that, he frequently participated in the Quin's life.

In Paris and in Seoul, the Brugier-Rigail gallery represents Nick Walker.

## Selected exhibitions

### Solo show:

- 2019** *Can't Stop, Won't Stop*, Brugier-Rigail gallery – Paris.
- 2017** *Unspoken Words*, Brugier Rigail gallery – Paris.
- 2016** *Bridges*, Illegal Mezcal Headquater – NYC.  
*The Last Ride*, Wall Works New York – NYC.  
*Vandalizm*, Parko Gallery Tokyo – Tokyo.
- 2015** *Entropy*, Above Second Gallery – Hong Kong.
- 2010** *In Gods we trust*, Art Sensus gallery – London.
- 2009** *A sequence of events' and book launch*, Black Rat Press gallery-London.

### Group show:

- 2021** *Bristol Street Art: The Evolution of a Global Movement*, Vanguard Bristol  
*The Traces from Pop Art to Street Art*, Art Tokyo.  
*Fine Art Collection*, Matsuzakaya Nagoya.
- 2020** *Stencil Power*, Brugier-Rigail gallery.  
*Contemporary Art from Around the World*,  
Maruzen Marunouchi Tokyo.
- 2019** *Here and Now*, International Pop Gallery. NYC.  
*Veni, Vidi, Vinci*, Fluctuart, Urban Art Centre – Paris.  
*Urban Collection*, Brugier Rigail gallery – Seoul
- 2017** *The Collaborations – Part 2*, Above Second Gallery – Hong Kong.  
*The Collaborations – Part 1*, Illegal Mezcal Headquater – NYC.  
*Street Generation (s)*, La Condition Publique – Roubaix, France.

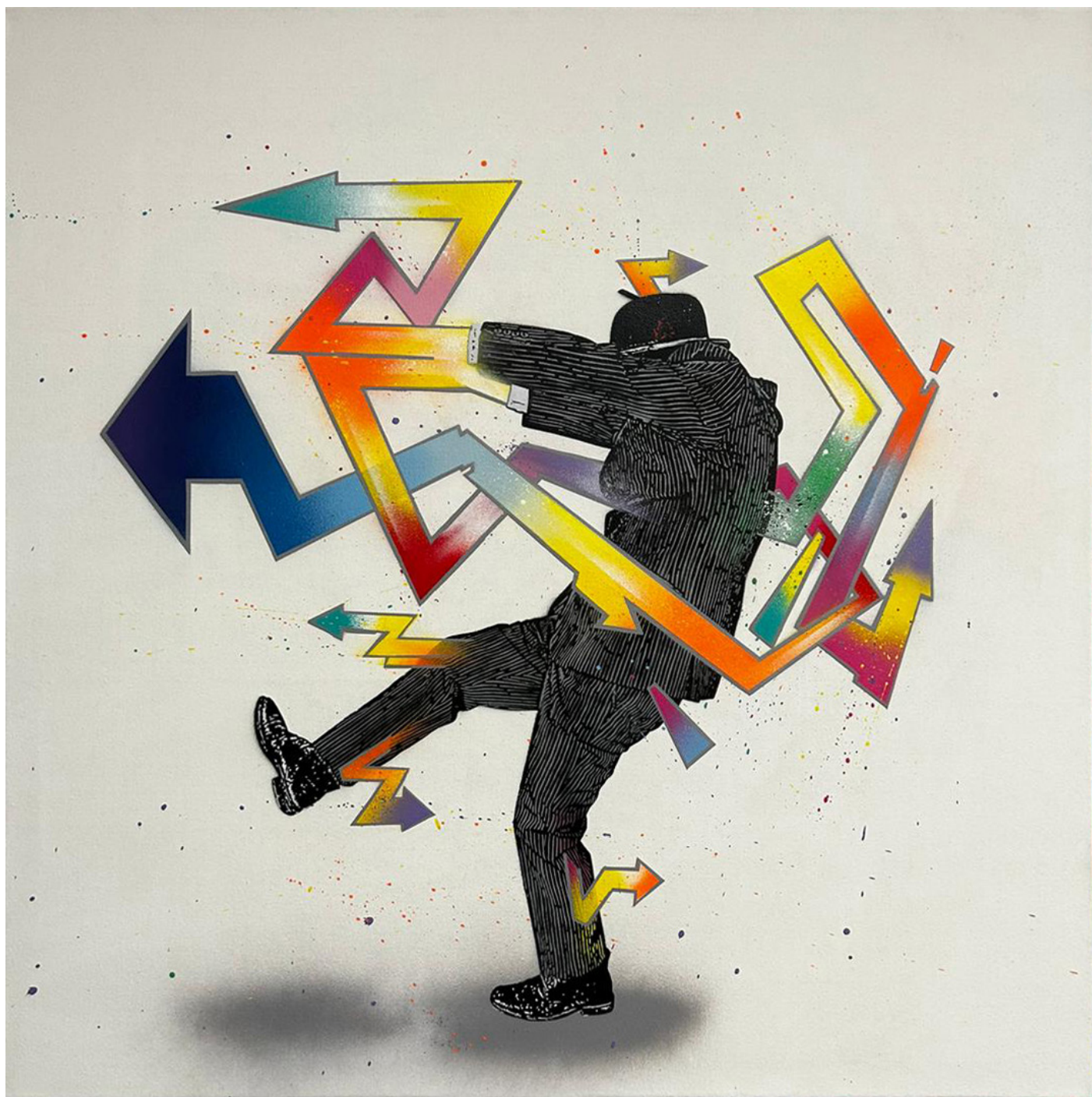




## Available visuals



**Nick Walker**  
*Untitled, 2023*  
Unique work



**Nick Walker**  
*The Essence, 2023*  
Unique work



## About the Brugier-Rigail gallery

In the usual landscape of contemporary art galleries, the Brugier-Rigail gallery has a unique artistic and aesthetic guiding line. Both urban and contemporary, the gallery was created in 2001. It is just like its two founders, Éric Brugier and Laurent Rigail, two art enthusiasts who are collectors before being curators. They only exhibit artists and works they like – and they stand by it. They usually help and support young artists they think are promising.

As they both had their first artistic heart-stoppers during their young years, the gallery's aesthetic is quite “old-school”, displaying 1980s urban art pioneers. Miss Tic, Speedy Graphito, Jérôme Mesnager, or Robert Combas and Guy Denning are some of the famous French artists exhibited. As for international artists, it is possible to admire the works of Shepard Fairey, JonOne or John Matos Crash. Nevertheless, the two collectors are always avidly searching for new urban and contemporary creators. They also represent young artists like Levalet, Nasty, Mad C, L'Atlas, Monkeybird or M. Chat.

If they enjoy supporting their artists, Éric Brugier and Laurent Rigail are just as attentive when it comes to advise collectors. Expertise, experience and moral transparency are required.