

Juan Cossio

Juan Manuel Cossio was born in Madrid, Spain in 1960. He received academic training in Art and History at the Complutense University of Madrid. From 1980, Cossio worked as a Copyist at the Museo del Prado, where he studied from close observation and reinterpreted classical works of art; studied under Spanish realist Antonio López García; and became a student of Manuel Franquelo, one of Spain's leading hyperrealist painters from the New Realism movement of the 1960s.

Cossio's principle tool for painting is an airbrush, which sprays the paint onto the canvas and allows for seamless blending of pigments. This blending allows Cossio to achieve high detail and precision found in his elaborate works. By using an airbrush instead of a standard paintbrush, Cossio changes the function of a tool originally designed to retouch photographs into the primary means of creating a photorealistic image. In each of his compositions, Cossio experiments with the human form and its ability to convey emotion in functional, minimalistic interiors. Many of his works echo those of the New Realism movement, conjuring an atmosphere in which the figure is derived from reality but the other elements are fabricated, obscure, utilitarian yet unexpected. Cossio pares down the environment in which the figure is placed so as to direct all concentration on the figure.

Though Cossio works in a hyperrealist style, his scenes are set apart from the reality of day-to-day living. Cossio states, "I create images starting from a contradiction. I am a painter who does not want to paint reality. I want to interpret it with all the means that are at my reach." His interpretation of reality is one of appreciation for the beauty, the emotion, and the paradoxes of everyday life. Cossio currently lives and works in Madrid and his work has been exhibited internationally in countries such as Spain, Italy, the UK, South Africa, Venezuela, and the US.

Solo exhibitions

2014-El Quatre Gallery, Barcelona

2008 Albermarle Gallery, London

2005 Sammer Gallery, Marbella, Spain

2001 Clave Gallery, Murcia, Spain

Group Shows

2015 *Realism 2015*, Albermarle Gallery, London

2014 *Winter Collective*, Albermarle Gallery, London

2013 Everard Road Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

2013 *Hyperrealism Today*, Andorra

2011 Everard Read Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

2011 Plus One Gallery, London

2011 *Corpi Esposti*, Barbara Frigerio Contemporary Art Gallery, Milan

2011 *Winter Show*, Plus One Gallery, London

2010 Plus One Gallery, London

2009 Plus One Gallery, London
2007 Sammer Gallery, Marbella, Spain
2006 *The Female Poser*, Sammer Gallery, Marbella, Spain
2005 Vazquez Kunst Gallery, Holland
2005 *What is Realism?*, Albermarle Gallery, London
2003 *Small Format*, Gema Lazcano Gallery, Madrid, Spain
2003 *Arcanes Contemporaries*, Clave Gallery, Murcia, Spain
2000 *Forms and Volumes*, Heller Gallery, Madrid, Spain
1997 *Classic and Modern of Reality*, Heller Gallery, Madrid, Spain

Art Fairs

2013 Scope New York, Waterhouse & Dodd Gallery
2013 Art Palm Beach, Waterhouse & Dodd Gallery
2012 Waterfall Mansion show, Anthony Brunelli Fine Art
2012 Greenwich Art Fair, Anthony Brunelli Fine Art
2008 Art Nocturne Knocke, Belgium
2007 *Luxury, please*, Vienna
2005 Palm Beach Art Fair, Miami, Sammer Gallery
2003 Feria De Arte of Madrid, Gema Lazcano Gallery
2002 International Contemporary Art Fair of Seville, Puchol Gallery, Valencia
1999 Latin American Art Fair of Caracas, Heller Gallery

Museum Shows

2007 Museu Europeu d'Art Modern, Barcelona
2004 "XXV Anniversary of the Spanish Constitution, Museo de la Moneda
1997 Confederación de Cajas de Ahorro de Madrid