





SUSO33

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1. Artistic Bio

SUSO33 (Madrid, 1973) is a Spanish artist who, based on graffiti and Street Art, has developed his work on different fields - Action painting, installation, video art, performance and set design. He is considered one of the Spanish references of Graffiti, Urban Art and Muralism.

Beside these, he has also curated two great exhibitions: 'Art is Not a Crime 1977-1987' (CEART, Madrid, 2018) and 'Henry Chalfant: Art vs. Transit 1977-1987' (Bronx Museum, NY, 2019), dedicated to the work of photographer and filmmaker Henry Chalfant (United States, 1940), top ambassador of graffiti culture across the world. These also honor the first graffiti writers and add value to their legacy - graffiti is an artistic movement that has transformed the urban scenery and the contemporary culture for the past decades.

Painting in motion, understood as a gesture and imprint of the body, is the core of a practice where the boundaries between painting, performance and performing arts are torn down and new technologies get a leading role.

Nowadays, 'Las ausencias' (The Absences) may be the iconography that best defines SUSO33's poetics. This synthesis of his signature in the form of a trace of the body, outlined with a continuous line, is his symbol. 'Las ausencias' is in public space, alone or in groups, on walls and closures, expressing moods of loneliness and abandonment, or in depressed areas that suffered ruthless urban policies.

'The walls speak, they are like a way of life.'

SUSO33

In 2015, it was presented 'ONe Line. Una retrospectiva' (CEART, Madrid, Spain). It is an anthological exhibition, curated by Susana Blas, accompanied by an extensive book that analyzes his three decades of work.

SUSO33 has taught and spoken in conferences at the Universidad Internacional Menéndez Pelayo and in summer courses by the Universidad Complutense in El Escorial, Madrid.

Part of his works are in important museums and in public and private collections (Museo Nacional Reina Sofía, Caixa Forum, Thyssen-Bornemisza, Artium or the Muzeul National de Arta Contemporana al României [National Museum of Contemporary Art in Bucharest], among others).



In the fields of artistic muralism and painting for opera, theater, dance and cinema, SUSO33 has worked in over fifty set designs for institutions such as the Teatro Real (Spanish Opera House), the Centro Dramático Nacional, Compañía Nacional de Danza, Madrid's City Hall, the Biblioteca Nacional (Spanish National Library) or Pasarela Cibeles.

Essence in graffiti

SUSO33 started in graffiti at 11 yo and developed a personal style, drawing with continuous lines without lifting the tool (either a marker, spray can or even a crop duster). SUSO33 is left-handed and, as a child, he was forced to write with his right hand, which made him ambidextrous. This skill allows him to draw simultaneously with both hands achieving the same quality.

'I soon discovered the importance of my bilaterality with my hands. My head thought of images instead of words and this conditioned my perspective of things'.

SUSO33

Inspired in classic graffiti, he invented his own icons - pretty much an alphabet of symbols - true ideograms that instill emotions. Firstly, it was his popular 'plasta' or paint stain, adaptable to any kind of context. Then, 'Las ausencias' or forgotten body traces, metaphors of the individual's loneliness in a dehumanized world; 'las angustias' as inner screams from torture; 'los cuerpos dinámicos' (Dynamic Bodies), as a symbol of life dance; 'los pasión expresión' or sources of vital energy, 'los caligramas' or language paradoxes... To the 'pinturas negras' and the 'escenografías vivas' and other more recent ongoing symbols - 'retículas', 'frecuencias'...

Videorganism and scenic painting in action

SUSO33 uses different kinds of videos as a pliable material he can use to sculpt and twist time, as well as to paint, drawing with the electron beam. Used to make the most of the determinants of his work, his use of the video sticks to the same guidelines - shaping the external appearance of the base seizing the benefits of technology and external agents that can collaborate, including the body motion, light changes, exposure time, the use of colors and materials that undergo mutations or the bases on which to project.

Another practice that sums up his spirit is 'scenic painting in action' - a scenic form created by the artist, where performance, happening, painting, music and light converge. His set design

knowledge, together with his career in public spaces as a graffiti writer, favor transmedia improvised pieces on stage, alone or in collaboration (with musicians and dancers), making 'here and now', the determinants and audience integration, the actors of his pieces of work. Some pieces on this category are coreoGrafía (2004), Quijote Hip Hop (2005), U.G.M. (2006); escenoGRAFFiti (2008), SE pinta SE danza (You Paint, You Dance) (2009), or the recent one - Graffiti con luz (lit graffiti) (2017).

His life in Scotland and 'Las pinturas negras' (Black Paintings)

His time living in Dufftown, Scotland, in 2014, will set a turning point in SUSO33's work, due to the depth that this experience brings to its creative process. There, he gives up manufacturing artistic objects and spends his time experimenting and thinking. His research focuses on ephemeral actions executed with the recycled water he obtains from the distillery, videotaped, in subtle interventions on large walls and in notes and drawings in his notebooks. He produced a huge workload.

'I have acquired knowledge by working, through experience, and that produces mistakes that have brought me closer to reality not only through ideas.'

SUSO33

In three and a half months, he made 25 videos, 50 walls and countless writings and sketches, gathered in the artist's book - 'Cuaderno de Escocia' (Notebook from Scotland) - 2015 The 'pinturas negras' are a series of pictorial interventions on large walls of the Dufftown distillery. In these murals, the artist works with the stains that time has left in the buildings to reveal the beauty of natural paintings. They are called 'pinturas negras' because of the dark backgrounds from corrosion and because of the themes related to soul tortures - scenes of inner apocalypse, personal redemption and death acceptance.

This revitalization of abandoned spaces that gives a new meaning through small pictorial interventions has resulted for the past years in the series: 'Escenografías vivas' (Live Set Designs) in other cities - murals with minimal pictorial gestures that, strategically placed, transform that natural context for the viewer who is capable of looking carefully.

Collaboration with the audience and other artists

SUSO33 includes the community on his projects. He has created a kind of interaction where he puts himself as a link between citizens and the free messages they send him (for example, through a megaphone). 'Lanzadera de palabras' (Word Shuttle) (2007), held at the Círculo de Bellas Artes in Madrid, is one of the most successful versions of this collective performance. Simulating an automatic arm, the artist writes on the banners of the building's facade the citizens' thoughts, dictated by a megaphone, uncensored.

'Sometimes, words do not let me see.'

SUSO33



In other pieces, the dialog is with another artist, as in 'Enredadera de palabras' (Word Twister) (2008). In this calligram wall mural in Guernika, Spain, SUSO33 transcribes Picasso's poem 'La hora escrita' (The Written Time), sung by Enrique Morente in his album 'Pablo de Málaga' (2008). In Morente's voice, these lines take a bodily dimension for the artist.

As precedents of these collaborative pieces, we have to mention the collective pieces of the graffiti culture, where it is usual to carry out joint works where different writers get together to create them.





2. Statement

I understand art as an attitude and communication among people, not as a job to produce devices for the art system and its market.

I am interested in what is ephemeral and in recovering public spaces for citizens.

I was artistically born and raised in graffiti. This is the essence and inspiration of my entire work. From graffiti, I learn to understand calligraphy as symbols to express attitude, emotions and commitment. I also understood the thin line between what is legal and illegal in order to make it unregulated and I learned to find the cracks in the system.

I claim the streets and the walls for artistic life.

The city is a live set design; it is the skin on which I print my reasons to paint - release my existential anguish, judge injustice and assert loneliness.

I am concerned about the dualism word-image and how words can bring closer or move away. The natural and intuitive part they hide.

My work is expressed through actions, be it video art, painting, drawing or performing arts. Art is part of the day-to-day experience. And action is what really matters. I believe in tearing down the boundaries between artistic disciplines.







3. About SUSO33

'He is a prodigy regarding technique and has what writers call can control. He is completely ambidextrous when working. He grabs a spray paint can in each hand and paints in a human dimension, with the scale always linked to the human body. He dances while painting.'

Henry Chalfant, Photographer and Documentary Maker

'Suso33 is an international role model of urban art that, since very young, pushed the boundaries of his origins to display an interdisciplinary work that unites painting, performing arts and technological experimenting. (...) Graffiti is still his attitude's base - ephemeral personality of the pieces, increase the value of body gesture, adaptability to environmental determinants and social criticism.'

Susana Blas, Curator and art historian

'You need to see Suso33 draw the faces that form his anguish in order to understand his visual value. I am not exaggerating if I say that Pollock and the gestural creators would be amazed by the freedom these huge faces are created with, made with extreme concentration that, however, the author's agility and gracefulness conceal'.

Eugenio Castro, Art Critic

'From the quality of the exhibited pieces, which he considers charms or 'remains', 'the real pieces are in the streets'. From the purpose of his work, one can take proof of vitality and moral and human commitment to his time.'

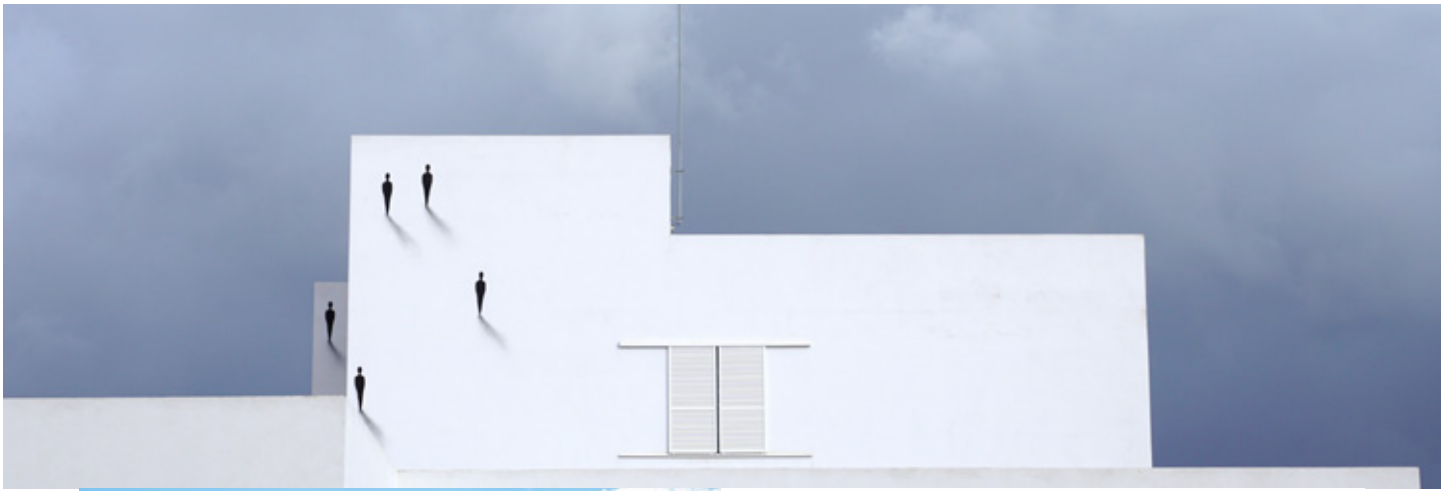
**José Jiménez, Art Critic, Anthropologist,
Curator and Philosopher**

'Despite its apparent fragmentation in categories, such as graffiti, painting, set design, dance, performance and action, SUSO33's work forms a whole and it is very difficult to access all its complexity if you pay attention only to a part of it. Therefore, it should be addressed as a whole where each form of expression complements one another. You could say that his work works like a hologram, where each piece supports the whole. All is in the whole.'

**Tonia Raquejo, Lecturer of 'Theory and History of
Contemporary Art' at the Universidad
Complutense de Madrid, Spain**

'We are both street painters. We both grab our tools and go out to the street and paint.'

Antonio López. Painter







4. Project Selection

PERFORMANCE, HAPPENING AND LIVE PAINTING

- Museo del Prado. Madrid, Spain 2018
- Fate Festival. San Potito, Italy 2018
- Ibiza Light Festival. Ibiza, Spain 2017
- Performance IV Centenario Plaza Mayor, Las Cuatro Estaciones. Madrid, Spain 2017
- StreetArtMuseumAmsterdam. Amsterdam, The Netherlands 2015
- Teatro Real. Madrid, Spain 2015
- Dufftown. Scotland, UK 2014
- Mural, Festival MULAFEST. Madrid, Spain 2013
- Ayala Museum and University of Manila, the Philippines. Instituto Cervantes and the Philippines 2012
- Spain Now! London, UK 2011
- Mental Health Festival. Edinburgh, UK 2011
- Avant Garde Urbano. Tudela, Spain 2011
- Cata 7 Tears, Spain Now. London, UK 2010
- Telesiluetados, La Noche en Blanco. Madrid, Spain 2010
- Mucho+Mayo, One Urban World. Cartagena, Spain 2010
- Yo Soy Pintura, Performance. ARCO. Madrid, Spain 2010
- Corten, Scenic painting in progress. Spain, Brazil and Chile 2010
- Festival de Teatro Clásico de Almagro. Art Direction and actions for the opening. Almagro, Spain 2009
- Instituto Cervantes in Beijing and Shanghai. China 2008
- Lanzadera de palabras, Brussels Nuit Blanche, Belgium 2008
- Live Painting featuring Enrique Morente. Guernica, Spain 2008
- Museum of Contemporary Art Bucarest, Romania 2008
- La Noche de los teatros. Sala Alcalá 31. Madrid, Spain 2008
- Lanzadera de palabras. La Noche en Blanco. Madrid, Spain 2007
- iMIRA! Festival de escenas ibéricas contemporáneas. Toulouse, France 2006
- Quijote Hip Hop, Biblioteca Nacional. Madrid, Spain 2005
- Performance featuring La Fura Dels Baus. Art Futura. Comunidad de Madrid, Spain 1994

OWN EXHIBITIONS

- Exhibition curator at Henry Chalfant: Art vs. Transit 1977-1987, Henry Chalfant. The Bronx Museum of the Arts. New York, EEUU 2019
- Exhibition curator at Art Is Not a Crime 1977-1987, Henry Chalfant. CEART. Fuenlabrada, Spain 2018
- EPHEMERAL, La retina de la experiencia, Sala Sa Nostra. Ibiza Spain 2017
- Representaciones Escenográficas de Pinturas Negras. Bilbao, Spain 2015
- One Line. Una retrospectiva. CEART. Fuenlabrada, Spain 2015



- Exhibition at Galería Punto Valencia. Spain 2011
- Art Gallery at the Spanish Consulate in Shanghai. China 2009
- Instituto Cervantes in Beijing. China 2009
- Poesía Fosilizada, Galería Adora Calvo in Salamanca. Spain 2008-09
- In&Out Gallery, Galería Cámara Oscura. Logroño, Spain 2008
- Video Pintura orgánica de acción. LABoral Art Space. Gijón, Spain 2007
- Glosario gráfico, CaixaForum Barcelona. Spain 2005
- SUSO33 ¡No volveré a pintar paredes! Tele-graffiti, la palabra y la imagen. 1984-2004, Galería Biondetta. Madrid, Spain 2004

JOINT EXHIBITIONS

- Meninas Runway Gallery. Madrid, Spain 2018
- URVANITY Art-Fair. Madrid, Spain 2018
- America Late, Casa América. Madrid, Spain 2017
- Las Formas del Alma, Instituto Cervantes. Madrid, Spain 2017
- H3O Centro Caldea, Galeria Art Areté. Andorra 2016
- ARCO Madrid Truck Art Project. Spain 2016
- ARCO Madrid Clorofila Digital. Spain 2016
- Mostra Espanha Exhibition. Coimbra, Portugal 2015
- Caligrafía hoy Exhibition, Biblioteca Nacional. Madrid, Spain 2015
- Fashion Art Institute, European Parliament. Brussels, Belgium 2014
- Muros and Live Painting, Tabacalera. Madrid, Spain 2014
- Metrópolis, 30 años de Vanguardia, Fundación Canal. Madrid, Spain 2014
- Grafika. Toulouse, France, Algiers, Belgrade, Bulgaria 2012
- Del Mur a L'art, Sala Metro. Barcelona, Spain 2012
- Festival Internacional de Videoarte Camagüey, FIVAC. Cuba 2011
- Halcyon Gallery. London, UK 2011
- Moscow Art Fair. Moscow, Russia 2011
- Óptica Festival. Bolivia, Peru and Argentina 2011
- Intersticios Urbanos, CCEMX. Mexico City, Mexico 2011
- Cinema Brut Festival. France 2011
- Sonisphère Festival, Amnéville. France 2011
- BigScreenProject, Window to Spain, Manhattan Program. NYC Video Art Festival, USA 2011
- Future en Seine Festival de arte. Paris, France 2011
- Grafika. Bordeaux, Lisbon, Cairo, Beirut, Jordan 2011
- Graffiti 21. Völklingen, Germany 2011
- Magmart International Video Art Festival. Naples, Italy 2011
- Region O International Video Art Festival. NYC, USA 2011
- ARCO, Galería Adora Calvo. Madrid, Spain 2011
- ArteSantander. Santander, Spain 2010
- Public Provocations, Carhart Gallery. Basel, Switzerland 2010
- Cow Parade. Madrid, Spain 2009
- Bosnian Cultural Center. Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina 2007
- 7.1 Distorsiones, Documentos, Naderías y Relatos. CAAM. Las Palmas, Spain 2007
- The Paint Bah-Kidrobot. 281 Lafayette St. Gallery. NYC, USA 2006



- Homenaje a Guernica. Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía. Madrid, Spain 2006
- TOY2R Bunny Qee. Hong Kong, China 2006
- 21&21, Diseñadores de Cibeles y artistas urbanos, Madrid Vive la Moda. IFEMA. Madrid, Spain 2005
- Art is not a crime (feat. Henry Chalfant) Iguapop Gallery. Barcelona, Spain 2004
- Feria de Arte Contemporáneo Madrid-Edition. Spain 2002

AWARDS RECOGNITION

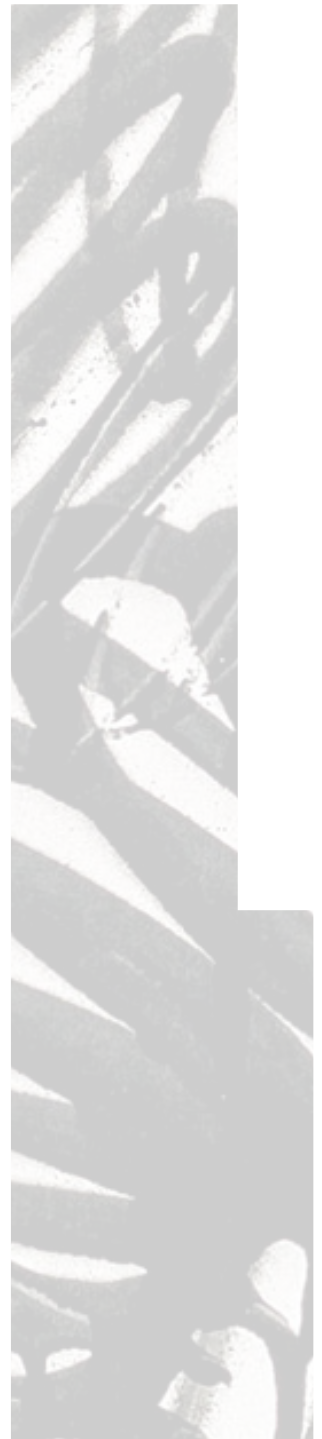
- Jury Prize of the III Certamen Nacional de Videoarte organized by PhotoEspaña10
- Finalist at En.Piezas Caja Madrid 2009
- Honorable Mention at 2008 CULTURAS (Spanish Ministry of Culture)
- Finalist at ANIMADRID 2008
- 1st Prize Urban Art International Festival 2004

WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

- Summer courses at the Univ. Complutense El Escorial. Conferencia: 'SUSO33: Trayectoria y obra' 2018
- 'Arte URBE-No' Creative Workshop with Isidoro Valcárcel Medina 2017
- 'Friends of Talent', Fundación Telefónica, Madrid 2013
- 'El autor y su obra: SUSO33. El arte urbano como vanguardia' summer course, Univ. Internacional Menéndez Pelayo, Santander 2008
- Fundación La Caixa. Tarragona, Spain 2007
- 'Conversaciones en graffiti' Facultad de Bellas Artes, Univ. Complutense de Madrid 2006
- Facultad de Bellas Artes de Madrid (UCM), Fernando Figuerola. Madrid 1998

PUBLICATIONS

- Art is not a Crime 1977-1987 Henry Chalfant. 2018
- SUSO33 ONe Line. 2015
- Cuaderno de Escocia. 2015
- ¡No volveré a pintar paredes! Telegraffiti, la palabra y la imagen. 2004





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