

Joseph Arthur

Artist/Musician/Poet

"When he was starting fifteen years ago, I was struck by the strength and visceral quality of Jo's paintings. They seem to connect to Expressionism, Art Brut, Basquiat and the Graffiti movement. I remember encouraging him to take the painting seriously and it has been great to watch its evolution. Jo is a really unusual, interesting and talented artist in music and art". – **Peter Gabriel**

"What I see is a vigorous, layered, expressionistic abstract sprawl, with a Basquiat-like, graffiti-esque urban edge and wild lashings of outsider primitivism". – **The London Telegraph**

In touch with every nuance of the creative world, Joseph Arthur's artwork has received much attention from both artistic and musician communities, including a Grammy nomination for the album packaging of his 1999 release, *Vacancy*. While always having painted as a creative outlet, Arthur began to pursue a professional career in visual art following a Basquiat exhibit in Alabama. "It was a mind-blowing experience, this huge retrospective of [Basquiat's] work. And I had already been painting by that time, my own kind of abstract stuff, but I didn't know you could take that stuff seriously. So that opened my mind a lot. I thought - okay, yeah, there's an audience for this".

There has indeed been an audience for Arthur, who has exhibited his works in North America, Europe and Asia since his debut showing at the Vertigo Gallery in London, England in 2006. "You really start to teach yourself through looking. It's kind of the same way you teach yourself music - through listening. Like when you first hear Bob Dylan and you go, "Oh my God..." Then you start spinning off that and listening to other people and you figure out how to write songs through listening. Same thing with painting," explains Arthur of his creative process.

Though Joseph Arthur's first passion is the visual arts, he is better known for his musical talents after being discovered by Peter Gabriel in the mid-nineties. Since then, Arthur has released seven full-length studio albums and eleven EPs, with music from his extensive and critically acclaimed catalog being used in such popular television series as *Dawson's Creek*, *The OC*, *Grey's Anatomy*, *Scrubs*, HBO's *Hung* and *True Blood*, as well as in the films *Shrek 2*, *The Bourne Identity*, *Hell's Kitchen* and the *American Pie* trilogy. Coming off of the heels of touring and releasing an album alongside Ben Harper and Dhani Harrison for the side project, *Fistful of Mercy*, Arthur released his long-awaited solo album, 'The Graduation Ceremony', on May 24, 2011.

Arthur also sells and showcases his art on the playfully named virtual gallery, *Museum of Modern Arthur*. Though currently only existing exclusively online, MOMAR was, from 2007 to 2009, a New York-based Andy Warhol-esque factory where Arthur's private recording studio and gallery space coexisted in a symbiotic relationship – each feeding, informing, and balancing the other. That same dichotomous push and pull evident in Arthur's marriage of painting and singing is also often thematically explored in his artwork; emblematic of his quest to explore and reveal the hidden tension between chaos and beauty, his paintings are, like his music; evocative, emotive, and replete with the natural rhythms of life.

With close to twenty national and international exhibits under his belt, it is clear that Joseph Arthur's prolific output of art and music has garnered much attention – and while everyone else discusses its meaning and credence, Arthur is on to the next project; "Andy Warhol's approach to art is an ideal for me: make art, and while people are deciding whether they like it or not, make more art".

Past Exhibits

Joseph Arthur at Fingerprints
Long Beach, CA / December to January 2012

Joseph Arthur at The Living Room
New York, NY / June to November 2011

Joseph Arthur's Paintings from the Road at Galerie Gruppe 10
Bielefeld, Germany / October 2011

MOMAR at La Galerie Chappe
Paris, France / October 2011

Joseph Arthur at Varga Gallery
Woodstock, NY / September 2011

Joseph Arthur at We Gallery
Akron, OH / August 2011

MOMAR at The Gershwin Hotel
New York, NY / June 2 to June 30, 2011

The Venetian Hotel's Blue Frog
Macau, China / April 3 to March 3, 2011

Joseph Arthur at the Bootleg Theatre Gallery
Los Angeles, CA / February 2011

Joseph Arthur at the Bootleg Theatre Gallery as part of *Deck the Walls*
Los Angeles, CA / December 2010

Joseph Arthur at We Gallery
Akron, OH / September 2010

Joseph Arthur at Ven & Vaida Gallery as part of RETROSPECTIVE
Philadelphia, PA / September 2010

Joseph Arthur at Gallerie Pangee as part of the *Montreal Jazz Festival*
Montreal, Quebec / June-July 2010

Joseph Arthur Art Exhibition at Ven & Vaida Gallery
Philadelphia, PA / June 2010

MOMAR at the 2010 Sundance Film Festival
Park City, UT / January 2010

WIG at Gallerie Pangee
Montreal, Quebec / October 2008

Museum of Modern Arthur
New York, NY / 2008-2009

Le Kop Shop Gallery as part of *POP Montreal*
Montreal, Quebec / October 2007

Ritchie's Gallery as part of the *A Suivre Exhibition* Montreal, Quebec / October 2007

MOMAR at Vertigo Gallery
London, England / October 2006

www.museumofmodernarthur.com
www.josepharthur.com
www.josepharthur.tumblr.com
www.fistfulofmercy.com