

# JonOne

Evolution to Oils



**Opening**

March 22nd 2014

**Exhibition**

March 22nd - May 24th 2014

---

Rabouan Moussion Gallery

121 rue Vieille du Temple  
[www.galerie-rabouan-moussion.com](http://www.galerie-rabouan-moussion.com)

+33 (0)1 83 56 78 21  
[rabouanmoussion@noos.fr](mailto:rabouanmoussion@noos.fr)

**Contact Presse:** 2e BUREAU  
Martial Hobeniche  
Perrine Ibarra

+33 (0)1 42 33 93 18  
[m.hobeniche@2e-bureau.com](mailto:m.hobeniche@2e-bureau.com)  
[culture2@2e-bureau.com](mailto:culture2@2e-bureau.com)



## JONONE



John Andrew Perello, aka JonOne, is an American painter and legend from the early New-York Street art scene, born in 1963 in New York. He has lived and worked in Paris since the late 1980's. With Dominican origins, John Perello was born in the district of Harlem in New York in 1963. He entered the world of graffiti at the age of 17 with his childhood friend Man5, Jon began tagging his name followed by 156 (the street on which he grew up) on the walls and trains in his neighborhood. According to him, «The underground is a museum that runs through the city.»

He was a founding member of the collective 156 All Starz in 1984, which brought together passion of painting trains at night, and forgetting their problems. After an invitation from 'Bando' and inspired by the street art movement he moved to Paris in 1987. JonOne immediately entered the scene, and began his work as a painter on canvas, he found a working space at the Hopital éphémère, and quickly made a name in artistic circles in Paris. He continues to exhibit around the world: Tokyo, Monaco, Paris, Geneva, New York, Hong Kong and Brussels.

## EVOLUTION TO OILS

*JonOne is an American artist living in Paris since more than twenty years. He is one of the main street-art representatives and precursors, and was noticed at the exhibition Born in the Streets at Fondation Cartier (2009). JonOne is recognized for his acrylic work close to the American abstract painting. In 2011, he had already explored the field of sculpture for his The City Breathes show at Rabouan Moussion gallery. He now presents his first solo show for his oil works from March 22nd to May 24th 2014.*

When we arrive at the studio, we interrupt JonOne in his kickboxing session. He let us in with his American accent and charming casualness. We go to another place. The windows are opened to mitigate a strong solvent odor. He warns us: «Be careful on the floor...». This new space is a place of experimentation for his oil paintings.

For the first time, JonOne is showing the result of this new research: «For me, oil is not street art, it is part of the Fine Arts, and I consider it as a step in my creative journey. This is a fantastic material, its brightness is very different, and the colors are much stronger and deeper. But this technique needs to be tamed, it took me over a year to prepare these works.»

The work with the material is remarkable in this new project. The canvas is enriched with a volume consisting of sand and glue, which add shadows and irregularities to the writing. Repetitive tag JONONE, that usually constitutes the skeleton of the works, here becomes almost unreadable. He orchestrates his own erasure. «I do not see the tag, it goes towards pure abstraction. Now my signature becomes something purely gestural.»

In the studio, you can see other works that are very dense material and some more graphic ones, looking like signs. Then, there is a centerpiece: the flag of the United States covered with tags - JONONE JONONE JONONE ... - John The One, the only one, displays his insubordination by signing the highly symbolic stars and stripes of the American flag. «This flag is my transgression, as well as tagging a wall. When I painted this I was like mad, it was a night of true frenziness. In the United States, I could go to jail for that, an American would be extremely offended by this gesture. It is not revenge, but it is what my relationship to the United States is: I created my own history with this country, and it is neither patriotic nor nationalistic. I did not consider writing my name everywhere was art, or what is now called street-art. At the time it was my revolt. This flag is part of this rebellion: I consider this country as a system of oppression behind the word democracy, as well as oppression in the USSR was behind the term communism. We allow atrocities in the name of ideologies. I do not think a lot has changed with Obama, look at what revealed Edward Snowden - I really admire him, I think he is a hero.»

JonOne is part of a mature practice without forgetting its origins: he is now considered as an abstract painter who uses the visual language of the street, but when asked about his relationship with Keith Haring and Jean-Michel Basquiat, he now prefers an affiliation with Raymond Hains, Jacques Villégé, Christopher Wool and Ben. «My work has always been changing, and today I feel like I've become a complete artist.»

Alice Cazaux



## SELECTED WORKS



JonOne, *Forest Mist*, 2014  
Oil on canvas, 110 x 110 cm





JonOne, *Le Combat de ma Vie*, 2014  
Oil on canvas, 110 x 110 cm





JonOne, *Manifestation*, 2014  
Oil on canvas, 110 x 110 cm



## RABOUAN MOUSSION GALLERY



Rabouan Moussion Gallery, for 25 years now, is engaged with artists from the former Soviet bloc. After having met various artists during the first contemporary art fair in Moscow in 1997, Jacqueline Rabouan and Caroline Moussion decided to promote particularly Russian artists in France – among them Oleg Kulik, Dimitri Tsykalov, Kirill Chelushkin, Ira Waldron, Vlad Mamyshev Monroe, PG Group, Gosha Ostretsov.

The gallery is opened and committed with other emerging scenes like street art with JonOne, Sowat & Lek and Jane\_Doe 22, or Indian contemporary art with Sunil Gawde and Justin Ponmany.

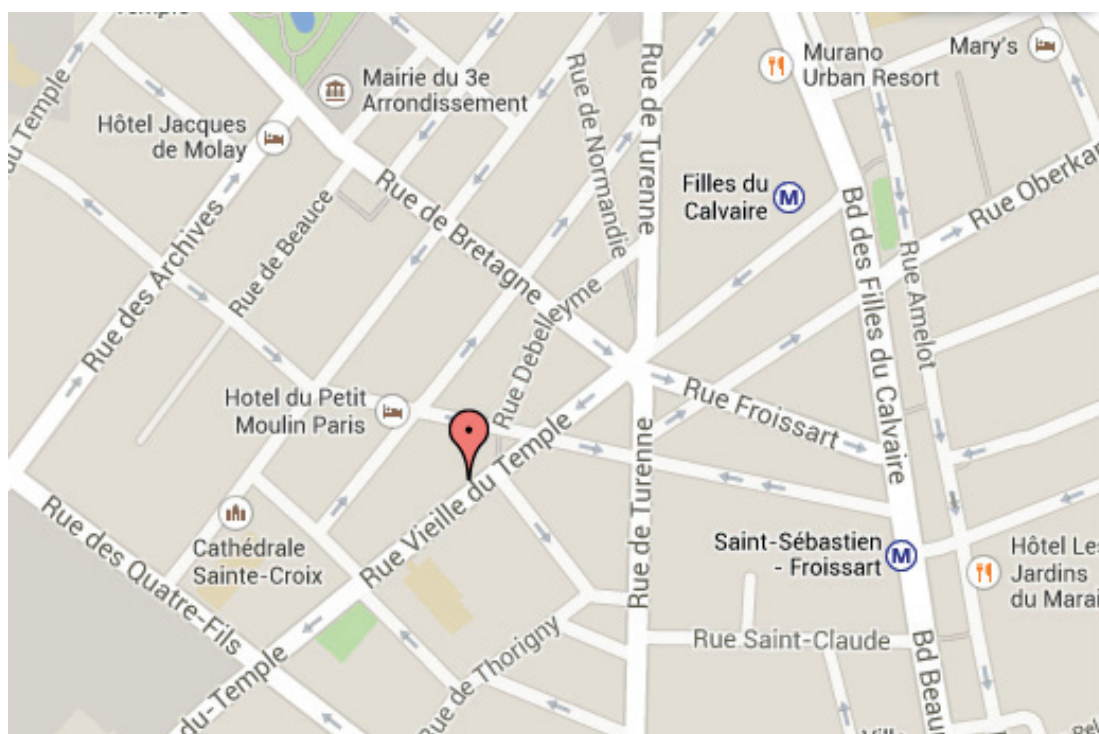
Artistic choices are not a result of a mix between aesthetics and market, they are of a keen sensitivity and a privileged relationship with the artists. Thus, in collaboration with the Dutch photographer Erwin Olaf or the frenchs Jean Degottex, Bernar Venet, Marc da Cunha Lopes, Florence Cantié-Kramer, and Cedric Tanguy – exhibited now at the gallery.

Gallery Rabouan Moussion keeps a close eye on emerging scenes, and listens to the new currents ; Art Paris makes a fine tribute to Russia with this new edition.

## INFORMATIONS

Exhibition from March 22nd to may 24th 2014

Opening on saturday March 22nd, from 2pm



Métro :

## Filles du Calvaire (Line 8)

Saint Sebastien Froissart (Line 8)

Bus :

Lines 96 : 65 : 20

PRESS : 2E BUREAU

## RABOUAN MOUSSION GALLERY

121 rue Vieille du Temple - 75003 Paris

+33 (0)1 83 56 78 21

rabouanmoussion@noos.fr

18 rue portefoin – 75003 Paris

Tel : +33 (0)1 42 33 93 18

Martial Hobeniche :

m.hobeniche@2e-bureau.com

Perrine Ibarra:

culture2@2e-bureau.com