

MARKO 93

Marko 93 is an internationally acclaimed French street artist who grew up in Saint-Denis, a historical strongly working class suburb in Paris. In the late 1980's, the Hip Hop movement emerged on the scene and rapidly laid roots in big cities and suburbs. It was the time of city walls, wastelands and railways tracks. Marko embraced graffiti as his means of expression and painted in a number of these places, revealing slices of his suburban life. Big letters entangled, realistic scenes, caricatures and even free-style pieces, he was learning to master all the techniques of the urban art form.

Originally influenced by the American styles, he soon formed his own identity with the discovery of Arabic calligraphy which he took over and reinvented in the early 1990s. This abstract style blending calligraphy with an urbanesque flavor elevated him as a key player on the graffiti scene. As street art entered into art galleries in the late 1990s, Marko was travelling the world. He was discovering new pictorial and human horizons and even began to paint human bodies. His complex and ethereal calligraphies covered dancers' bodies in night-clubs from Rio to Hong-Kong.

The early 2000s were a turning point for Marko as he was becoming as assertive as his art. Marko started experimenting with state-of-the-art technologies, making effects of retinal persistence. He reinvented, enhanced and popularized the light-painting process touched upon by Man Ray and Picasso. He built his first light paintings with gestures, colors and light. He also developed the first 'Instant-Live' Real Time Video, a unique technique to paint the space live. This allowed him to perform in places as eclectic as the palace of the Arab Emirates princess, a live show in Bombay and the famous World Auto show. Today, Marko93 performs all over the world. He has spread his unique aesthetics and his enlightening sensitivity, from in situ performances to collaborations, mural paintings, light-painting videos and workshops - through institutional or private orders.