



Cyril Kongo

b. 1969 France

Artist's Biography

Born of a Vietnamese father and a French mother, Cyril Phan spent his childhood in Vietnam until 1975. He lived in the Republic of the Congo, which inspired his artist name, Cyril Kongo.

In 1986, he began tagging Parisian walls. In 1988, he joined the MAC crew, a group of Parisian graffiti artists in the United States.

Kongo art is based on lettering : large colorful spray-painted letters, typical of the writing trend of urban art.

During his ephemeral art period (1986-2000), Kongo painted huge frescoes, on walls and various other supports, in Paris and throughout the world.

From 2000 on, Kongo started painting of perennial surfaces. In 2002, Kongo launched Kosmopolite, the first international graffiti festival in France. "leaped out from the street to the studio"- His works are presented in galleries and exhibitions. In 2009, his paintings were displayed in the Grand Palais museum in Paris.

In 2011, Kongo's first solo exhibition "De la rue jaillit la lumière" (Light springing from the street) organised by Claude Kunetz, a Parisian art dealer.

Kongo became a designer of Prestige brands for the creation of luxury goods, including a silk scarf with Hermès in 2011; a pâte de verre spray-paint can with crystal manufacturer Daum in 2016, and a watch with Richard Mille.