

## ALBAN

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Alban is inspired by Rauschenberg and his "Combines" and influenced by American Pop Art and the New French Realism. In recent years, Alban explored several themes: "The Cabins" regarding warplanes, "Steelworkers" that stems from his fascination with industrial machines and "Materials", which is an aesthetic research on textures and colors.

"I think my inspiration comes from childhood, growing up near airports and drilling rigs, especially in Africa. Industrial equipment has always fascinated me. Although functional, it sometimes resembles real works of art. These objects tell us stories, as long as we know how to listen to them. Pieces of metal will be the fossils of the modern world. Even as a child, I spent my time transforming my toys. They seemed too new, not realistic enough. I used to add kerosene stains around the fuel lines or traces of combustion on the reactors. Very quickly, I designed and built my own models with a concern for truth. The art schools eventually gave me a rigorous and more varied technique. As I also worked as a decorator in the audiovisual industry, it took me some time before I was able to identify the principle of my research: the fantasy object. It's an object that is both very concrete but which has only ever existed in the collective imagination. I use aeronautical imagery from the forties, synonymous with adventure. There's a whole mythology born of this era that we are still heirs to through cinema for example. In fact, I draw my subjects from an unreal past. Our memory is full of fascinating historical slag. Take the Roman emperor's thumbs down ordering the killing of a gladiator, it never existed and yet we believe it to be true. In the same way, my cabins are just an illusion, whoever acquires my pieces becomes a kind of archaeologist of the imagination. I use acrylic on a wooden structure. I am very keen on the volume of the support and the suggested mass. Like the effects of the material, this gives authenticity to the works which seem to spring towards the viewer. It also allows the hanging of unexpected things that are supposed to weigh hundreds of kilos.

My field is not the real world, but the probable one."

Born in 1967 in Nantes, Alban spent most of his childhood in Africa. Today he lives and works in Paris.

### EDUCATION

1988 - Degree in advertising and graphic design at the Ecole des Gobelins in Paris

1991 - Master in animation school Gobelins in Paris

### EXHIBITIONS

2016

AAF Battersea, London

AAF Brussels

Exhibition at ArtJingle, January 7 – February 7, Paris

French art studio, London

Art Jingle gallery, Paris

2015

MAC PARIS 2015, November 26-29, Paris

"J'aime les filles", solo exhibition at >french art studio, March 22 – April 22, London

AAF Battersea, London

French art studio, London

2014

AAF, November, Hamburg

Art Hamptons, July, New York

20/21 International Art Fair, May, London

Love Art Fair, May, Toronto

AAF, May, Singapore

AAF, April, New York

AAF, March, Hong Kong

AAF, March, Battersea, London

AAF, February, Brussels

India Art Fair, January, New Delhi

French art studio, London

Envie d'Art gallery, Paris

Art Jingle, Paris

Contempop gallery, Tel Aviv

2013

AAF, November, Singapore

AAF, November, Hamburg

Art Toronto, October, Toronto

AAF, October, New York

"Close to the clouds", solo exhibition at >french art studio, Sept 26 – Nov 2, London

Art Hamptons, July, New York

AAF, June, Hampstead, London

20/21 International Art Fair, May, London

AAF, April, New York

Art Karlsruhe, March, Karlsruhe

AAF, March, Battersea, London

AAF, February, Tour & Taxis, Brussels

London Art Fair, January, Islington, London > french art studio, London  
Envie d'Art gallery, Paris  
Contempop gallery, Tel Aviv

2012  
AAF New York  
AAF Singapore  
Envie d'Art gallery, Paris  
French art studio, London

2011  
AAF New York  
AAF Singapore  
Envie d'Art gallery, Paris  
French art studio, London

2010  
Envie d'Art gallery, Paris  
AAF New York  
AAF Singapore  
French art studio, London

2009  
AAF Brussels  
International 20/21 Art Fair, London  
AAF London

2008  
London Art Fair (Art Project section)  
International 20/21 Art Fair Londres  
AAF Paris  
Art London  
Slick Paris

2007  
Form Art Fair, Olympia, London  
The White Space gallery, Greenwich  
Newcastle Gateshead Art Fair  
The Eight Club, London

2006  
The Corner Shop gallery, Paris  
The Great Art Fair, Alexandra Palace, London  
The Eight Club, London

2005  
The Corner Shop gallery, Paris

2004  
The Corner Shop gallery, Paris

2003  
The Corner Shop gallery, Paris  
Bourget show, Paris