

GRAPHICS BITESIZE

We love... RETNA

ALICE CLARKSON, LONDON, WGSN 18.12.07

Fine art techniques and raw street art aesthetics combine in the work of RETNA that goes far beyond its graffiti roots



RETNA
Studio, Los Angeles

RETNA originally honed his style on the streets of Los Angeles as a graffiti artist but has now evolved into a commercially successful artist and illustrator in his own right. RETNA's work can be seen adorning music videos, magazines and advertising campaigns, along with commissions to the Hollywood A-List he has also had exhibitions across the US. Most recently this month at Art Basel Miami Beach 2007 in collaboration with Elmac.



Aaliyah
Personal Collection

La Palma Verde
commissioned by 2tone

Red Wind
commissioned by Ben
Afeck

What makes RETNA's work so different from his peers is his use of brush and sophisticated colour pallets. His graffiti has a real fine art sensibility using paint and rollers not spray cans, thus marrying fine art techniques with raw street art aesthetics. His work is intricate and extremely beautiful. He seems obsessed with pattern, something that can be seen in the magazine tears of fashion models decorated with his personal take on Mayan and Egyptian hieroglyphs, and Middle Eastern calligraphy.



Collaboration with Elmac
Art Basel Miami Beach 2007

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Related links:

Art Basel Miami Beach

www.artbaselmiamibeach.com

The Robert Berman Gallery

www.robertbermangallery.com

Elmac

www.elmac.net

Saber

www.saberone.com

David Choe

www.davidchoe.com

Revok1.com

www.revok1.com



Los Angeles

RETNA takes from the past, digests and reinvents with such new, even futuristic designs that are fresh and inspiring. He palettes switches between two extremes, one being dark, muted and earthy, while the other in contrast is ethereal, rich and illuminessant.



Boutique front
Sunset Blvd, West
Hollywood

Photograph by Eriberto
Oriol
Juxtapoz magazine

El Santo from show
"Dialect of the Scribes"
Upper Playground Gallery,
San Francisco

Recently RETNA has been collaborating with fellow graffiti artists, Saber and David Choe on an East and West Coast tour creating paintings and installations. He has an upcoming group show called "Angels Will Rise" at the Robert Berman Gallery in Santa Monica early next year. As well as exhibitions and live tours RETNA is also involved in mural projects, graphics for clothing lines, editorial illustrations for fashion magazines and fashion shoots. Clearly RETNA is a busy man, I hope that he will find the time be to bring his art to London soon.

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