

## About Antony Micallef

Antony Micallef is a British contemporary artist working in London. Described as a modern Expressionist and widely recognised as one of the finest painters in contemporary art today, Micallef roots his work in social commentary and self-examination and is known for his visually charged works. He was notably taught by the austere landscape painter John Virtue, who in turn was under the tutelage of postwar painter Frank Auerbach.

The artist's recent paintings assemble a relief-like surface with heavy paint to depict a portrait in front of a muted background. Using an impasto technique and layering effects, the material is pushed to its extreme and blurs our reading of painting and sculpture. His heavily laden, texture-rich canvases are reminiscent of artists as diverse as Frank Auerbach, Leon Kossoff, the Russian-French painter Chaim Soutine and the British painter Walter Sickert, whose works explore and ultimately foreground the pure materiality of the medium of paint. All these artists are united by the desire to exploit the expressive possibilities of oil paint, with the emotional power of material form on canvas seen as an end in itself. For Micallef, painting takes on qualities of a fierce struggle in which the paint is thrown onto and knocked off the canvas.

Micallef's recent paintings demonstrate his unique approach, whereby he transforms oil paint into a physical, sculptural form. His innovative techniques enable him to capture the conflicting emotions within a sitter's psyche. The background and outer layers of paint serve as a framing device, guiding the viewer's gaze towards the central composition. The artist's process involves manipulating oil paint into a malleable material that can be woven and layered, echoing the textures of leather, armour, and intricate floral forms. This tactile quality adds depth and dimensionality to his painting, inviting viewers to engage with the piece on a multisensory level. Micallef revels in the idea of pushing oil paint to its limits, exploring the medium's full potential. He finds something profoundly captivating about the earthy nature of this mineral-based medium, which he describes as 'positively intoxicating' – a fascination that drives him to continually experiment and push the boundaries of traditional oil painting techniques.

Micallef's paintings are made following years of preparation and cultivating different elements of oil paint, with gestural marks painted and then extracted from the canvas and left to age over time. The process used to compose his paintings can take years due to the medium's prolonged drying time. Only once inspiration strikes does a painting come together, with disparate elements of aged oil paint gathered across the studio walls and floors, fused, layered, and elaborated at the very end, once again wrested and recast into a new narrative, bringing the cycle of creativity full circle.

In 2023, Micallef produced visuals for Peter Gabriel's release of *i/o*. His imagery, made in collaboration with Aardman Animations, was showcased in the music video for the song *Love Can Heal*, which Peter Gabriel wrote to commemorate the late Labour MP Jo Cox. Micallef calls this work a small painting of what I think love looks like,' which was also shown in concert for Peter Gabriel's world tour of *i/o*, alongside other artists such as Ai Weiwei and Cornelia Parker. A video of the collaborative work can be viewed online, and an interview with Peter Gabriel discussing Antony Micallef's work watched [here](#).

Micallef was selected as one of Louis Vuitton's Visionaries and took part in the world tour showcasing his work from 2021–22. His paintings are featured in collections worldwide, with two pieces in the permanent collection of the Design Museum in London. He has also exhibited in group shows in prominent institutions such as The National Portrait Gallery, The Royal Academy, Tate Britain, and the ICA.

## **Institutions and Museums**

2024 Dominion, Damien Hirst Permanent Collection, Newport Street Gallery  
2023 “25 Years” Exhibition MUCA Museum. Germany  
2022 Louis Vuitton family home in Asnières. France  
2021 The London Design Museum, Permanent Collection, UK  
2021 Louis Vuitton Visionary 200th Birthday  
2021 Bristol Museum. M Shed, Vanguard Exhibition UK  
2019 Canterbury Cathedral, Easter projections, UK  
2019 Chatsworth House Arts Festival 2019 UK  
2018 MUCA Munich Museum, History of Portraits Germany  
2017 Nottingham Castle Museum and Art Gallery UK  
2014 Royal Academy, Summer Show, London UK  
2013 Copelouzos Family Art Museum, Athens, Greece  
2012 The Institute of Contemporary Arts, London, UK  
2009 Royal Academy, GSK Contemporary, London UK  
2009 Elton John Aids Foundation, Sculpture Garden UK  
2008 Tate Britain, Curwen Studio, Goodison room, London, UK  
2008 Warrington Museum and Art Gallery, UK  
2006 National Portrait Gallery, London UK  
2005 National Academy of Fine Arts, Sofia, Bulgaria  
2000 Aberdeen Art Gallery and Museum, BP Portrait, Scotland  
2000 National Portrait Gallery, BP Portrait London, UK  
1998 Gjethuset Cultural Centre, Denmark  
1998 Art UK Collections. Supported by the British Arts Council.

## **Solo Exhibitions**

2020 Pearl Lam, Art Basel Spotlight, Hong Kong  
2016 Pearl Lam, Raw Intent, Pedder Building Space, Hong Kong  
2015 Lazarides, Self, Rathbourne, London, UK[13]  
2012 Lazarides, A Little Piece of Me, The Outsiders London, UK  
2011 Lazarides, Happy Deep Inside My Heart, Rathbourne, London, UK  
2009 Lazarides, Becoming Animal, Rathbourne, London, UK  
2007 Lazarides, Impure Idols, Los Angeles, USA  
2006 Lazarides, It's A Wonderful World, London, UK  
2006 Eyestorm, Milian, Italy  
2005 National Academy of Fine Arts, Sofia, Bulgaria

## **Selected Group Exhibitions and Art Fairs**

2025 Pearl Lam Galleries Art Basel Hong Kong  
2025 Animal, Animundi Gallery, UK  
2024 Vessels of Memory, Pearl Lam Galleries. Hong Kong  
2024 Eye of the Collector, Dellespossa Gallery, London,  
2024 9 Frieze Official, Episode I: Bump Matt Carey-Williams, London  
2024 Unit, Dante's Inferno, London  
2024 Pearl Lam Galleries, Art Seoul, South Korea  
2024 Pearl Lam Galleries, Art Basel Hong Kong  
2024 Pearl Lam Galleries Art Stage Singapore  
2023 Pearl Lam Galleries, Art Basel Hong Kong

2023 Peter Gabriel i/o tour/ Madison Square Garden NYC, USA  
2023 Eye of the Collector, Dellesposa Gallery London, UK  
2022 Louis Vuitton Visionary, Madison Square, NYC, USA  
2022 Louis Vuitton Visionary, LA, USA  
2022 Art Cologne, Pearl Lam Galleries, Germany  
2022 Art Basel Hong Kong, Pearl Lam Galleries  
2022 Longhouse Reserve, East Hampton, New York, USA  
2022 MPV Gallery, Netherlands  
2022 Unit Gallery, London  
2022 Louis Vuitton Visionary, Singapore  
2021 West Bund Shanghai, Pearl Lam Galleries  
2021 Cosmospow, Pearl Lam Galleries, Russia  
2021 Christie's Wellchild Charity Exhibition, UK  
2020 Art Basel Viewing Rooms, Pearl Lam, Hong Kong  
2020 Intersect Aspen Viewing Rooms, USA  
2019 Art Basel, Pearl Lam Galleries, Hong Kong  
2018 Art Basel, Pearl Lam Galleries, Hong Kong  
2018 Artist Watchlist, Frieze London, UK  
2017 Art Basel, Pearl Lam Galleries, Hong Kong  
2017 Art Miami, USA  
2017 Art Busan, Korea  
2017 Nottingham Castle Museum, Reportrait, Nottingham, UK  
2017 Pearl Lam, Art Brussels, Belgium  
2017 Art Busan, Korea  
2017 Circle Culture, Berlin, Germany  
2017 Pearl Lam, Art Brussels, Belgium  
2017 Pearl Lam, Art stage, Singapore, Malaysia