

The Incredible Joan Cornellà Is Bringing His Dark Humor To New York

by Manon Baeza | June 2017

Joan Cornellà, probably one of the nuttiest and most diabolical contemporary artists out there, will be presenting a solo exhibition at the Josée Bienvenu Gallery in New York this summer from July 14-27.

The cartoonist – whose Facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts boast nearly 6 million followers – has become one of the most notable figures in online comics.



Both despised and adored, he's basically treated like a pop star everywhere he goes. After shows in Bangkok, Hong Kong and now New York, the young artist from Barcelona will then be traveling to Paris before wrapping up in London.

Joan Cornellà's strength is without a doubt his ability to poke fun at the touchiest subjects in our society. While his drawings are often politically incorrect, you have to admit they help us laugh at all the absurdity around us.

With a selection of comics, large format paintings and hilarious lo-fi animations, visitors to the solo shows will be totally immersed in the bloody and sarcastic world of the Catalan artist.

Calling out the absurdity of our time

Cornellà's dark humor takes shape thanks to bright colors, gratuitous violence and minimalist decor. His paradoxical creative universe recalls the quirky and hilarious Happy Tree Friends.

Through his work, the artist calls out the cruelty, inequality and hypocrisy so prevalent in our society. There is no dialogue in his artwork because the images speak for themselves.

Joan Cornellà manages to mock absolutely everything, from racism to suicide, infanticide and disabilities. He's afraid of nothing and spares no one. With their fixed gaze and plastered-on smiles, his characters are permanently stoic and delight in the misfortunes of others.

Contrast reigns in Cornellà's world. he hates social media, but owes his success to the internet, his drawings are clean, smooth and brightly colored, all the while touching on extremely prickly subjects.

That is probably why his humor manages to reach people all over the world. With his solo shows this summer, Cornellà is proving that his humor works just as well online as in the gallery. And it might be exactly this kind of art that takes over the world in years to come, since the internet is now such a crucial part of our society.