

GALLERY B·R

IVAN FRANCO



BIOGRAPHY

Iván Franco (b. 1979, Ourense, Spain) is a contemporary artist based in Barcelona whose work explores the philosophical tensions between reality, perception, and simulacrum. His practice is deeply influenced by post-structuralist thought, particularly the writings of Jean Baudrillard, interrogating the unstable relationship between images and truth. Franco's work exists within the realm of conceptual abstraction, where the visual field is not merely a representation but an active questioning of reality itself.

Franco's work moves beyond traditional modes of representation, rejecting any clear distinction between the real and the simulated. His paintings function as objects in themselves—matter-images that transcend narrative to emphasize presence and meaning through form. Drawing upon strategies that mimic the mechanisms of reality, Franco challenges the way we identify and interpret truth, questioning whether it exists at all.

Central to his work is the notion that images do not simply reflect reality but, rather, construct and mediate it. His paintings and installations blur the line between sign and substance, evoking a contemplation of existence through the lens of the simulacrum. As Baudrillard suggests, Franco's works do not attempt to reveal an underlying truth but rather expose the idea that truth itself may be an illusion.

Franco's artistic inquiry is deeply tied to the discourse surrounding image-making and its relationship to perception. His works reference a long lineage of philosophical and artistic investigations into representation, from iconoclasm to contemporary media theory. Like the simulacrum, his works do not attempt to conceal or reveal anything—they simply exist as a self-sustaining presence, destabilizing the viewer's assumptions about authenticity and meaning.

Franco's work has been exhibited in galleries and institutions across Spain and internationally. His conceptual approach has placed him at the forefront of contemporary debates on the nature of image and representation, garnering critical attention within both artistic and philosophical circles.

Iván Franco's work is an invitation to reconsider the way we engage with images, reality, and perception. Through a conceptual and material investigation of simulacrum, his practice does not seek to define truth but to reveal its inherent instability. His paintings do not simply depict—they challenge, unsettle, and demand contemplation, offering a powerful meditation on the nature of existence itself.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

(Des-)Estructurado, Alzueta Gallery, Madrid, Spain (2025)
Lo real Ingrávido, Revela't 2025, Vilassar de Dalt, Spain (2025)
Frictions T10, Alzueta Gallery, Barcelona, Spain (2024)
Focal Distance, Arcadia Contemporary, New York, USA (2023)
ONE AND THREE POLAROIDs, Alzueta Gallery, Barcelona, Spain (2022)
H0. Piramidón Centre d'Art Contemporani. Barcelona, Spain (2018)
Contact Sheet, Alzueta Gallery, Barcelona, Spain (2017)
True and False, Alzueta Gallery, Barcelona, Spain (2015)
Ideografías, Portal 48 Gallery, Pontevedra. Spain (2014)
Significantes Simulados, Art Gallery Puerto de la Cruz, Caja Canarias, Puerto de la Cruz, Spain (2009)

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

Marco. Límite y lugar, Alzueta Gallery, Madrid, Spain (2025)
New Portraits, Alzueta Gallery, Barcelona, Spain (2024)
Sota Un Mateix Cel, Castillo de Benedormiens, Piramidon Centre d'Art Contemporani, Girona, Spain (2023)
Mod-Portrait2020, MEAM, Barcelona, Spain (2021)
Premi De Fotografia 2020, Museu Palau Solterra, Torroella de Montgrí, Fundació Vila Casas, Girona, Spain (2020)
Realismo Español Contemporáneo, Hoki Museum, Chiba, Japan (2019)
20th Anniversary, Galerie Arcturus, Paris, France (2019)
2018_n3, Piramidón, Centre d'Art Contemporani, Barcelona, Spain (2018)
Un Face À Face Espagnol. Miguel Macaya – Iván Franco, Galerie Arcturus, Paris, France (2017)
BP Portrait Award, National Portrait Gallery, London, UK (2016)
Premio Internacional De Pintura Guasch Coranty, Centro de Arte Contemporáneo Tecla Sala, Hospitalet de Llobregat, Barcelona, Spain (2015)
VIII Premio Auditorio De Galicia Para Novos Artistas, Auditorio de Galicia, Santiago de Compostela, Spain (2014)

ART FAIRS

NADA MIAMI, Alzueta Gallery, Miami, USA (2025)
PAD LONDON, Gallery BR, London, UK (2025, 2024)
LA ART SHOW, Arcadia Contemporary, Los Angeles, USA (2024)
FIVE AND UNDER, Arcadia Contemporary, New York, USA (2023)
SEATTLE ART FAIR, Arcadia Contemporary, Seattle, USA (2023)
LA ART SHOW, Arcadia Contemporary, Los Angeles, USA (2023)
ZONA MACO, Alzueta Gallery, Ciudad de Mexico, Mexico (2023)

ART FAIRS CONTINUED

FIVE AND UNDER, Arcadia Contemporary, New York, USA (2022)
ELA ART SHOW, Arcadia Contemporary, Los Angeles, USA (2022)
ART ON PAPER, Arcadia Contemporary, New York, USA (2021)
JUSTMAD, Alzueta Gallery, Madrid, Spain (2020)
ART MIAMI, Alzueta Gallery, Miami, USA (2019)
ART PARIS, Galerie ALB, Paris, France (2017)
ARTMADRID, Alzueta Gallery, Madrid, Spain (2017)
ARTMADRID, Alzueta Gallery, Madrid, Spain (2016)
ART ÉLYSÉES, Alzueta Gallery, Paris, France (2015)
SLICK ART FAIR, Galerie Binôme, Paris, France (2015)

AWARDS

Mod-Portrait, Sala de Exposiciones Bantierra, Zaragoza, Spain (Honorable Mention) (2017, 2018, 2020)
II Concurso de Retrato Internacional Mod-Portrait, Sala de Exposiciones Bantierra, Zaragoza, Spain (HonorableMention) (2014, 2015)
XI Premio de Fotografía Area de Artes Plásticas Universidad de Murcia, Universidad de Murcia, Spain (First HonorableMention) (2011)
XXVII Certamen de Pintura Concello de Cambre, Biblioteca Municipal de Cambre, A Coruña, Spain (Accésit) (2010)
VII Premio Regional de Fotografía Cajas de Ahorros de Canarias, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain (First Prize) (2008)
XI Concurso de Fotografía Deportiva, Concello de Santiago, Santiago de Compostela (First Prize) (2007)
I Certamen de Pintura Figurativa, Barcelona, Spain (Acquisition Award) (2006)
Certamen Maxoarte, Modalidad de fotografía a color, Puerto del Rosario, Las Palmas, Spain (First Prize) (2005)
Certamen Maxoarte, Modalidad de pintura, Puerto del Rosario, Las Palmas, Spain (1998, 2001, 2004)