

João Marçal | BIO

João Marçal (Coruche, 1980) is a Lisbon-based Portuguese visual artist who develops his artistic practice mainly through the medium of painting and occasionally works with other media, such as drawing/illustration, murals, installation, sound, ready-made or ceramics.

His work tries to reinforce equivalences and intersections between elements from banal everyday life (often invisible in their own irrelevance) and the nobleness of the image-artifacts embraced by the artworld. Details from public transportation context, fabric patterns, packaging design, logos or architectural particularities are some of the elements displaced from their social modest origins and reframed into his artworks.

He has received major awards and grants, including the Doctoral Research Grant from the FCT (Foundation for Science and Technology), and has participated in artist residencies such as Residency Unlimited (Brooklyn, NY, USA) and Résidences à l'Octroi (Tours, France). His work is part of collections such as the EDP Foundation, the State Contemporary Art Collection (Republic of Portugal), the Lisbon City Council Contemporary Art Collection, the Porto Municipal Art Collection, and the Ilídio Pinho Foundation.

Marçal has exhibited at prominent institutions such as MAAT – Museum of Art, Architecture, and Technology (Lisbon), Caribbeing House (Brooklyn, NY, USA), the Oliva Art Center (São João da Madeira), and the Centre d'Art Contemporain (Meymac, France). In 2024, he presented a solo project at Anozero – Coimbra Biennial, held at the Monastery of Santa Clara-a-Nova (Coimbra), curated by Marta Mestre and Ángel Calvo Ulloa. He is currently participating in a group project curated by Núria Enguita, Marta Mestre, and Raphael Fonseca at the CCB – Belém Cultural Center Foundation, Lisbon