

VHILSTUDIO

ARTIST PORTFOLIO

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ABOUT VHILS



ALEXANDRE FARTO AKA VHILS

Portuguese artist Alexandre Farto aka Vhils (b.1987) has developed a unique visual language based on the removal of the surface layers of walls and other media with non-conventional tools and techniques, establishing symbolic reflections on identity, the relationship of interdependence between people and the surrounding environment, and life in contemporary urban societies, as well as the impact of development, the passage of time, and material transformation. Having begun to interact with the urban environment through the practice of graffiti in the early 2000s, Vhils has been hailed as one of the most innovative artists of his generation. His poignant, poetic portraits chiselled into flaking walls can be seen adorning cityscapes around the world. Based on his aesthetics of vandalism, Vhils destroys as a means to create. He carves, cuts, drills, etches and blasts his way through the layers of materials. Yet, like an archaeologist, he removes in order to expose, bringing to light the beauty that lies trapped beneath the surface of things.

Since 2005, he has presented his work in over 30 countries around the world in solo and group exhibitions, site-specific art interventions, artistic events and projects in various contexts – from working with communities in the favelas of Rio

de Janeiro, to collaborations with well-reputed artistic and museological institutions such as MAAT – Museum of Art, Architecture and Technology, Lisbon (2022); Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati (2020); Le Centquatre-Paris, Paris (2018); CAFA Art Museum, Beijing (2017); Hong Kong Contemporary Art Foundation, Hong Kong (2016); Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2014); EDP Foundation, Lisbon (2014); and the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, San Diego (2010), among others. An avid experimentalist, besides his groundbreaking bas-relief carving technique – which forms the basis of the “Scratching the Surface” project –, Vhils has been developing his personal aesthetics in a plurality of media: from stencil painting to metal etching, from pyrotechnic explosions and video to sculptural installations. He has also directed several music videos, short films, and two stage productions.

Vhils works with several leading galleries, including Vera Cortês Gallery (Portugal), Danysz gallery (France and China), Delimbo Gallery (Spain), and Over the Influence gallery (Hong Kong and USA). His work is represented in several public and private collections in various countries.





“Vhils is a Portuguese artist who constantly innovates with new techniques and approaches to his art. Much of his work is created in situ and focuses on the transitory nature of the city, its history, and the lives of its inhabitants.”

Tristan Manco, in The Guardian

GLOBAL PRESENCE



Vhils' work is present in over 30 countries around the world, where he has worked in solo and group exhibitions, site-specific art interventions, art events and projects in a variety of contexts. He has created some 250 public art pieces in the scope of his *Scratching the Surface* project.

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2024 **Multitude: Carving Memories in the Digital Age**, MIMA Museum, Brussels, Belgium

2023 **Alquimia**, Usina Luis Maluf, São Paulo, Brazil
Spectra, Danysz Gallery, Paris, France

2022 **Prisma**, MAAT – Museum of Art, Architecture and Technology, Lisbon, Portugal
Fractal, Delimbo gallery, Seville, Spain

2021 **Latency**, Danysz Gallery, Shanghai, China
Portal, MAGMA Gallery, Bologna, Italy
Fenestra, Vera Cortês Gallery, Lisbon, Portugal

2020 **Haze**, Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati, USA

2019 **Realm**, Danysz Gallery, Shanghai, China
Incisão, CAIXA Cultural Brasília, Brasilia, Brazil

2018 **Fragments Urbains**, Le Centquatre-Paris, Paris, France
Décombres, Danysz Gallery, Paris, France
Annihilation, Over the Influence Gallery, Los Angeles, USA
Intrinseco, Vera Cortês Gallery, Lisbon, Portugal

2017 **Remains**, Over the Influence Gallery, Hong Kong SAR, China
Imprint, CAFA Art Museum, Beijing, China
Debris – Macau, Contemporary Art Center, Macau SAR, China

2016 **Debris**, Hong Kong Contemporary Art Foundation, Hong Kong SAR, China

2015 **Dissonance**, Lazarides Gallery, London, UK

2014 **Vestiges**, Magda Danysz Gallery, Paris, France
Dissecção / Dissection, EDP Foundation, Lisbon, Portugal

2013 **Fragmentos**, Clark Art Center, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Dissolve, Skalitizers Gallery, Sydney, Australia

2012 **Devoid**, Lazarides Gallery, London, UK
Entropy, Magda Danysz Gallery, Paris, France
Diorama, Vera Cortês Art Agency, Lisbon, Portugal
Visceral, Magda Danysz Gallery, Shanghai, China

2011 **Detritos**, Galeria Presença, Porto, Portugal

2009 **Scratching the Surface**, Lazarides Gallery, London, UK

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS & PROJECTS

- 2023** *Noor Riyadh Festival 2023*, Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Icons of Urban Art – From Banksy to Kaws, Kyoto City Kyocera Museum of Art, Kyoto, Japan
Urban [R]Evolution, Cordoaria Nacional, Lisbon, Portugal
Living Nature: Landscape and Sustainability, Edifício dos Leões, Lisbon, Portugal
Beyond the Streets London, Saatchi Gallery, London, UK
- 2022** *CAPITALE(S)*, Hôtel de Ville de Paris, Paris, France
First Stone 2016 / 2022, National Coach Museum, Lisbon, Portugal
48 Artists, 48 Years of Freedom, MAAT - Museum of Art, Architecture and Technology, Lisbon, Portugal
- 2021** *ADOLESCENCE – 15 Years Fucking with Art*, Studiocromie, Grottaglie, Italy
Novella Vista, Gana Art Center, Seoul, South Korea
Linha do Tempo – Coleção António Cachola, Centro de Artes de Sines, Sines, Portugal
- 2020** *RENAISSANCE*, MAGMA Gallery, Bologna, Italy
ProjectoMAP 2010_2020. Map or Exhibition, Museu Coleção Berardo, Lisbon, Portugal
Design em São Bento – Traços da Cultura Portuguesa, Palácio de São Bento, Lisbon, Portugal
- 2019** *Beyond the Streets*, New York, USA
Conquête Urbaine – street art au musée, Musée des Beaux-Arts de Calais, Calais, France
Don't Believe the Hype, Artcurial, Paris, France
- 2018** *Imago – A History of Portraits*, MUCA – Museum of Urban and Contemporary Art, Munich, Germany
Do Tirar Polo Natural – inquérito ao retrato português, Museu Nacional de Arte Antiga, Lisbon, Portugal
Art From the Streets, ArtScience Museum, Singapore
- 2017** *Urban Fine Art*, MUCA – Museum of Urban and Contemporary Art, Munich, Germany
Arte Urbano, de la calle al Museo, MUBAM – Museo de Bellas Artes de Murcia, Murcia, Spain
Street Generation(s), La Condition Publique, Roubaix, France
- 2016** *Art from the Streets*, CAFA Art Museum, Beijing, China
Choices Paris 2016 – Collector's Weekend, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France
They Would Be Kings, Sotheby's Hong Kong Gallery, Hong Kong SAR

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS & PROJECTS

- 2015 **#Station to Station**, Barbican Centre, London, UK
Iberian Suite – Installation, The Kennedy Center, Washington, USA
Sleeping Beauty, Magda Danysz Gallery, Paris, France
- 2014 **#Street Art**, Espace Fondation EDF, Paris, France
Lasco Project #3, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France
Do Valongo à Favela, Museu de Arte do Rio, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- 2013 **Wooster Collective 2003-2013**, Jonathan LeVine Gallery, New York, USA
Hecho en Oaxaca, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo, Oaxaca, Mexico
Ex Situ, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France
- 2012 **Au-delà du Street Art**, Musée de la Poste, Paris, France
Festival Images, Vevey, Switzerland
Domination, Hegemony and the Panopticon, Traffic Gallery, Dubai, UAE
- 2011 **Shadows and Reflections**, Magda Danysz Gallery, Paris, France
Observadores, Museu Berardo, Lisbon, Portugal
O Museu em Ruínas, Museu de Arte Contemporânea de Elvas, Elvas, Portugal
- 2010 **Contemporary Prints From the V&A**, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry, UK
Viva la Revolución, Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, San Diego, USA
Eurotrash, Lazarides Gallery, Los Angeles, USA
- 2009 **Outsiders Selection**, The Outsiders Newcastle, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK
Grifters, Lazarides Gallery, London, UK
Tunnel 228, Curated by Punchdrunk & Old Vic Theatre, Waterloo Station Tunnels, London, UK

SELECTED COMMISSIONS & PUBLIC ART PROJECTS

- 2023** **Substratum | Scratching the Surface project**, UNESCO
Headquarters, Paris, France
Portugal–Korea Friendship, Tongyeong, South Korea & Lisbon, Portugal
Hood Park, Charlestown, USA
- Champalimaud Foundation, Lisbon, Portugal
- 2022** 201 Brookline, Fenway Park, Boston, USA
- 2021** **Commotion**, Europa building, headquarters of the Council
of the European Union, Brussels, Belgium
Cleaners Action, Little Portugal, Toronto, Canada
- 2020** Centro Hospitalar Universitário de São João, Porto, Portugal
The Momentary – contemporary art museum, Bentonville,
Arkansas, USA
- 2019** Biblioteca Municipal do Mindelo, Cabo Verde
Everyday Heroes, Vhils & PichiAvo, Super Bock Group,
Leça do Balio, Portugal
MUCA – Museum of Urban and Contemporary Art,
Munich, Germany
90 anos do Instituto Camões, Instituto Camões, Lisbon, Portugal
- 2018** We Yone Child Foundation & Affixed Productions,
Freetown, Sierra Leone
Making the Invisible Visible – Hennessy, New York, Chicago,
Johannesburg, Moscow, Ho Chi Minh City, London
Fondation Carmignac, Île de Porquerolles, France
Art Route Across Dams | EDP Foundation, Caniçada dam,
Parada do Bouro, Portugal
- 2017** Embassy of Portugal in China, Beijing, China
Embassy of Portugal in Thailand, Bangkok, Thailand
- 2016** Université Cheikh Anta Diop, Dakar, Senegal
GS1 Portugal headquarters, Lisbon, Portugal
- 2015** Heavenly Hundred Garden, Kyiv, Ukraine
Hyundai Card Music Library, Seoul, South Korea
- 2014** Le Freeport Luxembourg, Luxembourg
MAR – Museu de Arte do Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- 2013** **Fragmentos**, Ladeira dos Tabajaras, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Descascando a Superfície, Morro da Providência,
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

SELECTED PUBLIC & PRIVATE COLLECTIONS

APPortfolio Asia Collection, Shenzhen, China

CAFA Art Museum – China Central Academy of Fine Arts, Beijing, China

Coleção Alfredo Hertzog da Silva, Sao Paulo, Brazil

Coleção de Arte Contemporânea Portugal Telecom, Lisbon, Portugal

Coleção de Arte Fundação EDP, Lisbon, Portugal

Coleção de Arte Moderna e Contemporânea – Norlinda e José Lima, São João da Madeira, Portugal

Coleção Luciana e Luis Antonio Almeida Braga, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Colecção António Cachola – Museu de Arte Contemporânea de Elvas, Elvas, Portugal

Fondation Carmignac, Île de Porquerolles, France

Fundación María Cristina Masaveu Peterson, Madrid, Spain

Hong Kong Contemporary Art (HOCA) Foundation, Hong Kong SAR, China

Hyundai Art Collection, Seoul, South Korea

MAR – Museu de Arte do Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

MOCO | Modern Contemporary Museum, Amsterdam, Netherlands

MUCA – Museum of Urban and Contemporary Art, Munich, Germany

Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, San Diego, USA

Perez Art Museum Miami, Miami, USA

Quartel da Arte Contemporânea de Abrantes – Coleção Figueiredo Ribeiro, Abrantes, Portugal

UNESCO Art Collection, Paris, France

Urban Nation Museum for Urban Contemporary Art, Berlin, Germany

Victoria & Albert Museum, London, UK

Sunday Morning Post

南華早報

PUBLISHED SINCE 1876 VOL 161 NO 755234

Sunday, November 22, 2008 / See live updates

LI HOTEL SIEGE

CHINESE EXECUTIVES KILLED IN MALI SIEGE

President Xi Jinping vows deadly hotel attack strengthens his country's resolve to fight terrorist activities that harm innocent lives

Xi Jinping's move to lobby when the German began the assault. He was the only survivor of the attack's main force to the hotel, said Li Shouhan, director of the hotel's culture department.

Xi Jinping (left) was "strongly condemned" attack on a hotel in Mali. In left three executives of Chinese railway company were killed.

Scratching the surface



LAW AND ORDER

Mainland to police railway

Confirmation from Ri eyebrows over 'one co'

Smart Lee smart.azgpc.com

Mainland officials will be taking over law enforcement duties in Hong Kong when the bridge leading cross-border rail line linking Shenzhen with Guangzhou opens in 2015. Security of the line is a top priority for the mainland government, and it is a move that is already raising controversy. The move, announced by the mainland government, will see the mainland take over the railway's security, and it is a move that is already raising controversy. The move, announced by the mainland government, will see the mainland take over the railway's security, and it is a move that is already raising controversy.

Read Patricia Cornwell's new thriller The final instalment times2 and timesonline.co.uk

THE TIMES

Friday May 2 2008 timesonline.co.uk No 69353

70p

Revealed: Banksy's renaissance for a railway tunnel



An exhibition of street art organised by Banksy in London, which opens to the public tomorrow, features his Cave Painting. Next to it, the graffiti artist Vhils works on his piece here, page 27

CNN World U.S. Politics Money Entertainment Tech Sport Travel Style Health Video VR International Edition

ONES TO WATCH | Vhils

updated 2:18 PM EST, Thu December 11, 2014



VHILS 27 | Lisbon, Portugal

SHARE THIS Print Email More sharing

- A cruise ship crew member falls overboard - and is rescued 22 hours later by another cruise ship
- Disco que vive no maior avião do mundo! (Continuação)
- Princess Ayako introduces her future husband, a shipping employee, to Japan
- Entire police force of Mexico town detained after mayoral candidate's assassination

PAID CONTENT SmartFeed

Play this for 1 minute... The Must-Play City... The 25... Sponsored: Work+Money

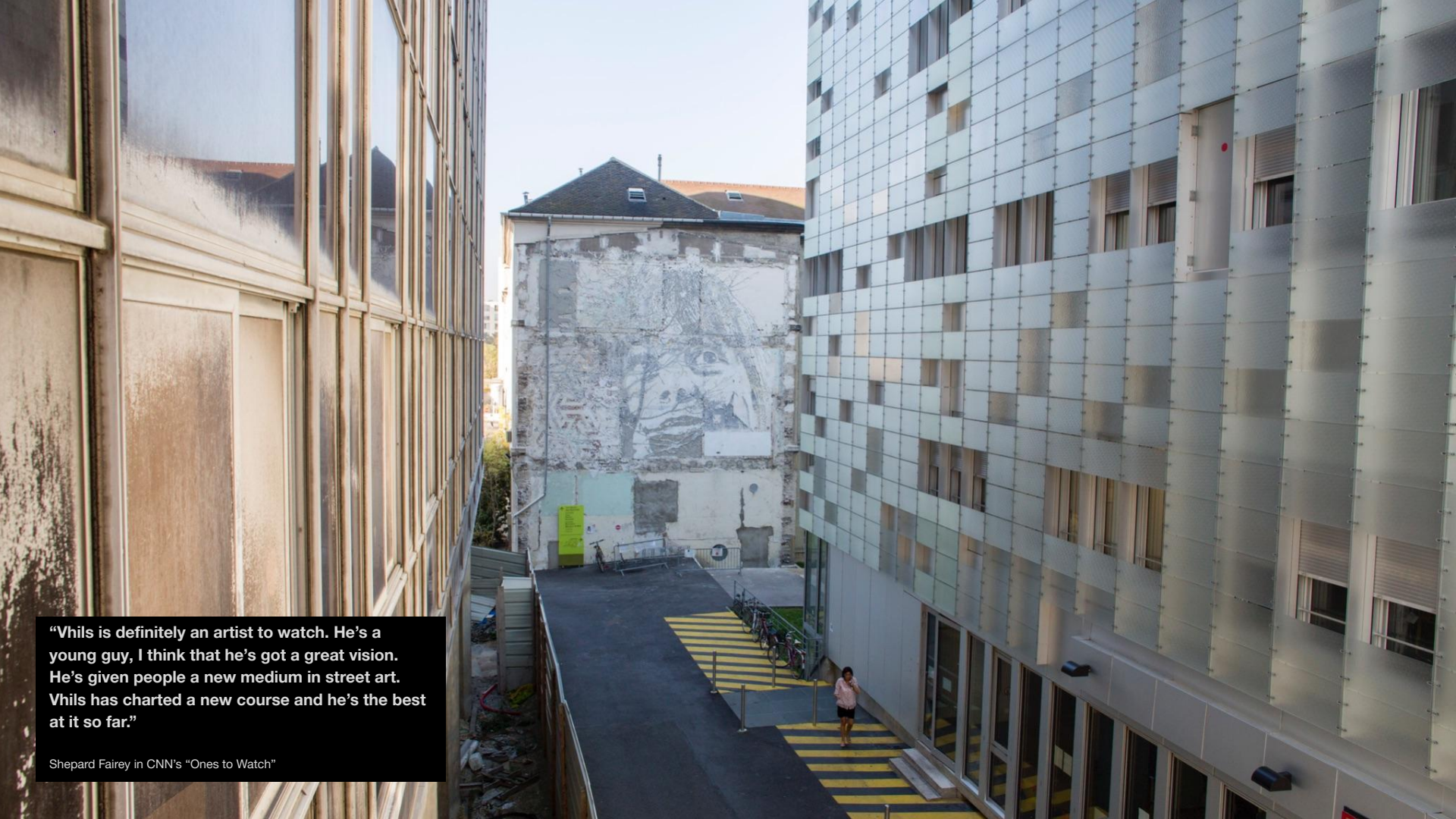
VHILS, LES MURS DU CERN



Sensation du street art, le jeune lisboète Vhils a fait des façades des Visages l'inspiration. Rencontre à Hongkong où il prépare sa prochaine exposition.

Par Jean-Benoît Lévêque et Frédéric Lenoir

44 L'habitant du littoral portugais est un homme de 27 ans, qui se fait appeler Vhils. Il est originaire de Lisbonne et a grandi dans une famille d'artistes. Il est un artiste multidisciplinaire, qui aime peindre, sculpter, dessiner et photographier. Il a travaillé pendant des années dans le monde de la publicité, puis a décidé de se consacrer à son art. Il a commencé à peindre des visages dans les murs des villes portugaises, puis a commencé à travailler avec des objets trouvés. Il a travaillé pendant des années dans le monde de la publicité, puis a décidé de se consacrer à son art. Il a commencé à peindre des visages dans les murs des villes portugaises, puis a commencé à travailler avec des objets trouvés.



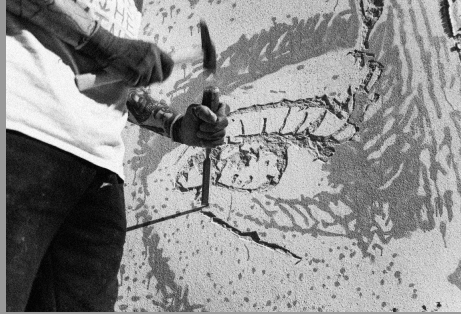
“Whils is definitely an artist to watch. He’s a young guy, I think that he’s got a great vision. He’s given people a new medium in street art. Whils has charted a new course and he’s the best at it so far.”

Shepard Fairey in CNN’s “Ones to Watch”

OUTDOOR WORKS

“His art is often described as destructive, but he considers it no more destructive than poetry is to a clean sheet of paper.”

Reuters.com





Scratching the Surface project
Madeira, Portugal, 2024



Scratching the Surface project
Albufeira, Portugal, 2024



Scratching the Surface project
Korea, Portugal, 2024



Scratching the Surface project
UNESCO, Paris, France, 2023



Roger Kahan
Painted mural
Lisbon, Portugal, 2023





Sir Alec Issigonis
Lisbon, Portugal, 2022



Mucem – Musée des civilisations de l'Europe et de la Méditerranée
Marseille, France, 2022



Rust Belt
Barreiro, Portugal, 2021

[VIEW VIDEO](#)



Scratching the Surface project
Centro Hospitalar Universitário de São João, Porto, Portugal, 2020



Portrait of José Saramago
Paimogo beach, Portugal, 2020

[VIEW VIDEO](#)



Scratching the Surface project
Mindelo, São Vicente island, Cape Verde, 2019



Scratching the Surface project
Praia, Santiago island, Cape Verde, 2019



Scratching the Surface project
Cincinnati, USA, 2019



Untitled painted mural
Macau SAR, China, 2017



Site-specific piece with hand-carved advertising posters on Hong Kong tram
Hong Kong SAR, China, 2016



Scratching the Surface project
Hong Kong SAR, China, 2015



Scratching the Surface project
Lisbon, Portugal, 2014



Scratching the Surface project
Almada, Portugal, 2014



Site-specific mural with hand-carved advertising posters
Lisbon, Portugal, 2014



Scratching the Surface project
Shanghai, China, 2012

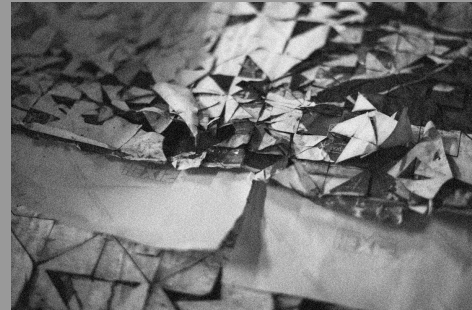


Scratching the Surface project
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 2012

BILLBOARDS

“With his creative reductive techniques, Vhils helped push the boundaries of outdoor art in Lisbon and internationally.”

The Washington Post

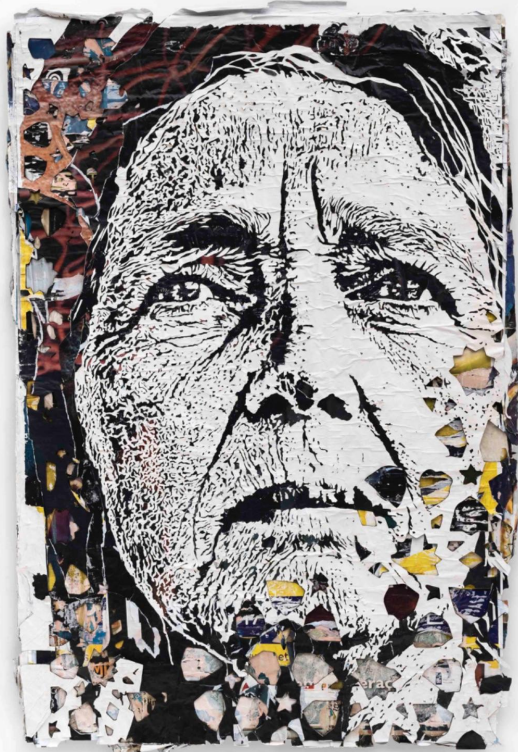




Cityscape Series #07 - Venice, 2024

Hand-carved advertising posters

120 x 260 cm



Patina Series #07, 2024
Hand-carved and laser-cut advertising posters
186 x 126 cm



Patina Series #08, 2024
Hand-carved and laser-cut advertising posters
181 x 132 cm



Untitled, 2023
Site-specific mural with hand-carved advertising posters
Beyond the Streets, London, UK



Untitled, 2023
Site-specific mural with hand-carved advertising posters
Embassy of Portugal in Japan, Tokyo, Japan



Splice Series #05, 2023
Hand-carved advertising posters
187 x 131 cm



Splice Series #07, 2023
Hand-carved advertising posters
195 x 130 cm



Scape Series #01, 2022

Hand-carved and laser-cut advertising posters mounted on metal structure

180 x 362 cm



Camada Series #01-#15, 2018

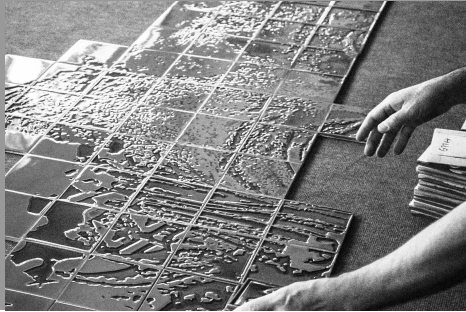
Hand-carved and laser-cut advertising posters mounted on metal structure

Various dimensions



Diminish Series #03, 2017
Hand-carved advertising posters
307 x 675 cm

CERAMIC TILES





Strates Urbains, 2024
Embossed glazed ceramic tiles
3450 × 680 cm
Aéroport Orly Station, Paris, France



Strates Urbains, 2024
Embossed glazed ceramic tiles
3450 x 680 cm
Aéroport Orly Station, Paris, France



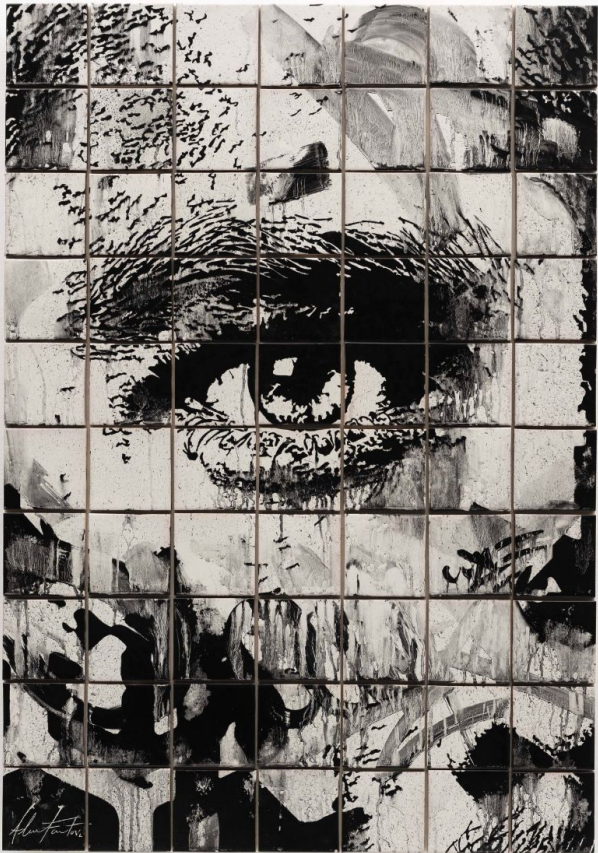
Strates Urbains, 2024
Embossed glazed ceramic tiles
3450 x 680 cm
Aéroport Orly Station, Paris, France



Refract Series #01, 2024
Embossed glazed ceramic tiles
229 x 171 cm



Refract Series #03, 2024
Embossed glazed ceramic tiles
229 x 171 cm



Eon Series #02, 2023

Hand-painted stencilled glazed ceramic tiles

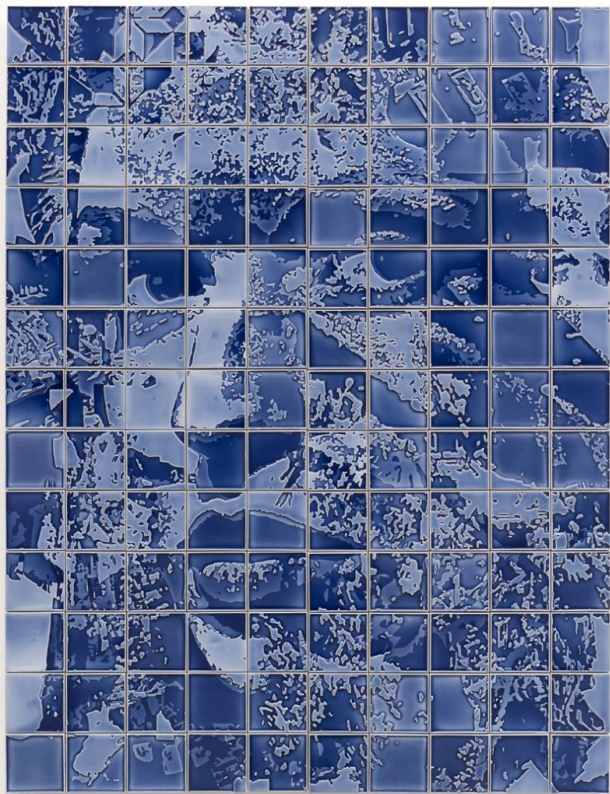
140 x 100 cm



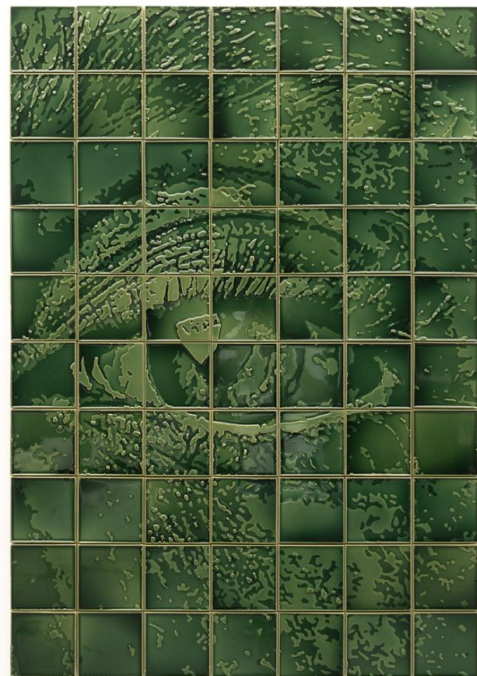
Eon Series #03, 2023

Hand-painted stencilled glazed ceramic tiles

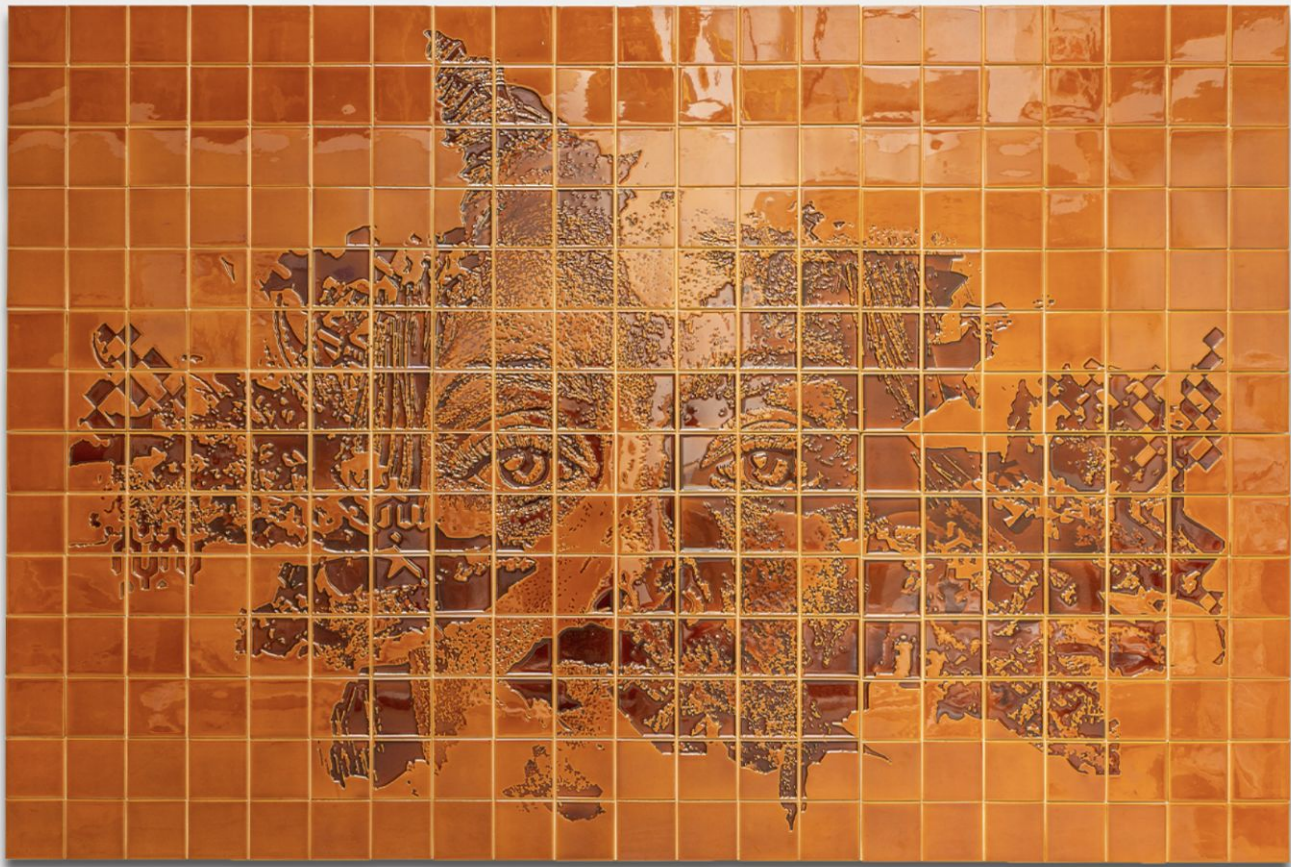
140 x 100 cm



Reflex Series #01, 2023
Embossed glazed ceramic tiles
185 x 142 cm



Spectra Series #02, 2023
Embossed glazed ceramic tiles
140 x 100 cm



Tiles, 2022
Embossed glazed ceramic tiles
200 x 300 cm



Drip Series #01, 2022

Hand-painted stencilled glazed ceramic tiles

200 x 300 cm

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www.vhils.com