

SUSO 33

Suso 33, is a master artist from a generation of young people who were inspired to go out in the streets to paint. Over the course of his career, he has developed his own unique modes of expression to produce a kind of hybridized performance art that reverberates to an urban beat; a synthesis of all the elements of theater: dance, sound design, scenography, costume and lighting design. As a painter, he still draws upon his experience as an adolescent immersed in the graffiti writing movement, which was sweeping through Europe at the time, and upon his experience as a set builder and his love for the theater.

Suso's current work is still linked to graffiti, a cultural heritage that can be traced back to its origins on New York subway system. Graffiti art was born nearly five decades ago on the streets of decaying North American cities. The graffiti nickname was an alternative identity for adolescents venturing out into those streets, a chosen identity with a symbolic power often conjuring up visions of toughness or humor that helped a kid to get along in that environment. Tagging grew out of the territorial markings made by rival gang members to establish their boundaries. Out of such rude beginnings, amazing things happened. The innate human impulse to create form and aspire to beauty drove these youths to develop their skills, to become virtuosos of calligraphy and experts at producing attention-grabbing imagery, all contributing to the unforgettable impact of these works of art upon the eye and spirit.