

# Petro

## Biography:

One of the UK's most respected and innovative graffiti writers, Petro is an artist who has been trying to find "solutions to letters and typefaces" since 1984. Pioneering a loose, "bugged-out" graffiti practice whilst based in London in the 1990s, this style has not only been frequently emulated but has earned him respect within the most esteemed of graffiti circles. Driven by a desire to investigate and understand form, Petro has gradually transitioned from the street into the gallery, adopting a tireless work ethic which has seen him produce shows almost every three months for the last three years. Visitors to these shows have been witness to an eclectic array of productions; from go-karts to crazy golf courses, from thousands of paper planes to printing with local street food delicacies. What becomes apparent (apart from his Ralph Lauren obsession) is that Petro aims to recapture the essence of youth yet give it a more contemporary perspective. Constantly refusing to take the easy route to success, and instead opting for a struggle which he sees as essential to finding the perfect solution, Petro has created a consistent flow of "conceptually artless art". It is a practice that transcends mere technique, evolving from an unending process of experiment, entertainment and excess

**Born:** London, U.K.

**Lives:** Margate, U.K.

**Education:** Public Art HND

MA Fine Art, University of the Creative Arts,  
Canterbury, U.K.

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2015

**SOLO SHOW**, THE ALLOTMENT, MARGATE, U.K.

2014

**HEY YOU**, B&B GALLERY, SHEFFIELD, U.K.

**SOLO SHOW**, CLUB SHEPWAY PROJECT SPACE, U.K.

2013

**PETRO AGE 39 3/4**, THE TOWER GALLERY, NEWCASTLE, U.K.

2012

**BEG, BORROW & STEAL**, GALLERIES GOLDSTEIN, LONDON, U.K.

2010

**TOO BIG TO BE HUMAN**, CHINA HEIGHTS GALLERY, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

**TOO BIG TO BE HUMAN**, BACKWOODS GALLERY, MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

**A SHOW OF PAINTINGS AND DRAWINGS**, KIND REGARDS GALLERY, AMSTERDAM,  
THE NETHERLANDS

## GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2015

**WORKS ON PAPER**, CHINA HEIGHTS GALLERY, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

**MAPPING THE CITY**, SOMERSET HOUSE, LONDON, U.K.

**COSMOGG - AN AFFLICTED ADVENTURES INSTALLATION**, TEMPORARY POP-UP,  
BRISTOL, U.K

**RAREKIND PRINT HOUSE**, POP-UP SHOW, LONDON, U.K.

**Q PARK**, LONDON, U.K.

**THE CHIP SHOP GROUP SUMMER SHOW**, THE B&B PROJECT SPACE FOLKESTONE,  
U.K.

2014

**WIKKI WIKKI WIKKI**, GROW, LONDON, U.K.

**CULT OF RAMMELLZEE**, SAATCHI GALLERY, LONDON, U.K.

**CULT OF RAMMELLZEE**, GROW, LONDON, U.K.

**CULT OF RAMMELLZEE**, PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL, IPSWICH, U.K.

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**A SLICE OF SUMMER**, INK\_D GALLERY, BRIGHTON, U.K.  
**GET THE PAPERS**, GALLERIES GOLDSTEIN, LONDON, U.K.

2013

**T.F.W.M.D**, MAKE YOUR MARK GALLERY, HELSINKI, FINLAND

<http://a-by-p.com>

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## SELECTED PRESS



## PETRO "AGE 39 3/4" ART SHOW



Following recent exhibitions in London, Amsterdam and Stockholm we are grateful to have PETRO as a resident artist here in Newcastle, for this our first solo show at Tower Art Gallery.

As always PETRO's distinctive style is pure and relentless in the exploration of graffiti letterform. Be sure to expect an array of visuals from captivating pattern repetition to the residential installation pieces, galactic 3D sculptures, drawings, paintings, prints and garments.

As ever homage to Ralph Lauren is paid in full.

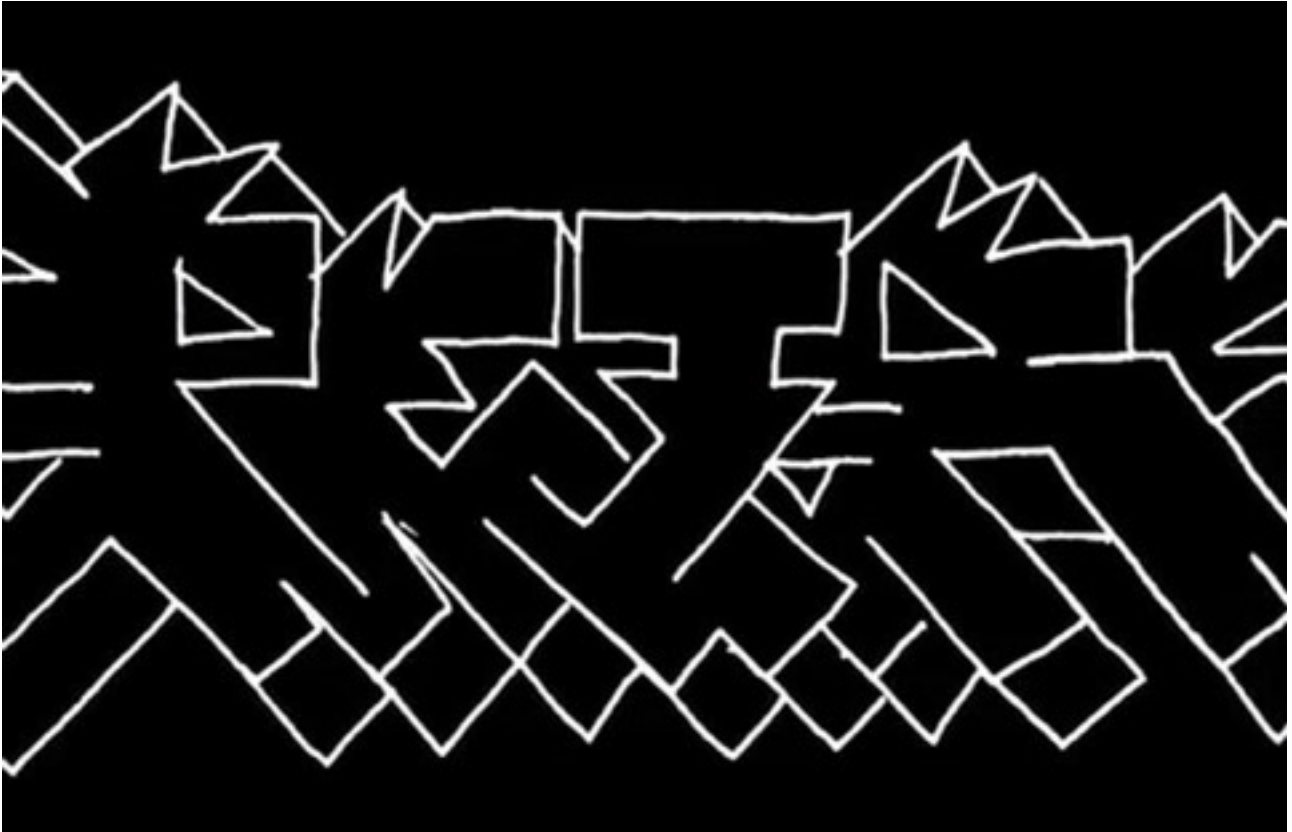
Juxtapoz magazine  
30th July 2012

<http://www.juxtapoz.com/graffiti/petro-qage-39-34q-art-show>

<http://a-by-p.com>

**COMPLEX**

## The 10 Biggest Graffiti Moments Of February 2012



### 4. PETRO Opens Show In London

Petro, the Ginger Wookiee has yet another show and this time in London. [Check this little animation](#) of all his outlines to promote it, really nice. The show opens tomorrow and runs to March 10, 2012 at [Galleries Goldstein](#).

Complex  
Nick Schonberger  
29th February 2012

<http://uk.complex.com/style/2012/02/the-10-biggest-graffiti-moments-of-february-2012/>

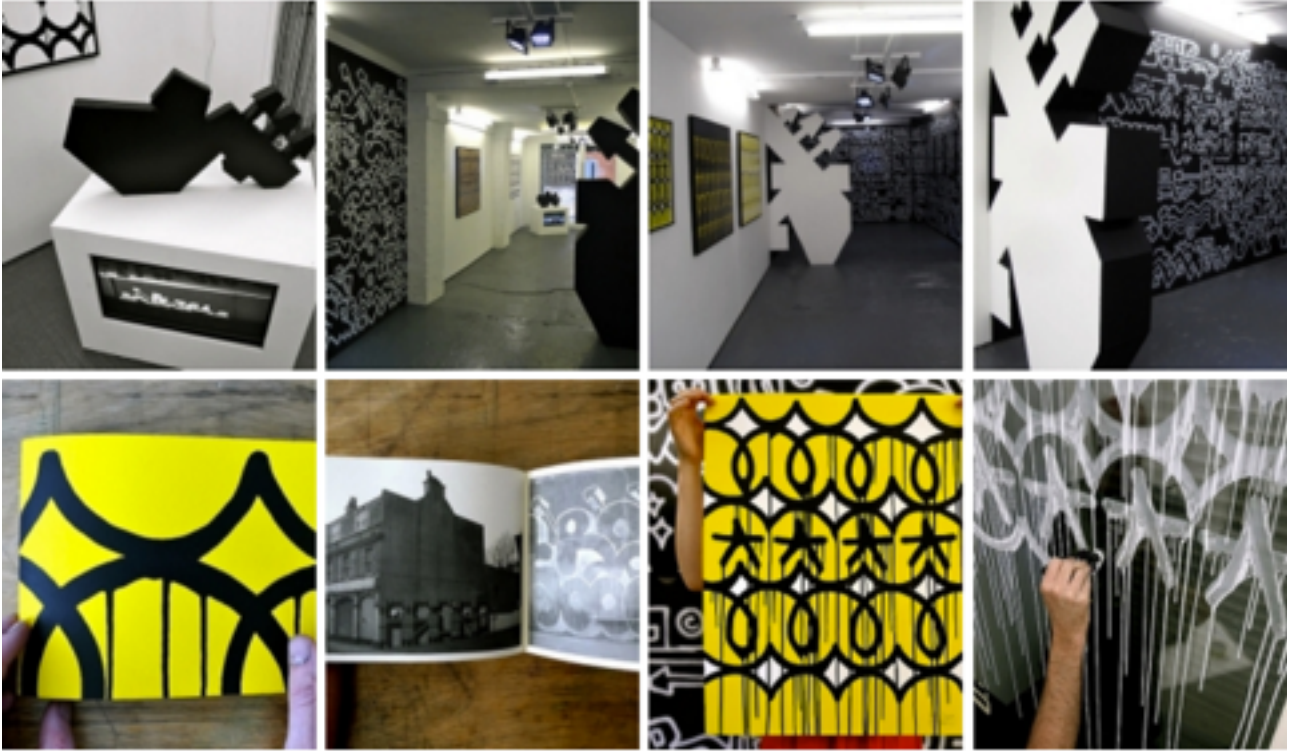


Graffiti writers have been appearing in galleries for 25 years, though in the context of the hot ticket that was street art moving into galleries to prostitute itself as Urban Art, proper graffiti writers have trailed behind in the gutter. A welcome trend surfacing in chisel fringed, skinny-jeans wearing Shoreditch is the profusion of shows from real graffiti writers (however - see footnote), Vibes, Insa, and Panik being a few mentioned here recently, not to forget Andy Seize.

Graffoto  
8th August 2009

<http://graffoto1.blogspot.co.uk/2009/08/petro.html>

## SPRAY DAILY™



### Hey You! – A Solo Show By Petro

Petro shows his stuff at the [B&B Gallery](#) in Sheffield through out the month! He is a really big inspiration to SprayDaily, we have been watching him for years. They will also sell a 48 paged fanzine in A5 landscape format for **10 EUR** That is signed and numbered by the artist. Its printed in limited edition of 150 copies with a hand-pulled screen printed cover. They also sell a Screen printed poster for **75 EUR** in the format of SRA2, looks really dope!

Spray Daily

<https://www.spraydaily.com/hey-you-a-solo-show-by-petro/>

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by) PABLO  
P)



# Petro



PETRO has been an active graffiti writer since the early 1980's, heavily influenced by British electric-boogaloo graffiti nostalgia and all that is off-key. Throughout this time, he has developed an unmistakable style and a solid reputation within this anonymous subculture.

Despite the epic transition and employment of new forms, concepts and expression, PETRO stays true to his approach. Bringing personality to letter form and bending the laws of the alphabet, along with painting all over the world and remaining unidentified have elevated PETRO into a faceless yet prolific spotlight.

For this exhibition PETRO has combined the traditions of graffiti lettering, the galactic funk, wonky pattern repetition, primitive drawings of fantasy characters and an unhealthy obsession with Ralph Lauren. As well as art concepts including installation and performance, and his detailed pieces, entitled 'Life of a Pencil'.

Fluorescent Smogg

<http://fluorescentsmogg.com/58-petro>

<http://a-by-p.com>