

# RUSSELL MAURICE

## Biography:

Born in 1975, Russell Maurice (also known for his Gasius clothing brand), is an artist, designer and curator most well known as the chief catalyst of the recent *Comic Abstraction* movement. Incorporating other key artists such as Horfee and Ken Sortais, Daniel Sparkes and Lucas Dillon, *Comic Abstraction* takes its chief cues from early 20<sup>th</sup> Century graphic art such as Disney, intermixing it with a skewed, often surreal and psychedelic edge. Maurice's work is at the forefront of this arena, a marvellous combination of the sublime and ridiculous, bold, literally comic designs mixed with a thoughtful, often sorrowful edge. Maurice's early works were more rooted in his particular brand of romanticism, often exploring the themes of energy, growth patterns, shape, diversity and cycles in the natural world. The central focus of these works was the relationship between modern society and nature. As his work progressed however they began to take on a more metaphysical edge, particularly exploring the spirit world, concepts of ghosting and theories on the after life. Alchemy is also key to his work, where Maurice uses its technique of conveying information in a method that hides the answer, adding to the already present ambiguity.

Maurice has had recent solo exhibitions in 2014 and 2015 in Barcelona and London. In Tokyo, he was part of a three man show in Tokyo with local legends Hiroshi Iguchi and Kensei Yabuno in November 2015, as well as a very recent two-man show with Petro entitled 'Silver Spaghetti'

**Born:** Newcastle-upon-tyne, U.K.

**Lives:** London, U.K.

**Education:** 2008-2010, MA Fine Art, Central Saint Martins, London, U.K.

1995-1998, BA Graphic Design, Surrey Institute of Art & Design, London, U.K.

**Website:** <http://www.russellmaurice.com>

<http://gасius.tumblr.com>

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2015

**THE PILGRIM**, FLUORESCENT SMOGG, BARCELONA, SPAIN

2014

**INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTS UNDER THE SILVER MOONLIGHT**, THE DEPOT,  
LONDON, U.K.

2009

**RIDICULOUS MUSHROOMS AND WOODLAND OTHER**, FRIEND & CO., BRISTOL,  
U.K.

**GIVEN UP THE GHOST**, STOLENSPACE, LONDON, U.K.

2008

**INDUSTRIAL LIGHT AND MAGIC**, MAKE ART YOUR ZOO, TOKYO, JAPAN

**THURSDAY SOLSTICE**, GOODHOOD, LONDON, U.K.

**ALPHAOMEGA**, BLACKMARKET, STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN

2007

**FILAMENT**, WORKSHOP, BRISTOL, U.K.

**FILAMENT**, LAZY DOG GALLERY, PARIS, FRANCE

2004

**MAISON VERTE**, CHURCHILL GALLERY, MAHRISIHI, LONDON, U.K.

2003

**NEW TECHNOLOGY NEEDED**, SHUTZMARKT, ANTWERP, BELGIUM & 90SQM  
GALLERY, AMSTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS

1997

**WHATEVER**, INSANE SKATEBOARDS, LONDON, U.K.

APPROVED  PABLO  
**GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

2015

**NDFMP**, SO GALLERY, TOKYO, JAPAN  
**SILVER SPAGHETTI**, THE ALLOTMENT, MARGATE, U.K.  
**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.

2014

**PATHETIC BUBBLE**, DOOMSDAY GALLERY, MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA  
**PATHETIC BUBBLE**, CHINA HEIGHTS GALLERY, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA  
**THE ART OF SKATEBOARDING**, GOODHOOD, LONDON, U.K.

2012

**WORKS ON PAPER**, LA SCATOLA GALLERY IN ASSOCIATION WITH GX GALLERY,  
LONDON, U.K.  
**TRICK OR TREAT**, HANGFIRE, BRISTOL, U.K.

2011

**THE FACE OF THE SHAPE**, LA SCATOLA GALLERY, LONDON, U.K.  
**MODERN EMPIRE**, LA SCATOLA GALLERY, LONDON, U.K.  
**GHOSTS OF GONE BIRDS**, ROCHELLE SCHOOL, LONDON, U.K.  
**UNIVERSAL**, NAPA GALLERY, HELSINKI, FINLAND  
**GHOSTS, RUINS, INFINITY & KNOWLEDGE**, MAKE ART YOUR ZOO, TOKYO,  
JAPAN  
**ASBESTOS CURTAIN**, GALLERIESGOLDSTEIN, LONDON, U.K.  
**MODERN EMPIRE**, SCATOLA GALLERY, LONDON, U.K.  
**NEVER JUDGE**, STOLENSPACE, LONDON, U.K.

2010

**META SNOOT**, HIGH ROLLERS GALLERY, LONDON, U.K.  
**KEISTA MEDIS ANIMACIJOS IMONS**, SONS OF STUDIOS, COPENHAGEN,  
DENMARK  
**NEW CONTEMPORARIES**, A-FOUNDATION LIVERPOOL, ICA, LONDON,  
**IT WAS ON EARTH I KNEW JOY**, SCION INSTALLATION SPACE, LOS ANGELES,  
U.S.A.  
**STOLENSPACE SUMMER SHOW**, STOLENSPACE, LONDON, U.K.

APPROVED (A by P) PABLO

2009

**HEADS**, PRESCRIPTION WORKS GALLERY, LONDON, U.K.

**OUR ENDS**, CHAPTER ONE GALLERY, LONDON, U.K.

**INVADA**, COLSTON HALL, BRISTOL, U.K.

**7 STYLES FOR 7 BROTHERS**, ACHIPELIGO, SHEFFIELD, U.K.

**POLYTEK**, EXETER, U.K.

2008

**UNIVERSAL**, FRIEND & CO., BRISTOL, U..

2006

**AM90**, 90SQM GALLERY, AMSTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS

**JAPANESE WORLD FAIR EXHIBITION**, TOKYO, JAPAN

1996

**GRAFFITI BASTARDS**, CUSTARD FACTORY, BIRMINGHAM, U.K.

# SELECTED PRESS

## THE NEW ORDER

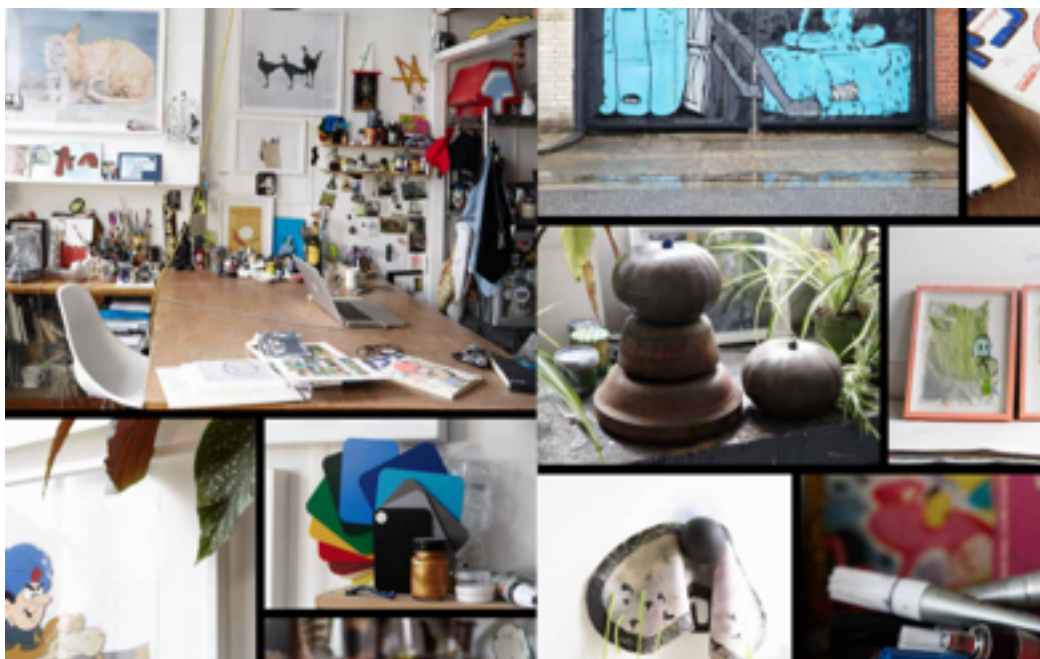
**Russell Maurice:**  
**err... um... err... urgh**  
*Russell Maurice Interview*

Portrait \_ James Oliver  
Photography \_ JM Sassiut  
Writer \_ James Oliver  
Introduction \_ Rafael Schacter  
[russellmaurice.com](http://russellmaurice.com)

*Recognizable but radically mishapen, contorted, anthropomorphized. Familiar but comically frapped, cosmetically engineered, comically abstracted.*

*Animated, (in both senses of the term). Given life, given motion. Builed down such that all that remains is vitality, (again, in both senses). Taken from a plane beyond and brought back to coalesce and commingle with our past as much as our present.*

*That's what I see in Maurice's work, (that's some of the things I see). Not simply the comic or the low-brow. But a rejection of obfuscation. It is here, presented to you. He is showing you, telling you. Take it or leave it. But it can't be denied. It breathes.*



THE NEW ORDER MAGAZINE  
2015

<http://thenewordermagazine.com/>

# The Reference Council

## Pizza with Gasius



It would seem that his artwork allows Maurice to create his own worlds, which are largely more idyllic than the bustling, polluted streets of the British capital. This idea has manifested itself differently in his work over the years; "It used to be political. I wanted to say something that meant something and not just do cool shit, so my first paintings were well eco tree-hugger. But I realised that you have to be careful when doing that because you can end up ramming your politics down people's throats. And, it's also closed -there's no room for people to get anything out of it, because you're telling them 'this is how it is.'"

The Reference Council

<http://thereferencouncil.com/pizza-with-gasius/>



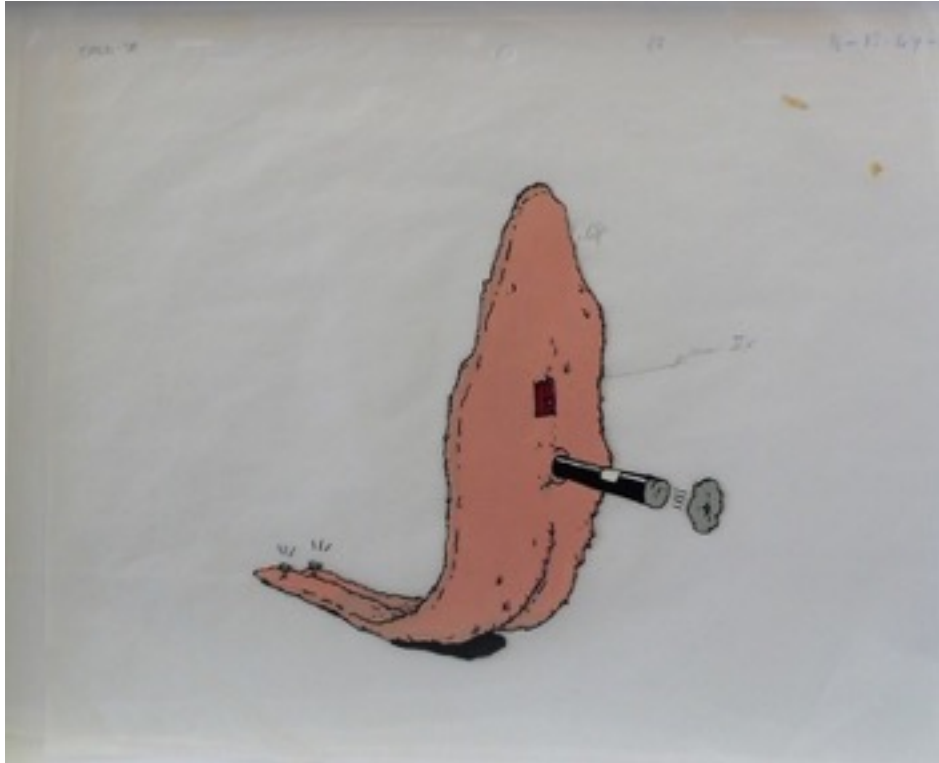


Stepping up to the level of other world cities by bringing some of the best artists in this field to present their work, Melbourne's alternative arts spaces and galleries frequently meet art with style and design which seems suited to a less pretentious, more polymorphous way to experience 'art'. At Doomsday's store, a stone's throw from the Melbourne Museum and the IMAX, one such show is opening this week: 'Pathetic Bubble', a two artist exhibition featuring two fine European creators of art, Parisian Horfee and London-based Russell Maurice. Their aesthetic connection is immediately apparent – a loopy and absolutely original hybridation of influences from old cartoons and animations – and connecting the work for this show further, they return to the now abandoned 'cel' technique favoured by earlier animators, who would do their drawing onto celluloid sheets. If I were there, I'd have a bbq first, drink, hug a koala and head over.

Art Slant Street  
Char Jansen  
13th May 2014

<http://www.artslantstreet.com/articles/show/39573>

# DAZED



In London, Galleries Goldstein, an artist-run gallery housed until the end of last year at Goodhood, on Hoxton's Coronet Street, has been one of the propagators of a new era in Comic Abstraction. Russell Maurice, founder and artist, put out a show that attempted to define the parameters of this new wave, consolidated with a simultaneous publication, in 2011. "Asbestos Curtain" was a showcase of fresh artists working in the same vein, coming from a different background to the institutional artists included first major show dedicated to Comic Abstraction at MoMa in 2007.

Dazed & Confused  
Charlotte Jansen  
2013

<http://www.dazeddigital.com/artsandculture/article/16155/1/comics-abstraction>





## Russell Maurice 'Given Up The Ghost'



Using a mix of abstraction and cartoon elements, many of Maurice's paintings appear on old silkscreens and transparent silkscreen mesh, echoing their transient, ethereal subject matter. His works collectively attempt to create a layered narrative, each is a fragment that forms building blocks for a larger universe, holding theoretical 'spirits' that inhabit each work.

Hooked Blog  
10th June 2009

<http://www.hookedblog.co.uk/2009/06/russell-maurice-given-up-ghost.html>

## THE DAILY STREET

### GASIOUS X STÜSSY PIZZA CAPSULE COLLECTION



A common theme among his more recent works, it's pretty obvious that Gasious loves pizza along with retro pizza delivery culture and it's aesthetics. Gasious is no stranger to designing clothing, having created many of his own small batch collections and several collaborative [pieces with Goodhood](#). Here we see him team up with Stüssy to put his style to their clothing. Throughout the collection there's a healthy dose of Gasious' humour, most notably on the "pizzard" t-shirt with it's rad drawing of a wizard pizza slice, but also a strong homage to '80s video game branding that's most visible on the colour fade t-shirts. Although the collection looks more Gasious than Stüssy at first glance, the placement and arrangement of the designs pay homage to the old styles of Stüssy garments and skate clothing in general, taken to an extreme on the long sleeved t-shirts with multiple graphics.

The Daily Street  
4th September 2014  
Alex Synamatix

<http://www.thedailystreet.co.uk/2014/09/gasious-x-stussy-pizza-capsule-collection/>