

## ANTONIO SANTIN, SPAIN

Antonio Santin (b. 1978 in Madrid) is known for his hyper-realistic, dramatic paintings depicting skillfully executed ornamental tapestries. Santin's paintings including his earlier, large series of portraits seem to be the results of the forces of light and dark, of the visible and the hidden. Similar to the techniques of tenebrism and chiaroscuro that the master painters such as Caravaggio and da Vinci introduced to European painting in the 15th and 16th century.

Deeply rooted in the tradition of Spanish Tenebrism as well as his own training as a sculptor, Santin juxtaposes flattened planes with tangible forms carved by light and shadow to create a continuous perceptual dialogue in each work. The rug series evolved from his ongoing interest in the opacity of fabric as a device to obscure with abstract patterns and textures.

Alluding to concealed anthropomorphic forms, their sculptural qualities make one question whether his fabricated reality is more real than your own. Much like the Gobelins Manufactory was to luxurious Renaissance tapestries, Santin's approach to his signature trompe l'oeil paintings focus on arresting intricate details and surface textures. Inspired by the unique fusion of Josef Albers sharp and boldly coloured squares with the fuzzy, blurred palette of Mark Rothko, Santin subverts the experience of flat colour field paintings by 'crumpling' the very view. Santin uses the tropes of art history to situate his paintings in a context that the viewer will immediately - though perhaps subconsciously - associate with high drama: the Baroque era.



**ANTONIO SANTIN**

- 1978 Born in Madrid, lives and works in Madrid, Spain  
 2005 Degree in Fine Arts “Universidad Complutense de Madrid”

**SOLO/TWO ARTIST EXHIBITIONS**

- 2026 *Amalgama*, Galerie ISA, Mumbai, India  
 2025 *Puente de plata*, Marc Straus, New York, NY  
 2023 *Lullaby*, Galerie ISA, Mumbai, India  
 2022 Marc Straus Gallery, New York  
 2021 *Gravitas*, Galerie ISA, Mumbai, India  
 2018 *Modelling Matter*, with Aldo Chaparro, Galerie ISA, Mumbai, India  
 2016 Sharjah Art Museum  
 2016 Marc Straus Gallery, New York  
 2013 Marc Straus Gallery, New York  
 2010 WILDE Gallery, Berlin  
 2008 Galerie Lichtpunkt, Munich  
 2007 Widmer+Theodoridis, Zurich

**GROUP EXHIBITIONS (SELECTED)**

- 2025 William Shearburn Gallery, St. Louis, MO (upcoming)  
 DSC Gallery, Prague, Czech Republic (upcoming)  
 2024 Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, MO  
*Carpets Of Eden*, Gardens Of Fantasy, Leila Heller Gallery, Dubai, UAE  
 2021 *Seeing & Perceiving*, Ithra Museum, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia  
*10 Year Anniversary Exhibition*, Galerie ISA 9, Mumbai India  
 2020 Nassau County Museum, New York  
 2017 *Between I&thou*, HVCCA Museum, New York  
 2016 *Recent Art for East Tennessee and beyond* Knoxville Museum of Art  
 2014 *Xigue Xigue*, Marc Straus gallery, New York  
 2013 *Art at the core*, Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art, New York  
 2012 Jonathan Lahyani Fine Art, Geneva, Switzerland  
 2011 *Destino/Zielort Berlin*, Kunstraum Bethanien, Berlin  
 2011 Georg Kolbe Museum, Berlin  
 2010 *FrischFleisch*, WIDMER+THEODORIDIS contemporary, Zurich  
 2009 WILDE Gallery, Berlin  
 2008 *5 Years heliumcowboy artspace*, Bierbehaus, Hamburg  
 2007 Widmer+Theodoridis contemporary, Zurich

## **SELECTED PUBLIC COLLECTIONS**

Knoxville Museum of Art, US

Jalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE

Collection of Ministry of Presidential Affairs, UAE

King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture - Ithra, SB

Government of India, New Delhi, IN

Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, New Delhi, IN

Aditya Birla Group, Mumbai, IN

Harsh Goenka, RPG Collection, Mumbai, IN

Beth Rudin DeWoody Collection, US