



Over the Influence Presents

Gongkan

For Someone Who Hates The Rainbow

9 September to 10 October 2022



Gongkan, *The Escape*, 200 by 300 cm, 78 ¾ by 118 1/8 in, Photo Courtesy of the Artist and Over the Influence

Over the Influence is excited to announce Thai contemporary artist Gongkan's European debut with the solo exhibition *For Someone Who Hates The Rainbow* at Over the Influence Paris. The exhibition also celebrates the international unveiling of the fourth gallery location opening in Paris, and will be on view from 9 September to 10 October 2022.

Kantapon Metheekul, known professionally as Gongkan, was born and raised in Bangkok, Thailand. He found his creative voice in New York. It was there that he witnessed everyday life such as people striving for a better life, gender equality, and overall respect in daily interactions. All this had a great influence on his works.

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For Gongkan the rainbow is an important symbol, because it represents the LGBTQ community worldwide. It is a message of freedom to break away from societal expectations and live absolutely and completely free. The paintings that make up *For Someone Who Hates The Rainbow* are a visual testimony to the power of equality where every human being has the right to love and to be loved in return. Individuals connect on an emotional and spiritual level where the heart understands things much deeper than the human eye can grasp.

“We should all be accepted no matter our differences, uniqueness, sex, or race. Everyone has their own right to be themselves. The right to love who they want, the right to freely express themselves, and the right to decide for themselves. I want the world to be all fair and even in matters of the heart and self-love”, Gongkan said.

“I use the rainbow theme because it represents the LGBTQ community, and am combining it with my ‘teleport art’ which is my signature design. Let’s make it happen— have the LGBTQ community be meaningful to us and for this world”.

Rainbows are vibrant colourful harbingers of good news that come with the arrival of the sun right after a heavy and dark rainstorm. They are signs of hope and new beginnings— positive messages the artist wishes to convey within this new series. The title of the exhibition *For Someone Who Hates The Rainbow* alludes to certain social groups who may not see all loving relationships as equal. The artist hopes that this exhibition will have a positive impact on public appreciation and understanding that true love comes in all shapes and forms. With rainbows comes beautiful changes; the start of a brighter day ahead.



Artist Bio

Kantapon Metheekul, (B. 1989, Bangkok, Thailand) known professionally as Gongkan, was born and raised in Bangkok, Thailand. He graduated from the School of Arts at Silpakorn University in Bangkok, and had a successful career in advertising and graphic design afterwards. He moved to New York City for 3 years to study Fine Arts with a focus on painting. During his spare time, he created street art throughout the city and became familiar with the local community. He developed an artistic concept that he called Teleport Art, and it gained notoriety in the New York street art scene for its images of people emerging and disappearing from black portals like they were traveling through multiple dimensions.

He found his creative voice in New York. It was there that he witnessed everyday life such as people striving for a better life, gender equality, and overall respect in daily interactions. All this had a great influence on his works. His art incorporates symbols from nature, such as the sky, clouds, and water- items that are fluid and mutable to represent freedom of expression and spirit. Additional symbols that are found in his art are circular shapes reminiscent of black holes, bodies of water, or doorways to other realms.

Gongkan works with various materials: sculptures, paintings, street art and video installations.

Exhibition Dates

9 September to 10 October 2022

Location

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Paris, France

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