

# GRIP FACE



It might be that someone out there still doesn't recognise the varying features of his face; whether he has facial hair, the colours of his face, its angles, whether his expression is serene, transparent, or if it rather looks like polarised glass. There will be people who won't be able to tell his gender, his height, his weight, or how much space his substance takes up. Indeed, they weren't able to examine a physical mapping – they didn't come across it, nothing extraordinary really; people who didn't expect the exquisite possibility of observing all that is unimportant, contrary to the contemporary tendency. David Oliver, however, knows about the substantial and the sacred: preserving intimacy and protecting sensibility. Grip Face is his subterfuge, his particular mask.

The artistic, aesthetic and visual education of Sandpaper Face – the literal translation of his alter ego, or rather, how his rollerskating friends called him in La Palma at the beginning of the 2000s – takes place in both the private and the

common spaces of his generation; rollerskating in the street, immersed in the pages of some comics or lost in the technical skills of Japanese animé, through his EarPods, or in between endeavours to apply the plastics of the furtive intervention. A de facto insurrectionist means which allows him, from a very young age, to understand art as a tool to survive. Thus starts a multifaceted artistic career that will revolve around constantly reexamining the outlook towards his own Pleiad.

Four elements repeat themselves in David Oliver's symbolic dictionary, whatever the language – carefully chosen by the author: painting, sculpture, installation, drawing. The mirror as an element through which one might look, without recognising one's own self; the hair, linked in his case to his childhood; the mask as a protective shield in the face of the world's dirt and dust; and the costume, which allows one to unleash fantasies and desires, however dark.

With an artist-engineer vocation and a certain flexibility in the body's movement within marginal spaces, Grip Face builds bridges between contexts, elements, techniques, extensions, measurements and people. As fluid as a cat, his vision adjusts to the container; with a language that's as personal as it is collective, and which tries to be a part and a reflection of the zeitgeist. Oliver's work provides a playful space full of layers, upon which one may dissect the worries of an impatient generation, hungry for information – even if its veracity might not prove decisive – and for which the internet's landscape is the seemingly best scene for a correct learning of savoir-faire.

Borders hinder Grip Face, be it because of the perpetual feeling of not fitting in that has accompanied him since he was a child, or because of the anxiety that always awakens in the face of a society bound to technological massification, communication through devices and virtual relations. First he erased the dividing line between public and private – from painting in the street to exhibiting his work in white cubes. Later on, he would rearrange it again by simply switching the order. From the refuge-workshop, with its matching drawings, maps and material studies, to the Gran Via (The Shelter Is Loud in Your Head, a 2024 installation). While they don't disturb him, placing them side by side doesn't generate the least embarrassment in him, thus sometimes disconcerting the rigidity of our structures. From never showing his face, to publishing his personal visual diaries in a delightful book.

In the same way a screen sends us back a gradual "error" message in endless and overlapping layers, his painting doesn't quite get the impatient index fingers pounding on the left side of the mouse; every layer of information is treated precisely and minutely, undergoes a new round of air-brushing, wax, oil or acrylics. It is intervened upon, erased or hidden, thus shaping a meta-universe plagued with aesthetic references that are inherent to Generation Y (and Z as well, and surely all the upcoming letters), and executed with his own technical precision – typical of one who learns to paint under the spell of immediacy. Duality impregnates the materialisation of his conscience; it oscillates between abstraction and figuration, digital and analogue, the fear that paralyses and the one that makes one run with impossible strength and agility. This drive has made him take his work around the globe (from a residency in the MuseumsQuartier in Vienna to fairs in Madrid and Mexico, or exhibitions in Seoul and Paris) and expand the limits of an infinite and evolving exploration that is part of the learning process of the very author elaborating it. As an artist or as a curator – another of his hats – for David Oliver, meaning lies in continuity and expansion, in not being able to see the end, in living artistic expression the way we live in the world: temporarily and in an uncertain present.

## Selected Solo & Duo Shows

2025	“A letter lost in the offline refuge”, Yiri Arts Gallery, Taipei, Taiwan
2025	“Utopía del Lodo, Sashimi de Bruma”, Fundació Miró Mallorca, Palma, Spain
2025	“Too much noise to dream among clouds”, Parco Museum, Tokyo, Japan
2024	“Sashimi consciente en la cabaña de cristal”, MAWM, LA BIBI Gallery, Palma, Spain
2024	“Lluna rosa, oneiric walker”, Gana Gallery, Seoul, South Korea
2023	“Find an Offline Shelter”, duo show with Miju Lee, LA BIBI & Colección SOLO, Paris, France
2021	“Saudade. 01/158”, SC Gallery, Bilbao, Spain
2020	“Máscaras de una generación millennial”, Cerquone Gallery, Madrid, Spain
2018	“Precollapse”, Galería Pep Llabrés, Palma, Spain
2017	“Exported items”, Jan Arnold Gallery, Vienna, Austria
2016	“Black faces”, SC Gallery, Bilbao, Spain
2016	“Doors without destination”, CCA Andratx, Andratx, Spain
2015	“Decomposed in an uncertain present”, Miscelanea Gallery, Barcelona, Spain
2011	“Routes without destination”, I/A Gallery, Palma, Spain

## Selected Group Exhibitions

2026	“Vuelo Directo PMI - MEX”, LA BIBI Gallery at Hacienda Acamilpa, Acamilpa, Morelos, Mexico
2025	“Levantamientos”, curated by Ventana Project, Tha House, Madrid, Spain
2025	Group Show, LA BIBI Gallery at Hacienda Acamilpa, Acamilpa, Morelos, Mexico
2024	“Handle with Care”, Espacio SOLO Museum, Madrid, Spain
2024	“Blasting of the gully”, Veduyn Gallery, Brussels, Belgium
2023	“MFC”, Cerquone Gallery, Miami, US
2023	“Memoràndum del quotidià”, Centre Cultural La Misericòrdia, Palma, Spain
2023	“Protection no longer assured”, Espacio SOLO Museum, Madrid, Spain
2023	“New origins”, Andrea Festa Gallery, Roma
2022	“Selfie”, Curated by Ester Almeda, Galería Moisés Pérez de Albéniz, Madrid, Spain

2022	“Playground”, Breach Gallery, Miami USA
2022	“Brick Games”, curated by Francesco Giaveri, L21 Gallery, Palma, Spain
2022	“Relaciones públicas”, curated by Jordi Pallarès, Cerquone Gallery, Caracas, Venezuela
2022	“Dream paper”, Slika Gallery, Lyon, France
2022	“Erretratu”, SC Gallery, Bilbao, Spain
2022	“UGLY”, YIRI ARTS, Taipei, Taiwan
2021	“FAMILIA”, curated by Pablo Villazán, Woaw Gallery, Hong Kong, China
2021	“FRESH”, Padre Gallery, New York, US
2021	“Nice Guys Live Forever”, curated by Moosey Art, Hoxton Arches, London, UK
2021	“FLYSCH”, SC Gallery, Bilbao, Spain
2020	“It’s a Match”, HFA space, Vienna, Austria
2020	“QUARANTINE”, SC Gallery, Bilbao, Spain
2019	“Summer show”, Lundgren Gallery, Palma, Spain
2019	“Art in my mouth: Manila”, Secret Fresh Gallery, Manila, Philippines
2018	“Resistance X”, SC Gallery, Bilbao, Spain
2018	“I BAG YOU”, Curated by Ida-Marie Corell, Kunstraumretz Art Center, Retz, Austria
2017	“Present immediat”, curated by Pilar Rubí, Sa Nostra Cultural Centre, Palma, Spain
2017	“Streetartpassage / Open archive”, Jan Arnold Gallery, Vienna, Austria
2016	“We are antonyms”, Fabra i Coats, Barcelona, Spain
2016	“N/P”, Centre la Misericordia, Palma, Spain
2015	“Final”, curated by Jordi Pallarès, SC Gallery, Bilbao, Spain
2015	“Graphic Correspondences”, Feira Plana, São Paulo, Brazil
2015	“Intervened Archive”, curated by Fernando Gómez de la Cuesta, Saltillo Contemporary Art Festival, Mexico
2015	“Pass this on”, curated by Jordi Pallarès, Espai TACA, Palma, Spain
2014	“Miniprint fair”, Hyvinkää Art Museum, Hyvinkää, Finland
2014	“Opening Print workers”, Printworkers Gallery, Barcelona, Spain

2013	“SR/ OFF”, Curated by Grip Face & Jordi Pallarès, C.A.C. Ses voltes with the collaboration of the Pilar and Joan Miró Foundation, Palma, Spain
2013	“Subversive routes II”, curated by Grip Face, Ikara Gallery, Barcelona, Spain
2013	“40putes. 1 any de putes i mamades”, Pelaires Gallery, Palma, Spain
2012	“The Invisibles”, curated by Jordi Pallarès, Centre Son Tugores, Alaró, Spain
2012	“Tripode”, curated by Grip Face, I/A Gallery, Palma, Mallorca
2012	“Subversive ways”, curated by Grip Face, Sa Possessió, Palma, Spain

## Fairs

2026	Arco Madrid, Madrid, Spain / with Galería Moisés Pérez de Albéniz
2026	Zona Maco, Mexico City, Mexico / with LA BIBI + REUS
2025	Untitle Art, Miami, US / with LA BIBI + REUS
2025	CAN Art Fair, Ibiza, Spain / with LA BIBI + REUS
2025	ARCO Madrid, Madrid, Spain / with Galería Moisés Pérez de Albéniz
2025	Zona Maco, Mexico City, Mexico / with LA BIBI Gallery
2024	Zona Maco, Mexico City, Mexico / with LA BIBI Gallery
2023	KIAF, Seoul, South Korea / with LA BIBI Gallery
2023	Art Taipei, Taipei, Taiwan / with Yiri Arts Gallery
2023	CAN Art Fair, Ibiza, Spain / with LA BIBI Gallery
2023	Zona Maco, Mexico City, Mexico / with Cerquone Gallery,
2022	Art Taipei, Taipei, Taiwan / with Yiri Arts Gallery
2022	Estampa, Madrid, Spain / with Cerquone Gallery
2022	Art Jakarta, Jakarta, Indonesia / Yiri Arts gallery
2022	Zona Maco, Mexico City, Mexico / with Cerquone Gallery
2021	KIAF, Seoul, South Korea / with Padre Gallery
2021	Volta Basel, Basel, Switzerland / with Cerquone Gallery
2021	Estampa, Madrid, Spain / with Cerquone Gallery

2020	Pinta Miami. Miami, US / with Cerquone Gallery
2020	UVNT, Madrid, Spain / with Cerquone Gallery
2018	Parallel Vienna, Vienna, Austria / with Jan Arnold Gallery
2018	UVNT, Madrid, Spain / with SC Gallery
2014	Miniprint Finland Fair, Hyvinkää Art Museum, Hyvinkää, Finland

## Site specific projects

2024	Pictoplasma Festival, Berlin, Germany
2020	Large format mural commissioned by the cultural council of Marratxi, Spain
2019	Virtual scenography for the #freetobe project funded by Zalando, Germany
2018	Indoor Mural for SMAP municipal parking “Marquès de la Sènia”, Palma, Spain
2018	Mural indoor site-specific for Espacio SOLO. David Cantolla’s private collection, Madrid, Spain
2018	Indoor site-specific mural for the urban art days at Galileo Shopping Mall, managed by Madridstreetartproject, Madrid, Spain
2018	“Consumerism is your gold”, site-specific urban intervention for the #blackrubbishis-gold project, Marratxi, Spain
2018	“Sweet face #9”. Urban mural intervention for the #sweetfaces 2015/8 project, Palma, Spain
2017	“European bathers”. Urban mural intervention curated by Jan Arnold Gallery, Vienna, Austria
2017	“Post-Catarsis gestures”. Large-format urban mural intervention for the rehabilitart project, managed by the RIBA board of trustees. Palma, Spain
2017	“Poble nou urban district”. Indoor mural intervention managed by La Plataforma Gallery during the Poble nou urban district conferences, Barcelona, Spain
2016	“Migration crisis” for the Black Faces project, managed by SC Gallery, Bilbao, Spain
2016	Urban interventions for the Exported Items project, Amsterdam, Netherlands
2016	“We are antonyms”. Site-specific piece for Surfcity Festival BCN, Fabra i Coats, Barcelona, Spain

2016	“Tabacalera Urban Nature”, curated by Madrid street art project, Tabacalera, Madrid, Spain
2016	Betart Festival 2016. Mural Balance of shells, Peguera, Calvià, Spain
2016	“O. Doors without destination project”. La Misericòrdia Cultural Centre, Consell de Mallorca & CCA Andratx. Palma, Spain
2016	Interventions for the Black Faces project. Naples (Italy), Barcelona (Spain), Amsterdam (Netherlands)
2015	Obstacle Race mural project. Managed by IME (Institut Municipal D’Esports de Palma). Miguel Bosch Track, La Vileta, Palma, Spain
2015	“In the spotlight”, urban intervention for Bilbao art district. Curated by Jordi Pallarès with SC Gallery, Bilbao, Spain
2015	“FUCKNITURE”, curated by Pilar Rubí, Glory Hall project, Palma, Spain
2014	“Room 1418 - Party mode”. MACBA in collaboration with CCCB. Mural live. Barcelona, Spain
2013	VB/ visible project & closure “Palma openstudio”, Es Baluard Museum, Palma, Mallorca
2012	“Unofficial tourism” by Iñaki Larrimbe, urban intervention for urban guide, Es Baluard Museum, Palma, Mallorca
2012	Mural intervention for Alart in collaboration with Addaya Gallery, Alaró, Mallorca

## Other Projects

2022	“I’m a millennial and a victim of virtual ecosystem”, in collaboration with LA BIBI Gallery, Mallorca
2017	“Jungle pussy”, Miscellaneous Gallery, project curated by Grip Face for the collective #Coñojungla, Barcelona, Spain
2014	Co-editor of the publication “Holograma” for Rua Ediciones
2013	Subversive routes II, Ikara Gallery, collective show curated by Grip Face, Barcelona, Spain
2012	“Tripode”, Intersecció Art Gallery, collective show curated by Grip Face, Palma, Spain
2012	SUA RUA “Landing in the Mediterranean” + travelling exhibitions with several relational and international artists. Curated by Grip Face, Palma / Sao Paulo

## Collections

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COLECCION SOLO

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M.E.R FOUNDATION

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SANTILLANA FOUNDATION

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BLACK WELL COLLECTION

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THE ROUX COLLECTION

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MELIÁ COLLECTION

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## Prizes & Awards

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2017 1 Prize Contest of contemporary painting Sant Marçal (Marratxi). Mallorca

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2016 Finalist in the public competition "REHABILITART" / Mural Gestos post-catarsis. Palma City Council. Mallorca

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2014 Selected competition Miniprint Finland show. Hyvinkää Museum. Finland

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## Published Books & Catalogues

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2021 Book "Diario visual vol 1", co-edited by Colección SOLO & Cerquone Gallery

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2017 Catalogue "Present Inmediat", exhibition curated by Pilar Rubí, Centre de Cultura Sa Nostra, Palma

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2017 Catalogue "Beton Blumen" for the project "Exported Items" at Jan Arnold Gallery, Vienna, Austria

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2016 Book "Black Faces", co-edited by Illenc in collaboration with SC Gallery, Bilbao, Spain

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2016 Collective catalogue of murals of the city of Bilbao, SC Gallery & Bilbao City Council, Bilbao, Spain

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2015 Catalogue of the "Final" project curated by Jordi Pallarès at SC Gallery, Bilbao, Spain

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2013 Publication of the SR/OFF Project. Edited by Pilar and Joan Miró Foundation & CAC Ses Voltes, Palma, Spain

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2012 Publication VB#0 collective project "The Invisibles", Centre Cultural Son Tugores & Addaya Gallery, Alaró, Spain

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2012 Catalogue "SUA RUA", Grip Face, Palma, Spain

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