

RAFEL BESTARD

Palma, 1967



He graduated with a degree in Fine Arts from the University of Barcelona in 1991. That same year, he completed a postgraduate diploma in Drawing and Its Applications at the Polytechnic University of Barcelona. His artistic training was further enriched through courses and seminars on the theory and history of contemporary art at the Fundació Pilar i Joan Miró, the Juan March Foundation, and the Casal Sollerich between 1995 and 1998, as well as through a series of painting workshops led by Antonio López at institutions including the Francisco de Goya Chair (Ávila), the Casa Ibáñez Museum (Olula del Río), and the Ciudad de Albacete Chair between 2011 and 2017.

Alongside his work in the visual arts, Bestard has pursued philosophical research focused on Aesthetics, and more specifically on the phenomenology of painting, understood as a framework for thinking about pictorial practice through lived experience and its perceptual dimension. In 2024, he earned a Master's degree in Philosophy from the University of the Balearic Islands, during which he further developed these lines of inquiry and their theoretical foundations.

He is currently preparing his PhD in Philosophy, with a dissertation devoted to the phenomenology of pictorial praxis.

Selected Solo & Duo Shows

2026	"Still painting", curated by Pau Pedragosa, LA BIBI Gallery, Palma, Spain
2025	"June", Posta Space, Sofia, Belgium
2025	"La inquietud latente", curated by Pau Pedragosa, Opposite Art Project, Barcelona, Spain
2024	"El viu i l'extrany", curated by Tomeu Simonet, Museu de Porreres, Spain
2024	"A way to realism", Gallery Blue Spiral 1, Asheville, US
2023	"People at Sunset have Shadows one Mile long", Kirk Gallery, Aalborg, Denmark
2022	"Klerus", Galerie Heissingsart, Lübeck, Germany
2022	"Rafel Bestard", Galerie Heissingsart, Berlin, Germany
2021	"Our Hours", Galeria Contrast, Barcelona, Spain
2020	"Rafel Bestard", Galerie Mokum, Amsterdam, Netherlands
2019	"Rafel Bestard", Galerie Heissingsart, Berlin, Germany
2019	"Man or Rabbit", Galeria Contrast, Barcelona, Spain
2018	"Infamous angel", Can Gelabert, Binissalem, Spain
2018	"We the souls", Kirk Gallery, Aalborg, Denmark
2016	"Rafel Bestard", Galerie Mokum, Amsterdam, Netherlands
2015	"To touch a sore spot", Galeria Contrast, Barcelona, Spain
2014	"Rafel Bestard", Malerei, Galerie Heissingsart, Lübeck, Germany
2013	"Paisatge interior", Galeria Contrast, Barcelona, Spain
2009	"Virtudes inconfesables", Galeria Contrast, Barcelona, Spain
2009	"Inadaptacions", Casal Solleric, Palma, Spain
2006	"Rafel Bestard, Obres 1998-2006", Museo Torre de Ses Puntetes, Manacor, Mallorca, Spain
2002	"Pintures 02", Galería Horrach Moyá, Palma, Spain

Selected Group Exhibitions

2025	“Alart”, curated by Tomeu Simonet, Casal Son Tugores, Alaró, Spain
2024	“R-VI”, Galeria 6A, Palma, Spain
2024	“Salon de Lübeck”, Galerie Heissingsart, Lübeck, Alemania
2023	“Hi havia una vegada... 2”, curated by Tomeu Simonet, Museu de Porreres, Spain
2022	“At the edge”, Kirk Gallery, Aalborg, Denmark
2020	“At the edge of realism”, Kirk Gallery, Aalborg, Denmark
2016	“Peripècies”, S’Escorxador, Marratxí, Spain
2015	“6th Beijing International Art Biennial”, National Art Museum of China, Beijing, China
2014	“Masters and Students”, Palacio Los Serrano, Fundación Bankia, Ávila, Spain
2011	“Narracions”, Galeria Contrast, Barcelona, Spain
2010	“4th Beijing International Art Biennial”, National Art Museum of China, Beijing, China
2009	“Watermarks”, curated by Mercedes Estarellas, NDSM-WERF, Amsterdam, Netherlands
2008	“3rd Beijing International Art Biennial”, National Art Museum of China, Beijing, China
2007	“Art emergent a les Illes Balears III”, curated by Joan Carles Gomis, Ajuntament de Calvià, Spain

Residencies

2025	Resi(st)dencias VII, Sa Casa Blanca, Mallorca, Spain (Co-organizador)
2024	FaberLlull, Olot, Spain
2024	Resi(st)dencias VI, Sa Casa Blanca, Mallorca, España (Co-organizador)
2023	Resi(st)dencias V, Sa Casa Blanca, Mallorca, España (Co-organizador)
2022	Resi(st)dencias IV, Los Cárcelos – Albacete, Spain
2018	RiddergadeAIR, Viborg Kunsthall, Denmark