

## RENE RICARD

---

**Rene Ricard** (1946-2014) was an American poet and painter. Ricard's work has appeared in influential literary, art, and popular publications and he has contributed profoundly to the cultural discourse of his era.

As a teenager, Ricard left his hometown of Acushnet, Massachusetts and became part of Boston's 1960s literary scene. By eighteen he had moved to New York City where, as a protege of Andy Warhol, he became part of the scene surrounding The Factory. He appeared in such classic Warhol films as *Kitchen* and *Chelsea Girls* as well as films by many other independent young directors. Ricard was also a founding participant in the Theater of the Ridiculous, along with John Vaccaro and Charles Ludlam.

By the early 1980s, having achieved stature in the art world through his influential essays, Ricard was acknowledged to have launched the careers of painters Jean-Michel Basquiat and Keith Haring (most notably). His breakthrough 1981 essay "The Radiant Child" in *Artforum* magazine is considered to be at the forefront of 20<sup>th</sup> Century art writing; a slim shelf with very few other occupants. In 1979 DIA Foundation inaugurated its publishing arm with *Rene Ricard 1979-1980*. The fact that this turquoise-covered book of poems appears in photo-graphs taken on the beach in Nan Goldin's *The Ballad of Sexual Dependency* illustrates its ubiquity as summer reading in the '80s.

In the late 1980s, Ricard began to develop his poems into paintings. Occasionally Ricard would paint directly on antique prints or found paintings, a method used when creating the 2004 CD cover for *Shadows Collide With People*, an album of songs written and performed by John Frusciante. *Paintings and Drawings* (Perceval Press), a full color monograph of works created over a twenty-year period, was published in 2003.

In his later work, Ricard expanded his ambition, working in a larger scale (up to 8 feet) with fully integrated imagery and text. Schnabel has presented solo exhibitions of Ricard's work in New York, Los Angeles, and London.

Ricard lived and worked in New York.



## RENE RICARD

---

**B. 1946, BOSTON, MA; D. 2014, NEW YORK, NY**  
**LIVED AND WORKED IN NEW YORK, NY**

### SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

#### 2023

*Rene Ricard: Glass Slipper: Rene Ricard After Midnight*, Petersburg Press, New York, NY

#### 2022

*Rene Ricard: Nightcrawlers*, The Little House in collaboration with Dries Van Noten, Los Angeles, CA  
*Rene Ricard: Rene Ricard's New York*, Petersburg Press, New York, NY

#### 2021

*Rene Ricard: Growing Up in America*, Vito Schnabel Gallery, New York, NY

#### 2019

*Rene Ricard: But you love me...you said so*, Half Gallery, New York, NY

#### 2017

*Rene Ricard: Then Love Takes Us*, Nautilus Hotel, Presented by Half Gallery, Miami, FL  
*Rene Ricard*, Presented by Half Gallery, Melet Mercantile Outpost, Montauk, United Kingdom, NY  
*Rene Ricard: So Who Left Who?*, Half Gallery, New York, NY

#### 2015

*Rene Ricard*, Vito Schnabel, New York, NY

#### 2014

*Rene Ricard: Remember*, Half Gallery, New York, NY

#### 2012

*Rene Ricard: Go Mae West, Young Man*, Vito Schnabel, Los Angeles, CA

#### 2011

*Rene Ricard: Sonnets From the Portuguese*, Vito Schnabel, New York, NY

#### 2009

*Rene Ricard: The Torturer's Apprentice*, Half Gallery, New York, NY

#### 2008

*Rene Ricard: What Every Young Sissy Should Know*, Presented by Vito Schnabel and Scream Gallery, London, United Kingdom

#### 2003

*Rene Ricard: New Paintings*, Cheim and Read, New York, NY

### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

#### 2024

*The Inmost Flame*, curated by Lola Montes, The Frame Gallery, New York, NY

#### 2023

*These Days*, Vito Schnabel Gallery, New York, NY

#### 2022

*These Days Part II*, presented by Vito Schnabel Gallery, Sotheby's, Beverly Hills, CA



**RENE RICARD**

---

**B. 1946, BOSTON, MA; D. 2014, NEW YORK, NY**  
**LIVED AND WORKED IN NEW YORK, NY**

**2021**

*Alphabetic Image*, Arsenal Contemporary Art, New York, NY

**2020**

*A Good Show For Strange Times*, Curated by Vito Schnabel, Phillips, Southampton, NY

**2019**

*Glenn O'Brien: Center Stage*, Off Paradise, New York, NY

*Domestic Horror*, Gagosian Gallery, New York, NY

**2017**

*13<sup>th</sup> Annual Thanksgiving Collective: There is Still Good in This World*, Tripoli Gallery, Southampton, New York

*Velvet Elvis: Art of Our Time*, Christy's Art Center, Sag Harbor, New York

**2016**

*A Selection of Works from the 1980s*, Vito Schnabel Gallery, St. Moritz, Switzerland

**2012**

*The Brucennial*, Presented by The Bruce High Quality Foundation and Vito Schnabel, New York, NY

**2010**

*The Brucennial: Miseducation*, Presented by The Bruce High Quality Foundation and Vito Schnabel, New York, NY

**2004**

*Word of Mouth, A Selection: Part 1*, Dinter Fine Art, New York, NY