

ARTISTIC REPORT: AKORE

Street and Multidisciplinary Artist

1. Artistic Identification

Artistic Name: AKORE

Place of Birth: Cieza, Murcia, Spain

Residence: Barcelona, Spain

Discipline: Urban Art / Contemporary Art

Main Techniques: Mural Painting, Sculpture, Installation, Video Art, Street Art, Upcycling

Website: www.akore.es



2. Biography and Cultural Context

AKORE is a self-taught international Spanish artist born in Cieza (Murcia) in 1976 and currently based in Barcelona. He is considered one of the most active and recognized urban artists today. His multidisciplinary practice encompasses painting, sculpture, recycling, video art, music, installation, and teaching.

He is currently well known in the urban art scene for his colorful, powerful, and expressive Afro graffiti. He began painting graffiti in the late 1980s, driven by the rhythm of the hip-hop culture that was breaking into the suburbs of Barcelona where he grew up. It was during this period that he started working on his first sketches, illustrations, calligraphy, typography, tags, and graffiti. Over the years, he has developed a unique visual language that blends African aesthetics with graffiti, influencing other artists of his generation. He paints on illegal walls in broad daylight to break away from established norms. His visual style is rooted in post-graffiti and has been defined as urban, tribal, abstract, hip funk, and electroafropunk—a style named “**Afrocolor**”.

His portraits and paintings of tribal African women echo the soul of Mother Africa, with whom he has always felt spiritually connected. Being born in Murcia, a region in close proximity to Africa, has allowed him to establish strong geographical, historical, and cultural links with the continent, where he identifies his roots, ancestors, and spiritual identity.

Guided by his own instinct, he sometimes seeks the notion of art for art’s sake, hedonism, pleasure, and the creative activity itself. Other times, he explores intersections, friction, borders, rupture, the radical, provocation, tension, and the “not-so-beautiful, forging an analogy with migration.” On a communicative level, he establishes a dialectic with the “other” through experience, understood as a journey that conveys life itself. The conscious or unconscious use of a social language sensitive to everyday life seeks to establish a dialogue with the viewer; at times, this dialogue is more important than the aesthetic function of the work itself.

In his installations and studio work, he incorporates found and recycled materials—such as stone, wood, scrap metal, fabric, windows, traffic signs, truck doors, or gasoline drums—as a method to reflect on the use of discarded materials and endow them with new value.

His work has been featured in books, doctoral theses, and local, national, and international media outlets such as Time Out USA (“13 Best Street Artists in the World”), National Geographic, El País, La Vanguardia (“one of the kings of Barcelona’s Born district”), and the internationally broadcast documentary series This is Art (Brutal Media / BBC Studios / TV3 / Movistar+), which aired in over 80 countries.

He has been a guest speaker at the [University of Barcelona](#) and the [Palau de la Música Catalana](#) (a UNESCO World Heritage Site), and his work is currently being studied by the [Department of Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Heritage](#) at the Complutense University of Madrid.

Statement: “Painting is the act of trespassing a border: it doesn’t matter if that is a wall, a canvas or a piece of paper. All you have to do is to cross it”.

3. Style and Themes

Key elements:

- African and diasporic symbolism
- Urban and post-graffiti language
- Vibrant and high-contrast color palettes
- Abstraction and expressive figuration
- Use of recycled and symbolic materials

His work addresses:

- Cultural memory and ancestry
- Identity and Afro-descendant narratives
- Spirituality and transformation
- Social critique, including systemic racism
- The relationship between urban space and artistic expression

4. Career and Selected Projects

2026

- **Solo Exhibition:** *La Tribu de la Memoria*, Artevistas Gallery, Barcelona (March)
- **“Evolución de un instante”**, immersive video art (with Antonio Miyagi), Barcelona (March)

2025

- **‘Dakar Afrocolor’**, short film, Dakar, Senegal (October)
- **Mural**, Blaise Senghor Cultural Center, Dakar, Senegal (July)
- **‘TOTEM’**, video art, Cieza, Spain (May)
- **Mural**, Perth, Australia (April)
- **Academic Interview**, Complutense University of Madrid (January)

2024

- **Group Exhibition: *Human Rights 2024/25***, Sabadell (December)
- **Group Exhibition: *Echo***, Barcelona (October)
- **Speaker**, Palau de la Música Catalana (February)

2023

- Exhibitions at Bien Cuadrado Gallery and Artevistas Gallery, Barcelona
- Publication in *Caràcters Magazine* (University of Valencia)
- Lecture at University of Barcelona (CIBERSAM)

2022 – 2019 (Highlights)

- Collaboration with graffiti pioneer **Cornbread “The Legend”**
- Solo exhibitions: *Akore 2.0*, *Triunfadores Camuflados*
- International festivals: Berlin, France
- Urban art auctions (Drouot Paris / Lyon)
- Recognition by major art platforms in Barcelona

2018 – 2013

- Exhibitions, murals, and performances across Spain, France, UK, and Singapore
- Collaborations with Greenpeace and social organizations
- Early consolidation within Barcelona’s urban art scene

1989 – Present

Continuous artistic practice in public space — “*the street as the largest museum in the world.*”

5. Media and Public Presence

- *This is Art* (BBC / TV3 / Movistar+)
- *Time Out USA*
- *National Geographic*
- *El País*
- *La Vanguardia*
- *MTV Brasil*, *Vanity Fair Italia*, *El Periódico*, *Bonart*, *Onda Cero*

6. Cultural Contribution

AKORE’s work contributes to the visibility of Afro-descendant cultures, the preservation of collective memory, and the development of contemporary urban art as a critical and institutional practice.

Through his projects, he fosters intercultural dialogue and explores the role of art as a tool for social transformation and education.

7. Institutional Recognition

Research and study by the Department of Conservation and Restoration - Complutense University of Madrid

8. Collaboration Opportunities

- Exhibitions (solo and group)
- Biennials and institutional programs
- Artistic residencies
- Site-specific and mural projects
- Video art and interdisciplinary collaborations
- Lectures and educational programs
- Workshops on urban art, identity, and social practices

9. Contact

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