

THE CLUB

Portraits of Living Legends & Personalities

By

ABIAN PEREZ®



Fabián Pérez

“There is a time in the life of a living legend,
when a masterpiece portrait needs
to be commissioned.”

ABIAN PÉREZ®

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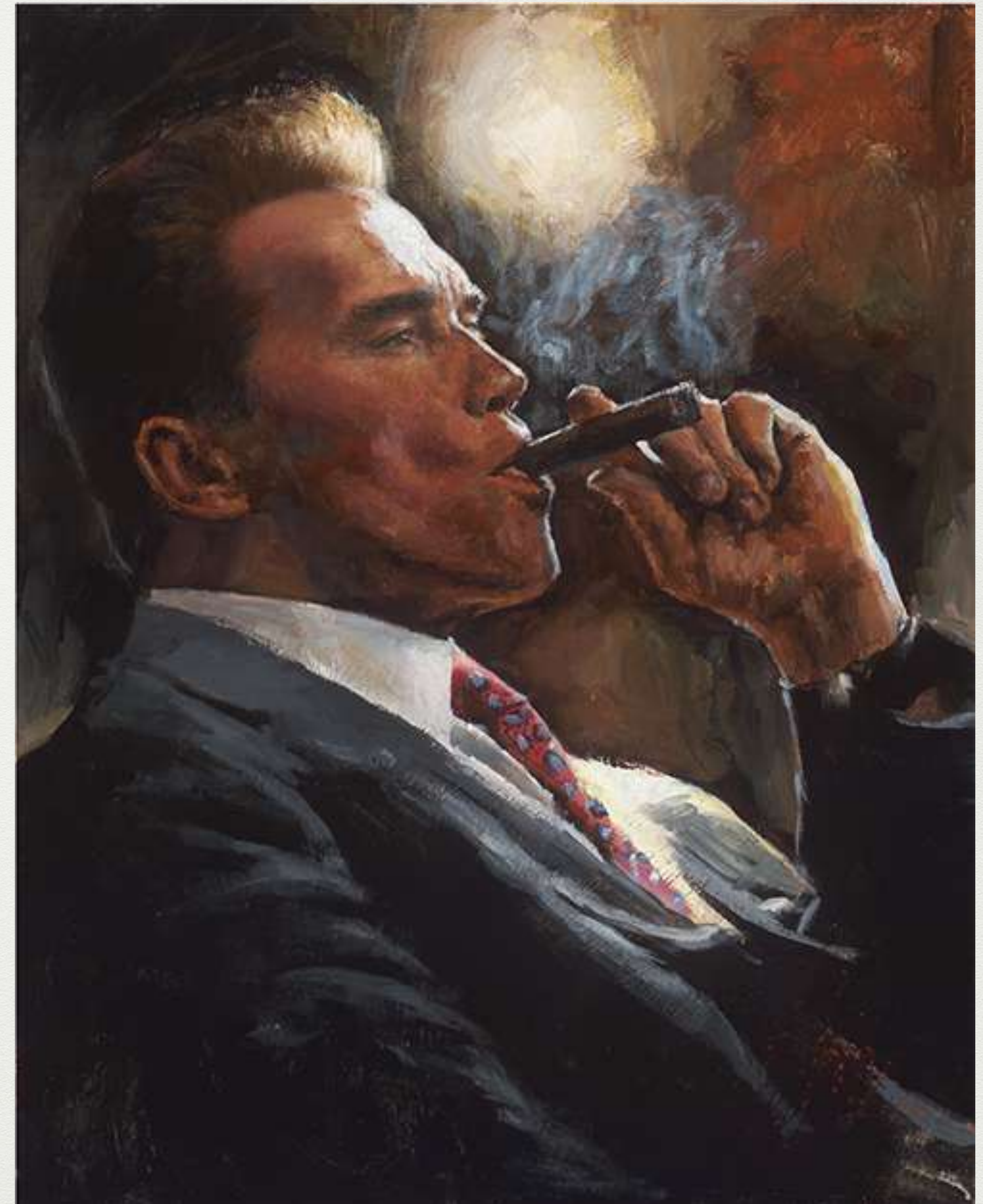
Welcome to The Club of Living Legends & Personalities

Welcome to “The Club of Living Legends & Personalities.”

You have hung on your wall your portrait, and you are holding this book in your hands—a one-of-a-kind masterpiece and a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

You are now part of a limited and exclusive body of work by internationally acclaimed artist Fabián Pérez, his Masterpiece Collection that hang in celebrities and tycoons collections, presidential palaces, music studios, and even the Vatican.

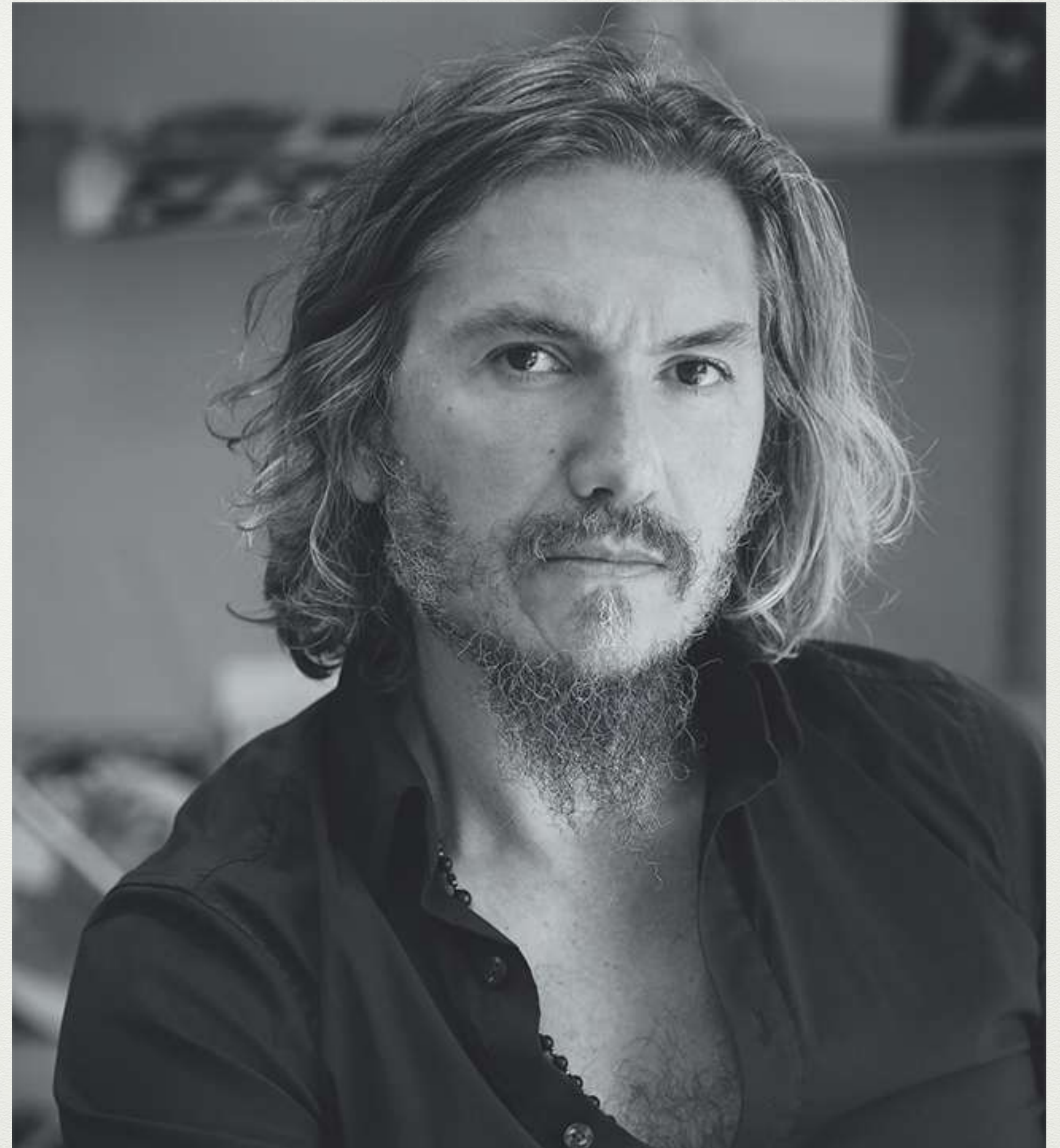
In this remarkable series, Fabián celebrates some of the most famous and consequential faces of our time.



Arnold Schwarzenegger

“Fabián Pérez is a contemporary artist to leave his footprints in his own lifetime, like few artists in the world.”

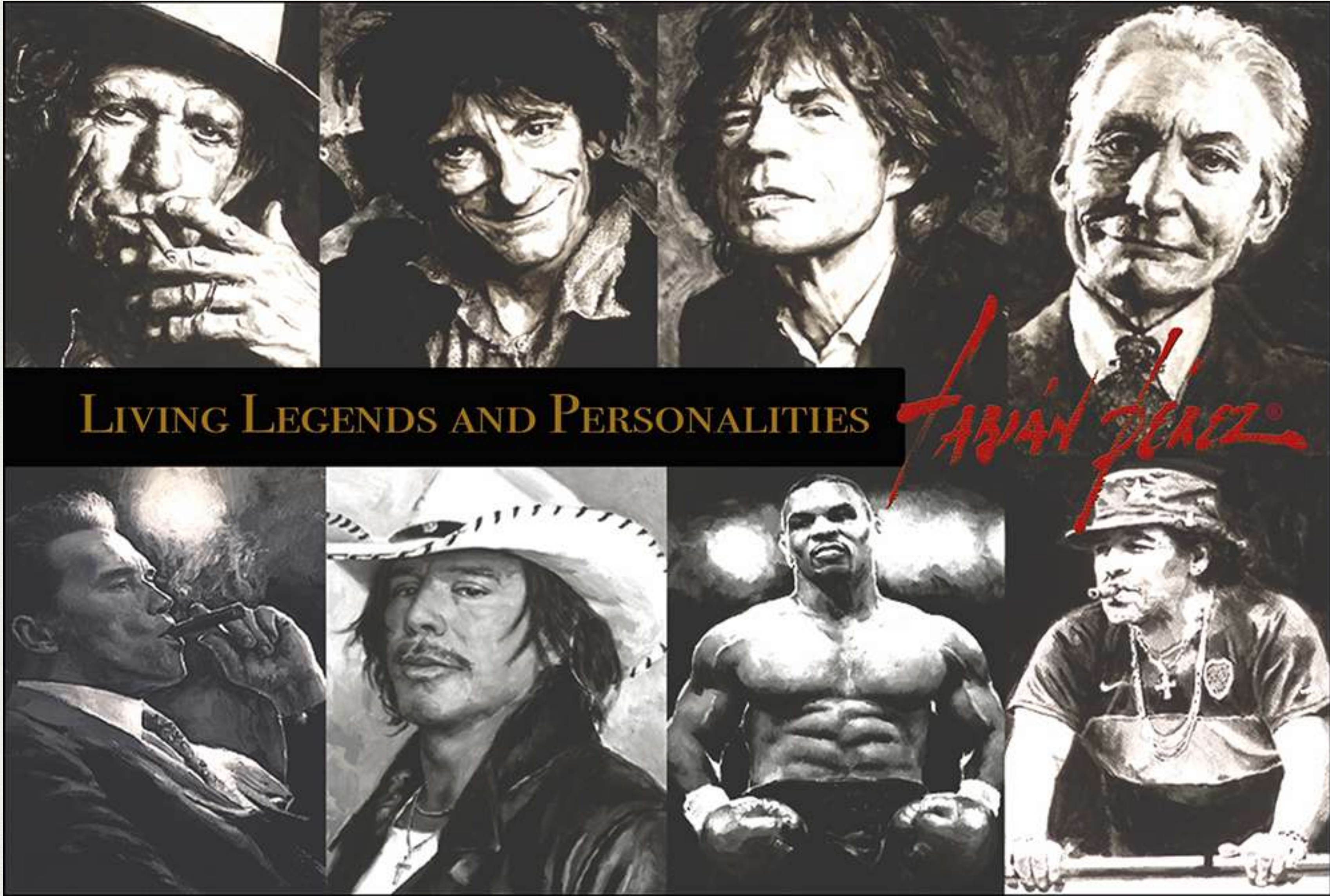
Carmela Russo - President of the Academy of Italian Artists



Fabián Pérez

“For me, it is essential to paint portraits because I consider it riskier and more challenging, since it shows the evidence of the artist’s abilities.”

TABIAN PÉREZ®



Living Legends & Personalities

In this remarkable series, Fabián celebrates some of the most famous faces of our time, from film stars, sportsmen, musicians, tycoons, dignitaries, moguls and royalty.

Arnold Schwarzenegger Al Pacino Leonardo Dicaprio

Martin Scorsese Jason Statham Sylvester Stallone

Mickey Rourke Penelope Cruz Javier Bardem

Billy Bob Thorton Jeff GoldBlum Anthony Hopkins

FILM LEGENDS

Actors who are considered iconic, enduring, and culturally significant. These are film stars that have made a lasting impact on the world of cinema and have garnered a dedicated and often widespread fan base.



Arnold Schwarzenegger

Arnold Schwarzenegger

Arnold Alois Schwarzenegger (born July 30, 1947) is an Austrian and American actor, businessman, filmmaker, former politician, and former professional bodybuilder known for his roles in high-profile action movies. He served as the 38th governor of California from 2003 to 2011 and was among Time's 100 most influential people in the world in 2004 and 2007.



Fabián with Arnold Schwarzenegger



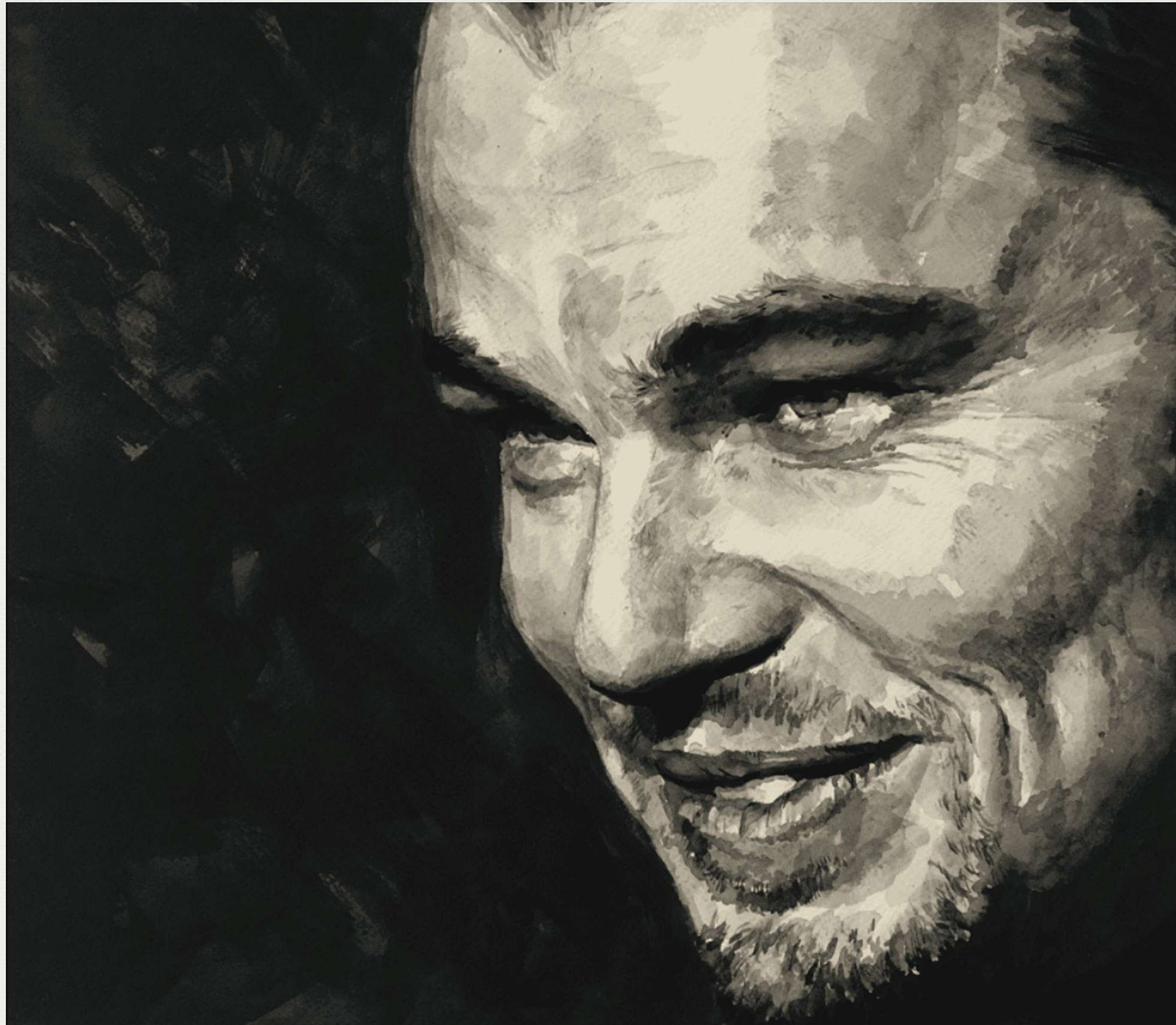
Al Pacino

Al Pacino

Alfredo James Pacino (born April 25, 1940) is an American actor. Considered one of the greatest and most influential actors of the 20th century, Pacino has received numerous accolades including an Academy Award, two Tony Awards, and two Primetime Emmy Awards, achieving the Triple Crown of Acting. He has also received four Golden Globe Awards, a BAFTA, two Screen Actors Guild Awards, and was honoured with the Cecil B. DeMille Award in 2001, the AFI Life Achievement Award in 2007, the National Medal of Arts in 2011, and the Kennedy Center Honors in 2016.



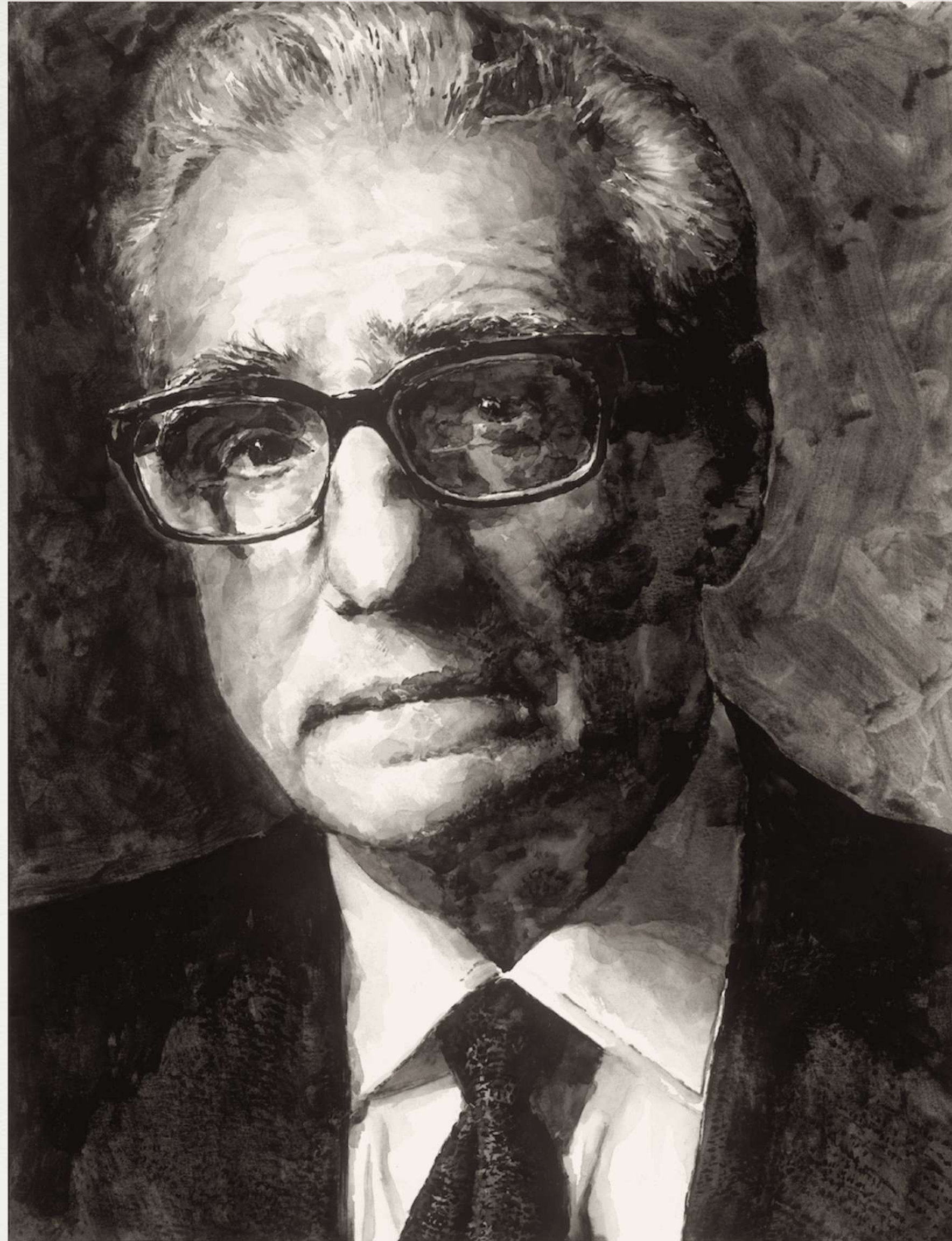
Fabián with Al Pacino



Leonardo Dicaprio

Leonardo DiCaprio

Leonardo Wilhelm DiCaprio (born November 11, 1974) is an American actor and film producer. Known for his work in biographical and period films, he is the recipient of numerous accolades, including an Academy Award, a British Academy Film Award, and three Golden Globe Awards. As of 2019, his films have grossed over \$7.2 billion worldwide, and he has been placed eight times in annual rankings of the world's highest-paid actors.



Scorsese

Scorsese

Martin Charles Scorsese (born November 17, 1942) is an American filmmaker. He emerged as one of the major figures of the New Hollywood era. He has received many accolades, including an Academy Award, four BAFTA Awards, three Emmy Awards, a Grammy Award, and three Golden Globe Awards. He has been honoured with the AFI Life Achievement Award in 1997, the Film Society of Lincoln Center tribute in 1998, the Kennedy Center Honor in 2007, the Cecil B. DeMille Award in 2010, and the BAFTA Fellowship in 2012. Four of his films have been inducted into the National Film Registry by the Library of Congress as "culturally, historically or aesthetically significant".



Jason Statham

Jason Statham

Jason Statham (born 26 July 1967) is an English actor and martial artist. He is known for portraying characters in various action-thriller films who are typically tough, gritty, or violent. Statham has been credited for leading the resurgence of action films during the 2000s and 2010s.^[1] His film career through 2017 generated over \$1.5 billion (£1.1 billion) in ticket sales, making him one of the film industry's most bankable stars.



Jason Statham



Sylvester Stallone

Sylvester Stallone

Sylvester Gardenzio Stallone (born July 6, 1946) is an American actor and filmmaker. He has received numerous accolades, including a Golden Globe Award and a Critics' Choice Award, as well as nominations for three Academy Awards and two BAFTA Awards. Stallone is one of only two actors in history (alongside Harrison Ford) to have starred in a box-office No. 1 film across six consecutive decades.



Fabián with Stallone



Mickey Rourke

Mickey Rourke

Philip Andre "Mickey" Rourke Jr. (born September 16, 1952) is an American actor and former professional boxer who has appeared primarily as a leading man in drama, action, and thriller films. During the 1980s, Rourke played supporting roles in films like *Body Heat* (1981) and *Diner* (1982), before portraying leading roles in films like *The Motorcycle Boy* in *Rumble Fish* (1983), Charlie Moran in *The Pope of Greenwich Village* (1984), Captain Stanley White in *Year of the Dragon* (1985) and John Gray in *9½ Weeks* (1986). He received critical praise for his work in the Charles Bukowski biopic *Barfly* and the horror mystery *Angel Heart* (both 1987). In 1991, following a string of critical and commercial failures,



Mickey Rourke



Penelope Cruz & Javier Bardem

Penelope Cruz

Penélope Cruz Sánchez (born 28 April 1974) is a Spanish actress. Prolific in Spanish and English-language films, she has received various accolades, including an Academy Award and a BAFTA Award, in addition to nominations for a Primetime Emmy Award and four Golden Globe Awards.

Cruz made her acting debut on television at 16.

Since 2010, Cruz has been married to Spanish actor Javier Bardem.

Javier Bardem

Javier Ángel Encinas Bardem (born 1 March 1969) is a Spanish actor. He has received various accolades, including an Academy Award and a Golden Globe Award.

His portrayal of assassin Anton Chigurh in the Coen brothers' western film *No Country for Old Men* (2007) won him the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor.

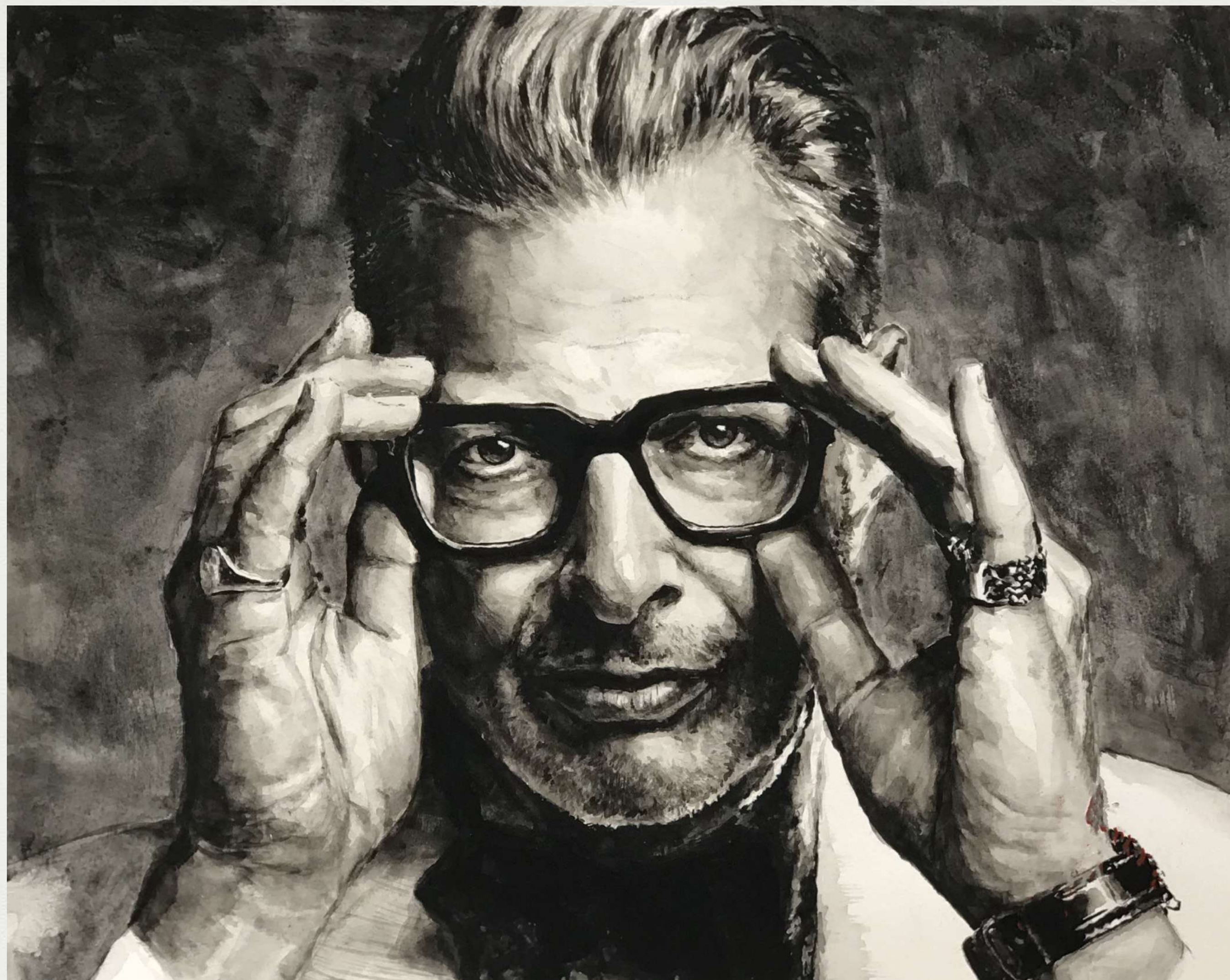
Bardem has also starred in Woody Allen's romantic drama *Vicky Cristina Barcelona* (2008), Bardem has been married since 2010 to actress Penélope Cruz, with whom he shares two children.



Billy Bob Thornton

Billy Bob Thornton

Billy Bob Thornton (born August 4, 1955) is an American film actor, filmmaker, singer and songwriter. He received international attention after writing, directing, and starring in the independent drama film *Sling Blade* (1996), for which he won an Academy Award for Best Adapted Screenplay and was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Actor. In addition to film work, Thornton began a career as a singer-songwriter. He has released four solo albums and is the vocalist of the rock band the Boxmasters. Thornton has been vocal about his distaste for celebrity culture, choosing to keep out of the public eye. He has been married six times, including to Angelina Jolie from 2000 to 2003 which received significant media attention.



Jeff Goldblum

Jeff Goldblum

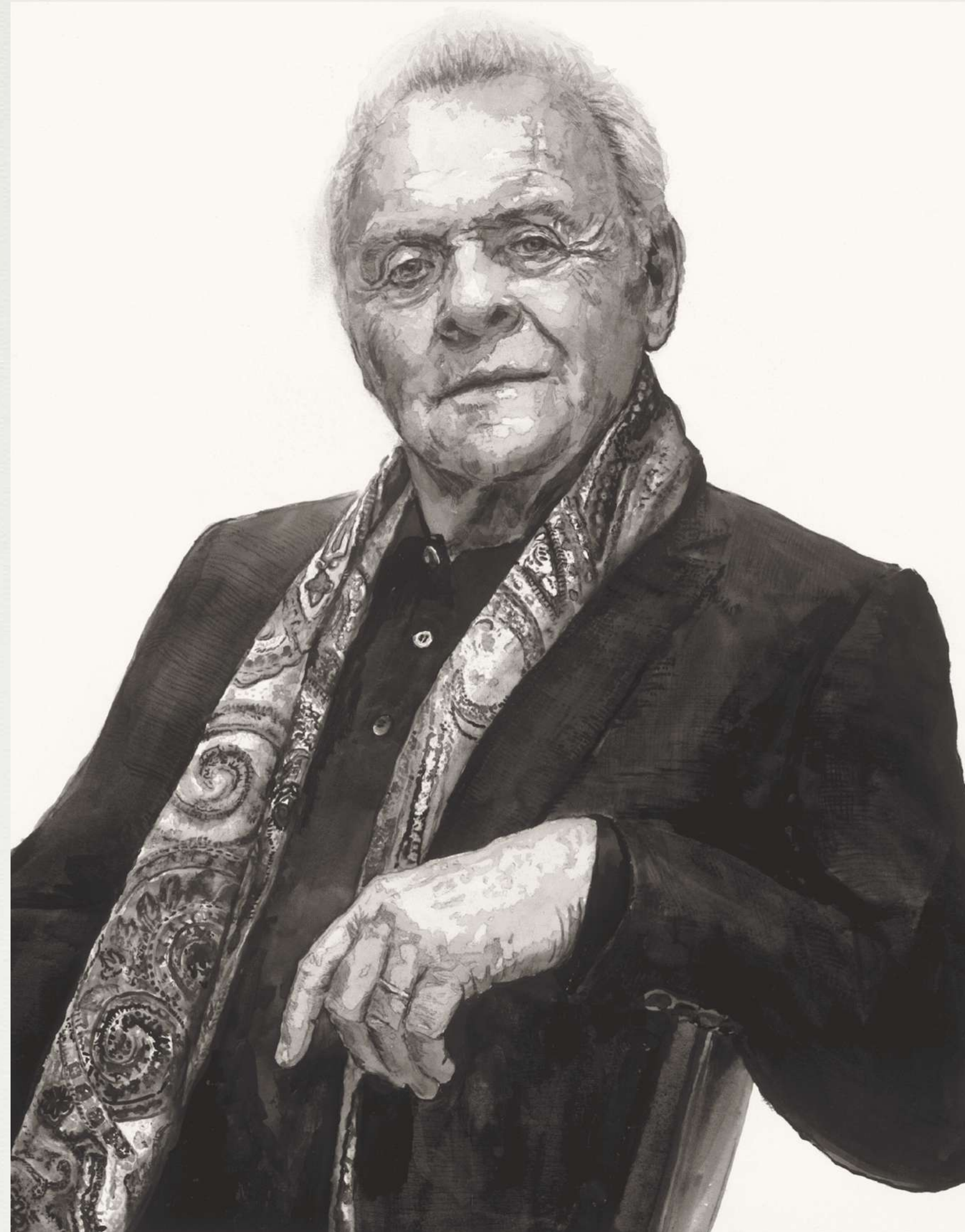
Jeffrey Lynn Goldblum (born October 22, 1952)^{[1][2]} is an American actor and musician. He has starred in some of the highest-grossing films, such as Jurassic Park (1993) and Independence Day (1996), as well as their sequels.

Goldblum made his acting film debut in Death Wish (1974) with early roles in California Split (1974), Nashville (1975), and Annie Hall (1977). He gained wider attention for his roles in Invasion of the Body Snatchers (1978), The Big Chill (1983), and The Fly (1986). In 1996 he received an Academy Award for Best Live Action Short Film nomination for Little Surprises.

His career had a resurgence with his roles in the Wes Anderson films The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou (2004), The Grand Budapest Hotel (2014), Isle of Dogs (2018), and Asteroid City (2023). He is also known for his role as Grandmaster in the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) films Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2 and Thor: Ragnarok (both in 2017) as well as the Disney+ series What If...? (2021).



Fabián with Jeff Goldblum



Anthony Hopkins

Anthony Hopkins

Sir Philip Anthony Hopkins CBE (born 31 December 1937) is a Welsh actor. One of Britain's most recognisable and prolific actors, he is known for his performances on the screen and stage. Hopkins has received numerous , including two Academy Awards, four BAFTA Awards, two Primetime Emmy Awards, and a Laurence Olivier Award. He has also received the Cecil B. DeMille Award in 2005 and the BAFTA Fellowship for lifetime achievement in 2008. He was knighted by Queen for his services to drama in 1993.

Mick Jagger Keith Richards Charlie Watts Ronnie Wood

Paul McCartney Ringo Starr Axl Rose Slash Rod Stewart

Brian May Ravi Shankar Brendon Urie Santana Pitbull

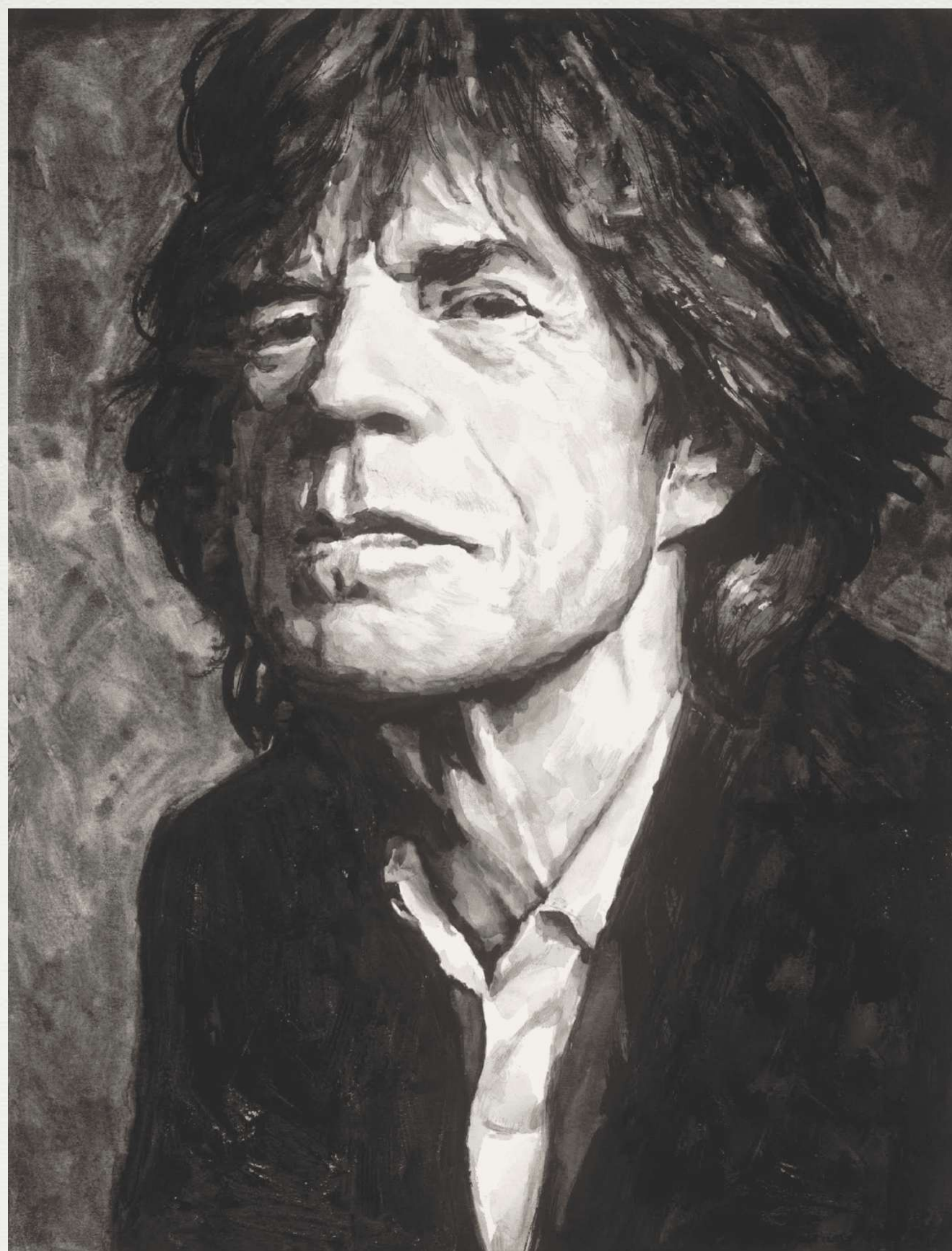
Fabri Fibra Placido Domingo INXS Philip Campbell

Vasco Rossi Jennifer Lopez Lady Gaga Ariana Grande

Taylor Swift Sting Carmine Rojas Quincy Jones

MUSIC LEGENDS

Musicians whose creations have touched the heart and minds of millions around the world, as well as paved the way and inspired others.



Mick Jagger

The Rolling Stones

Mick Jagger

Sir Michael Philip Jagger (born 26 July 1943) is an English singer. He is the front man and one of the founder members of the rock band the Rolling Stones. Jagger has written most of the band's songs alongside lead guitarist Keith Richards; their songwriting partnership is one of the most successful in history, and they continue to collaborate musically. His career has spanned over six decades, and he has been widely described as one of the most popular and influential front men in the history of rock music. His distinctive voice and energetic live performances, along with Richards' guitar style, have been the Rolling Stones' trademark throughout the band's career. Jagger gained notoriety for his romantic involvements and illicit drug use, and has often been portrayed as a countercultural figure.

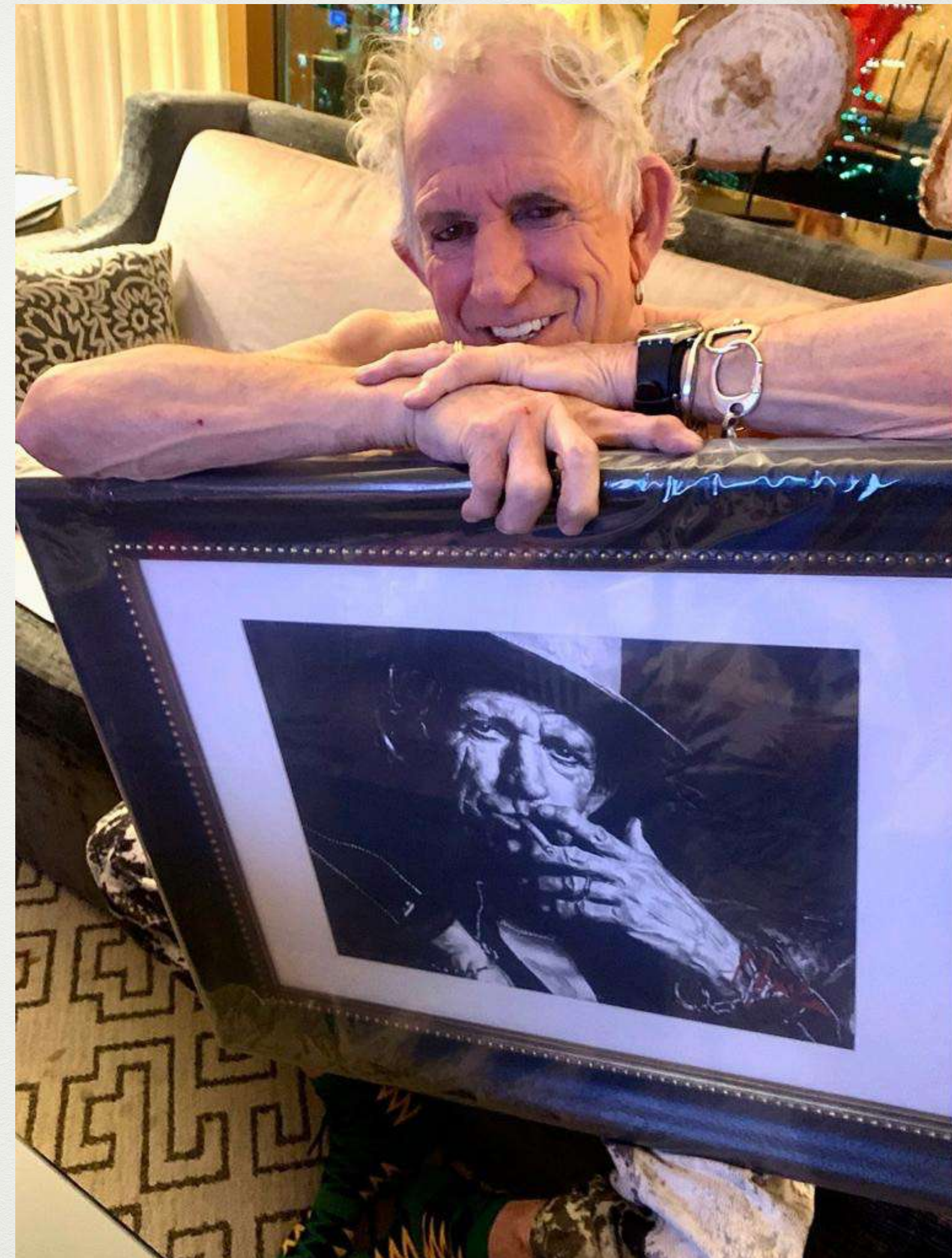


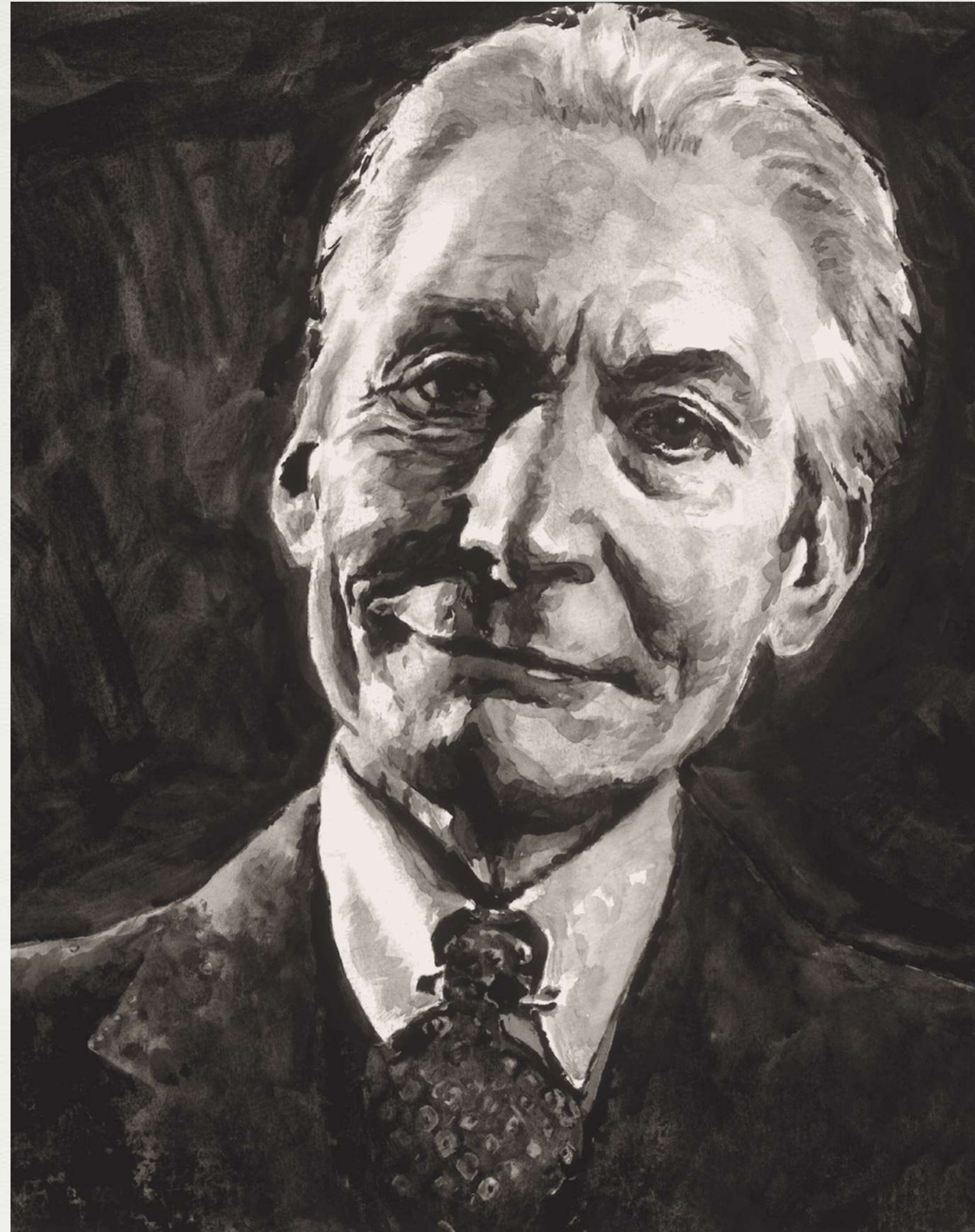
Keith Richards

The Rolling Stones

Keith Richards

Keith Richards (born 18 December 1943) is an English musician, songwriter, singer and record producer who is an original member, guitarist, secondary vocalist, and co-principal songwriter of the Rolling Stones. His songwriting partnership with the band's lead vocalist Mick Jagger is one of the most successful in history. His career spans over six decades, and his guitar playing style has been a trademark of the Rolling Stones throughout the band's career. Richards gained press notoriety for his romantic involvements and illicit drug use, and he was often portrayed as a countercultural figure. First professionally known as Keith Richard, by the early 1970s he had fully asserted his family name.





Charlie Watts

The Rolling Stones

Charlie Watts

Charles Robert Watts (2 June 1941 - 24 August 2021) was an English musician who was the drummer of the Rolling Stones from 1963 until his death in 2021.

Originally trained as a graphic artist, Watts developed an interest in jazz at a young age and joined the band Blues Incorporated. He also started playing drums in London's rhythm and blues clubs, where he met future bandmates Mick Jagger, Keith Richards and Brian Jones. In January 1963, he left Blues Incorporated and joined the Rolling Stones as drummer, while doubling as designer of their record sleeves and tour stages. Watts's first public appearance as a permanent member was in February 1963; he remained with the band for 58 years until his death, at which time he, Jagger and Richards were the only members of the band to have performed on every one of their studio albums.



Ronnie Wood

The Rolling Stones

Ronnie Wood

Ronald David Wood (born 1 June 1947) is an English rock musician, best known as an official member of the Rolling Stones since 1975, as well as a member of Faces and the Jeff Beck Group.

Wood began his career in 1964, playing lead guitar with several British rhythm and blues bands in short succession, including the Birds^[2] and the Creation. He joined the Jeff Beck Group in 1967 as a guitarist and bassist, playing on the albums *Truth* and *Beck-Ola*. The group split in 1969, and Wood departed along with lead vocalist Rod Stewart to join a new group named Faces with Wood now primarily on lead guitar. Soon after Mick Taylor left the Rolling Stones, Richards invited Wood to join them; he did so in 1975, initially temporarily, but became an official member in 1976.





Paul McCartney

The Beatles

Paul McCartney

Sir James Paul McCartney CH MBE (born 18 June 1942) is an English singer, songwriter and musician who gained worldwide fame with the Beatles, for whom he played bass guitar and shared primary songwriting and lead vocal duties with John Lennon. One of the most successful composers and performers of all time, McCartney is known for his melodic approach to bass-playing, versatile and wide tenor vocal range, and musical eclecticism, exploring genres ranging from pre-rock and roll pop to classical, ballads, and electronica. His songwriting partnership with Lennon is the most successful in modern music history.





Ringo Starr

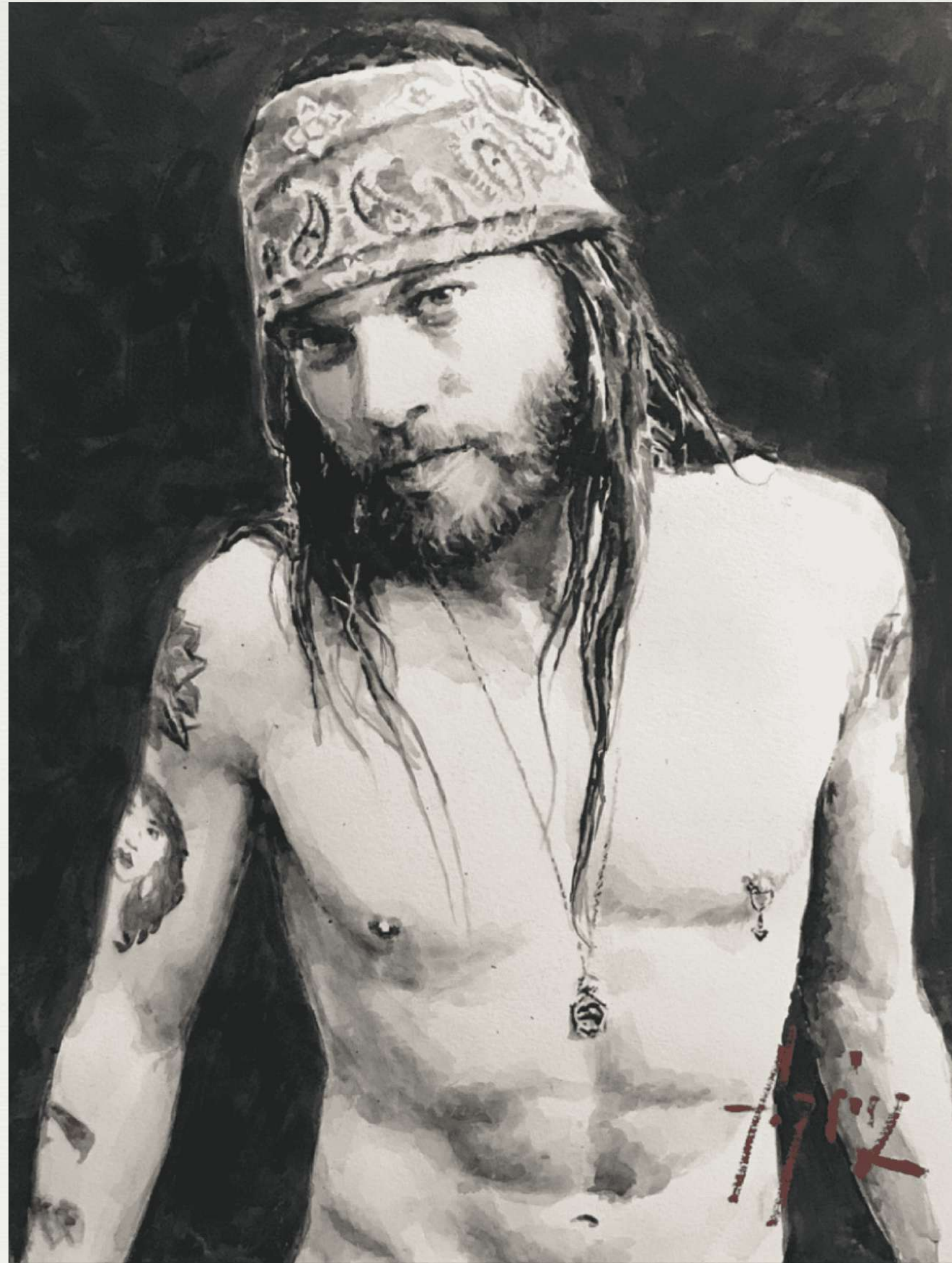
The Beatles

Ringo Starr

Sir Richard Starkey MBE (born 7 July 1940), known professionally as Ringo Starr, is an English musician, songwriter and actor who achieved international fame as the drummer for the Beatles. Starr occasionally sang lead vocals with the group, usually for one song on each album, including "Yellow Submarine" and "With a Little Help from My Friends". He also wrote and sang the Beatles songs "Don't Pass Me By" and "Octopus's Garden", and is credited as a co-writer of four others.



Fabián with Ringo Starr



Axel Rose

GUNS N' ROSES

Axl Rose

W. Axl Rose (born William Bruce Rose Jr.; born February 6, 1962) is an American singer and songwriter. He is the lead vocalist and lyricist of the hard rock band Guns N' Roses, and has been the band's sole constant member since its inception in 1985. Possessing a distinctive and powerful wide-ranging voice, Rose has been named one of the greatest singers of all time by various media outlets, including Rolling Stone, NME and Billboard.



Slash

GUNS N' ROSES

Slash

Saul Hudson (born July 23, 1965), known professionally as Slash, is a British-American musician who serves as the lead guitarist of the hard rock band Guns N' Roses, with whom he achieved worldwide success in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Slash has received critical acclaim and is considered one of the greatest guitarists in history.



Slash



Rod Stewart

Rod Stewart

Sir Roderick David Stewart CBE (born 10 January 1945) is a British rock and pop singer and songwriter. Known for his distinctive raspy singing voice, Stewart is among the best-selling music artists of all time, having sold more than 120 million records worldwide. His music career began in 1962 when he took up busking with a harmonica. In 1963, he joined the Dimensions as a harmonica player and vocalist. In 1964, Stewart joined Long John Baldry and the All Stars before moving to the Jeff Beck Group in 1967. Joining Faces in 1969, he also launched a solo career, releasing his debut album that year.





Brian May

Brian May

Sir Brian Harold May CBE (born 19 July 1947) is an English musician, songwriter, record producer, animal rights activist and astrophysicist. He achieved worldwide fame as the lead guitarist and backing vocalist of the rock band Queen, which he co-founded with singer Freddie Mercury and drummer Roger Taylor. His guitar work and songwriting contributions helped Queen become one of the most successful acts in music history.





Ravi Shankar

Ravi Shankar

Ravi Shankar KBE (Bengali pronunciation born Robindro Shaunkor Chowdhury, sometimes spelled as Rabindra Shankar Chowdhury; 7 April 1920 - 11 December 2012) was an Indian sitarist and composer. A sitar virtuoso, he became the world's best-known expert of North Indian classical music in the second half of the 20th century, and influenced many musicians in India and throughout the world. Shankar was awarded India's highest civilian honour, the Bharat Ratna, in 1999.



Fabián with Ravi Shankar



Brendon Urie

Brendon Urie

Brendon Boyd Urie (born April 12, 1987) is an American singer, songwriter, and musician who is best known as the former lead vocalist and frontman of Panic! at the Disco, the only constant member throughout the band's 19-year run. Many of his songs have achieved commercial success, reaching high spots on Billboard charts and millions of sales. On January 24, 2023, Urie announced that he would be discontinuing Panic! at the Disco, since he and his wife are having a child. He currently plays drums in a band led by Mike Viola.



Carlos Santana

Carlos Santana

Carlos Humberto Santana Barragán (born July 20, 1947) is an American guitarist, best known as a founding member of the rock band Santana. Born and raised in Mexico where he developed his musical background, he rose to fame in the late 1960s and early 1970s in the United States with Santana, which pioneered a fusion of rock and roll and Latin American jazz. Its sound featured his melodic, blues-based lines set against Latin American and African rhythms played on percussion instruments not generally heard in rock, such as timbales and congas.



Pitbull

Pitbull

Armando Christian Pérez (born January 15, 1981), known professionally as Pitbull, is an American rapper and singer. He began his career in the early 2000s and recorded reggaeton, Latin hip hop, and crunk music under a multitude of labels. He signed with TVT Records to release his debut studio album, *M.I.A.M.I.* (2004). Pitbull has sold over 25 million studio albums and over 100 million singles worldwide. He has over 15 billion views on YouTube as of May 2020. He was ranked by Billboard as the 45th Top Artist of the 2010s and the 24th Top Latin Artist of the 2010s.



Fabián with Pitbull



Fabri Fibra

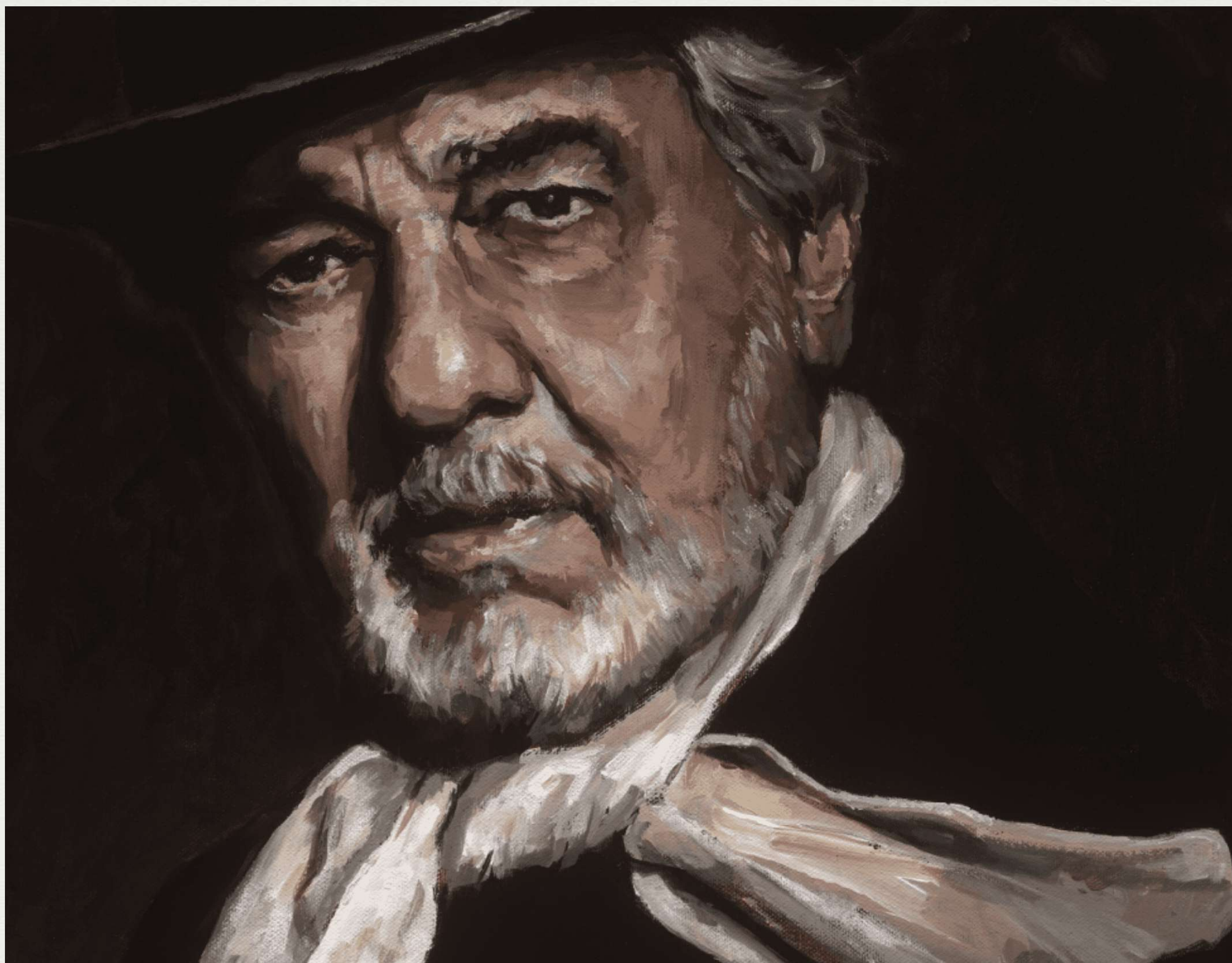
Fabri Fibra

Fabrizio Tarducci (born 17 October 1976), better known by the stage name Fabri Fibra, is an Italian rapper. In his career he has sold more than 2.3 million certified copies.

He became interested in music from a young age; he wrote and performed his first piece when he was 17 years old. Following his underground success, Fabri Fibra began performing around Italy. In 2000 he established his label and group Teste Mobili Records (Bobbing Head Records), and collaborated with various Italian rap groups, lending vocals as well as lyrics to the mixtape circuit. In his career he has sold more than two million certified copies. In 2013 he campaigned for Adidas Originals, reinterpreting the song with Run-DMC and DJ A-Trak.



Fabián with Fabri Fibra



Plácido Domingo

Plácido Domingo

José Plácido Domingo Embil (born 21 January 1941) is a Spanish opera singer, conductor, and arts administrator. He has recorded over a hundred complete operas and is well known for his versatility, regularly performing in Italian, French, German, Spanish, English and Russian in the most prestigious opera houses in the world. Although primarily a lirico-spinto tenor for most of his career, especially popular for his Cavaradossi, Hoffmann, Don José and Canio, he quickly moved into more dramatic roles, becoming the most acclaimed Otello of his generation. In the early 2010s, he transitioned from the tenor repertory into exclusively baritone parts, most notably Simon Boccanegra. As of 2020, he has performed 151 different roles.



INXS

INXS

Garry Gary Beers

INXS were an Australian rock band, formed as the Farriss Brothers in 1977 in Sydney. The founding members were bassist Garry Gary Beers, main composer and keyboardist Andrew Farriss, drummer Jon Farriss, guitarist Tim Farriss, lead singer and main lyricist Michael Hutchence, and guitarist and saxophonist Kirk Pengilly. For 20 years, INXS was fronted by Hutchence, whose magnetic stage presence made him the focal point of the band. Initially known for their new wave/pop style, the band later developed a harder pub rock style that included funk and dance elements.



Fabián with Garry Gary Beers



Phil Campbell

MOTÖRHEAD

Phil Campbell

Philip Anthony Campbell (born 7 May 1961) is a Welsh rock musician, best known as the guitarist in the legendary rock band Motörhead from 1984 to 2015. On 8 February 1984, following the departure of Brian Robertson, Motörhead held auditions for a new guitarist, narrowing the candidates down to two guitarists: Michael "Würzel" Burston and Philip Campbell. Though Lemmy had first planned on hiring only one guitarist, he hired both Würzel and Campbell upon hearing them play together. The band disbanded upon the death of founder and frontman Lemmy. He currently tours with his own band Phil Campbell and the Bastard Sons, featuring his three sons: Todd, Dane and Tyla.



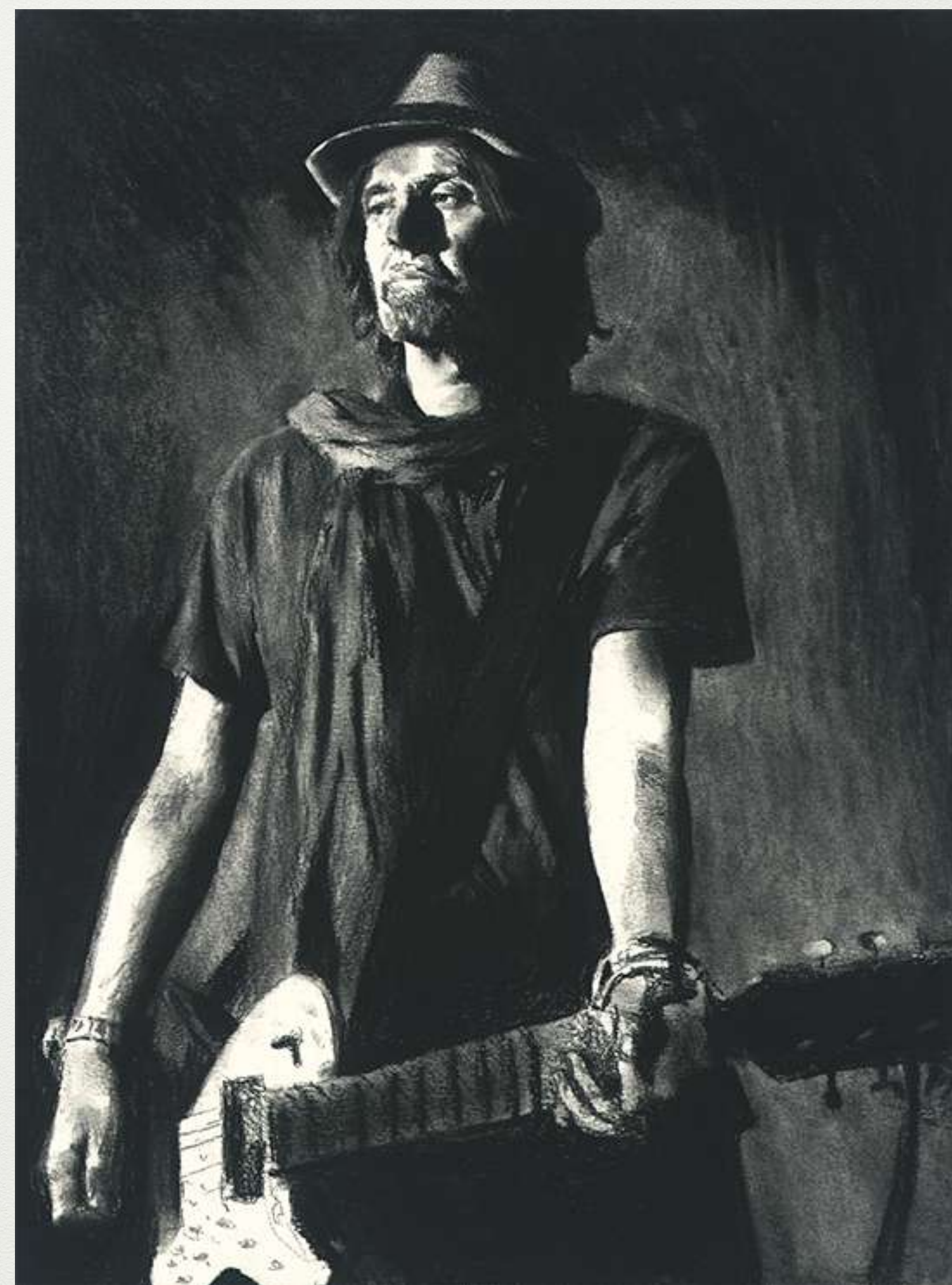
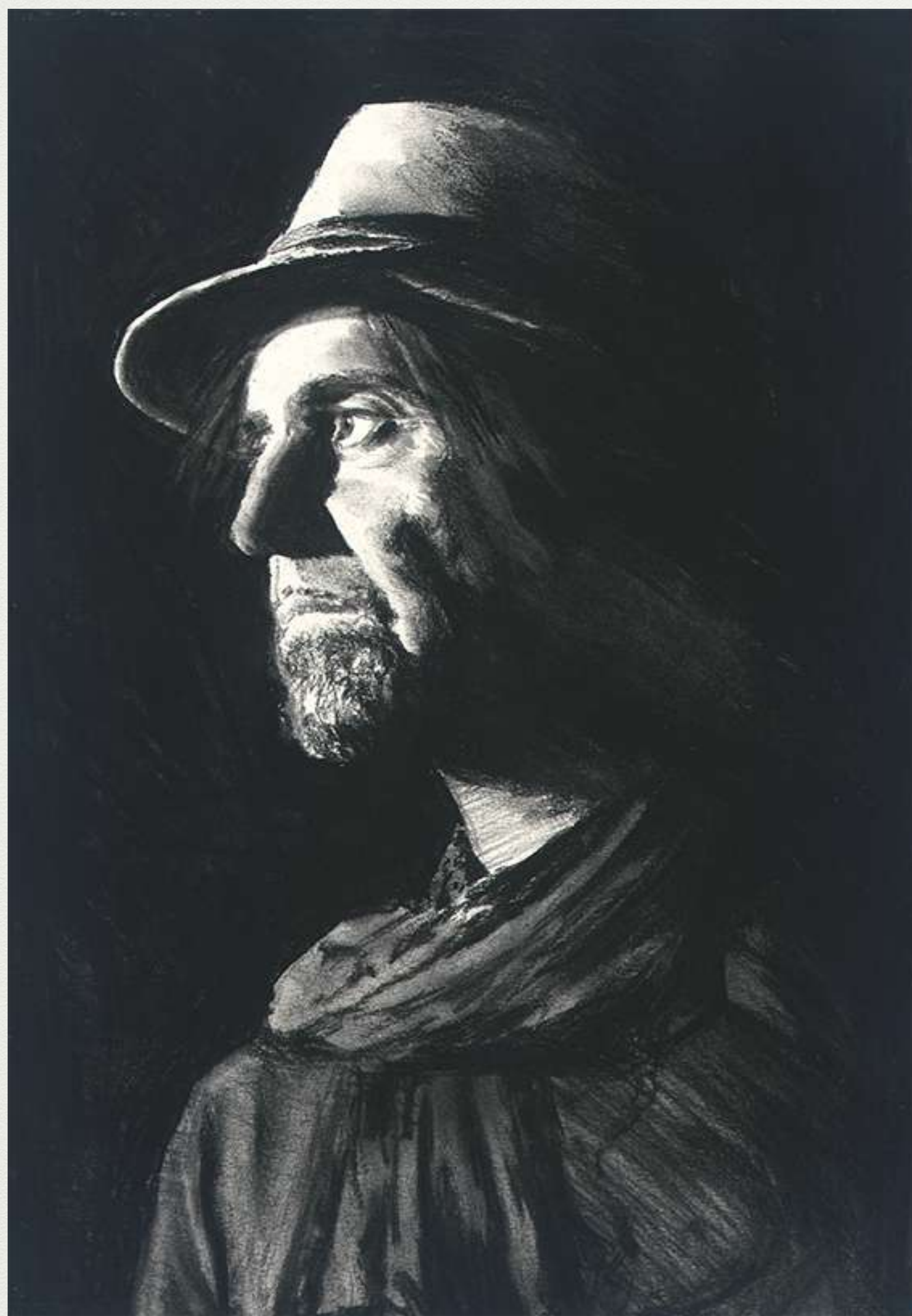
Fabián with Phil Campbell



Phil Campbell



Fabián with Phil Campbell



Phil Campbell



Vasco Rossi

Vasco Rossi

Vasco Rossi (born 7 February 1952), also known mononymously as Vasco or with the nickname Il Blasco, is an Italian singer-songwriter and poet. He has published 30 albums (not including unofficial releases) and written over 250 songs, as well as lyrics for other artists. Rossi calls himself a provocatore (an Italian portmanteau for "provoking author") as throughout his career he has been regularly criticized over his choice of lifestyle and the lyrics in his songs. With more than 35 million copies sold, he is one of the best-selling Italian singers. His Modena Park 2017 concert is the highest-attended ticketed concert of all time.



Fabián with Vasco Rossi



Jennifer Lopez

Jennifer Lopez

Jennifer Lynn Affleck (née Lopez; born July 24, 1969), also known by her nickname J.Lo, is an American actress, singer and dancer. Often dubbed the "Queen of Dance", Lopez is regarded as one of the most influential entertainers of her time, credited with breaking barriers for Latino Americans in Hollywood and helping propel the Latin pop movement in music. She is also noted for her impact on popular culture through fashion, branding, and shifting mainstream beauty standards. With over 80 million records sold, Lopez's most successful singles include: "If You Had My Love", "Waiting for Tonight", "Let's Get Loud" and more. Her accolades include a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, the Billboard Icon Award and the Michael Jackson Video Vanguard Award. She has been ranked among the 100 most influential people in the world by Time and the World's 100 Most Powerful Women by Forbes. Her other ventures include a lifestyle brand, beauty and fashion lines, fragrances, a production company, and a charitable foundation.



Lady Gaga

Lady Gaga

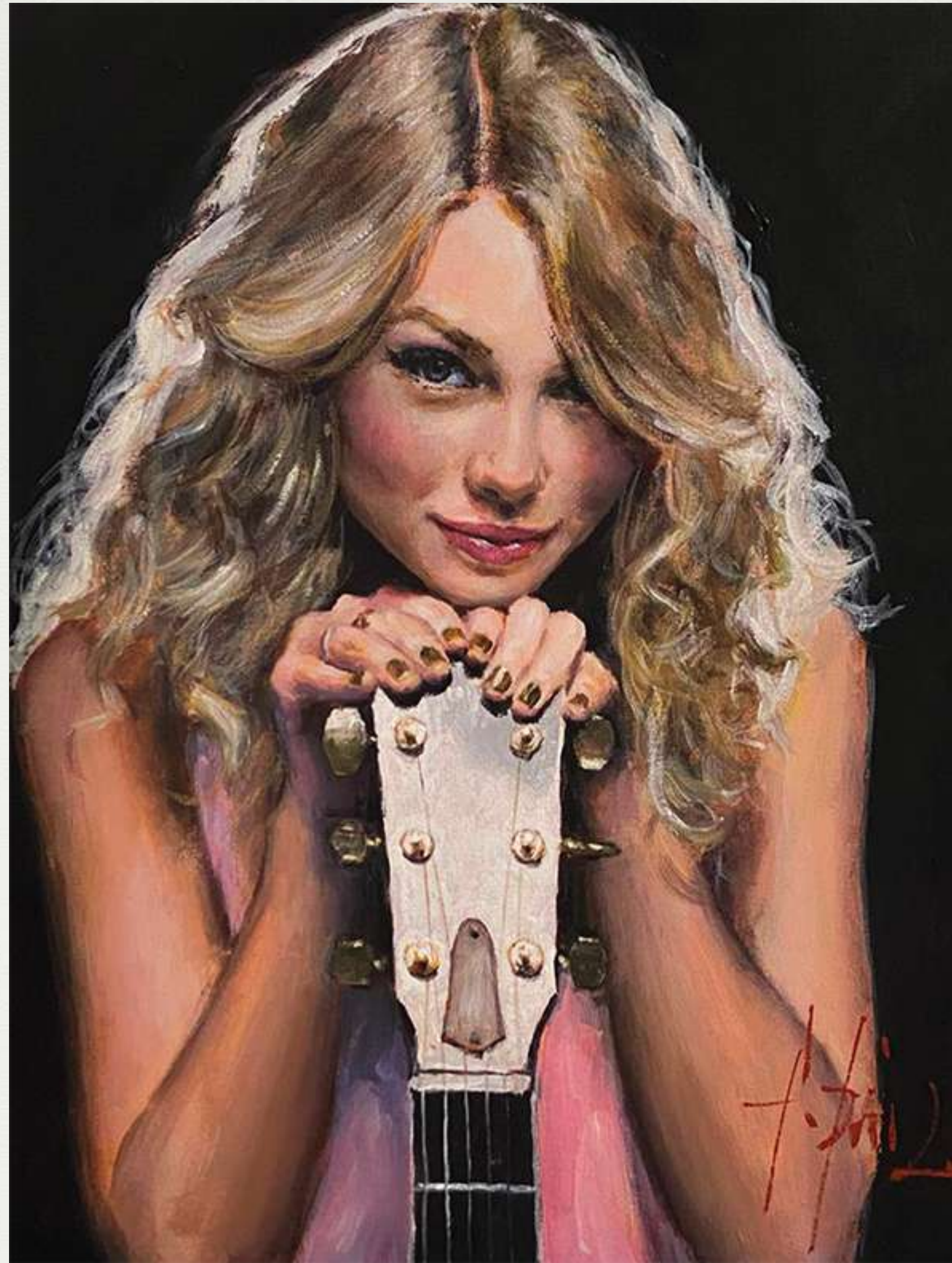
Stefani Joanne Angelina Germanotta (born March 28, 1986), known professionally as Lady Gaga, is an American singer-songwriter and actress. She is known for reinventing her image and showcasing versatility in entertainment. Gaga started performing as a teenager by singing at open mic nights and acting in school plays. She studied Collaborative Arts Project 21 before leaving to pursue a music career. After a contract cancellation by Def Jam Recordings, Gaga worked as a songwriter for Sony/ATV Music Publishing. In 2007, she signed with Interscope Records and KonLive Distribution. Her breakthrough came the following year with her debut studio album, *The Fame*, and its singles "Just Dance" and "Poker Face". The album was later reissued along with *The Fame Monster* (2009), which yielded the successful singles "Bad Romance", "Alejandro" and "Telephone".



Ariana Grande

Ariana Grande

Ariana Grande-Butera (born June 26, 1993) is an American singer and actress. Regarded as a pop icon and an influential figure in popular music, she is noted for her four-octave vocal range and her signature use of the whistle register. Grande has received numerous accolades throughout her career, including two Grammy Awards, one Brit Award, two Billboard Music Awards, three American Music Awards, nine MTV Video Music Awards, and 36 Guinness World Records. Rolling Stone named her one of the greatest vocalists of all time.



Taylor Swift

Taylor Swift

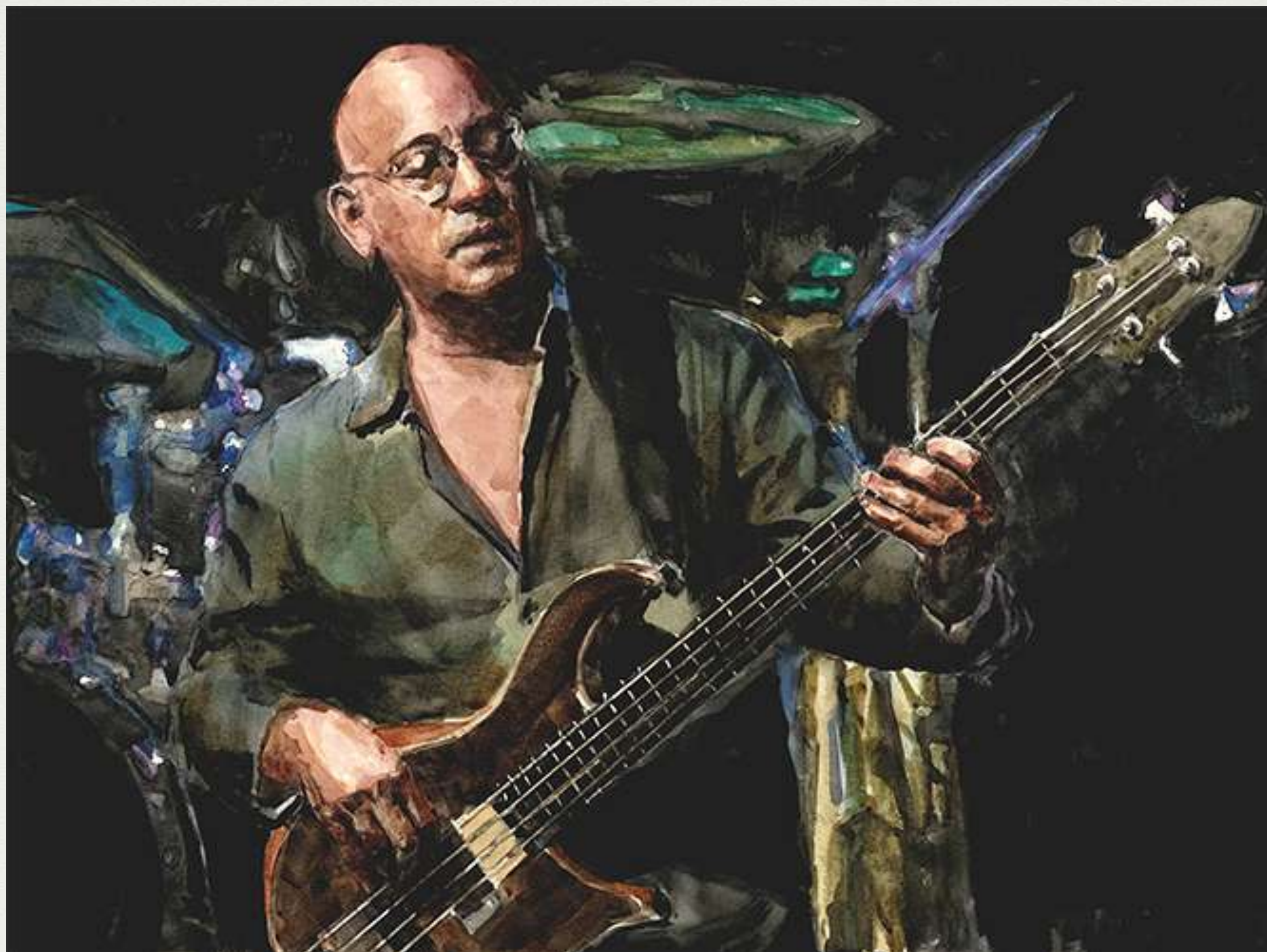
Taylor Alison Swift (born December 13, 1989) is an American singer-songwriter. A subject of widespread public interest with a vast fanbase, she has influenced the music industry, popular culture, and politics through her songwriting, artistry, entrepreneurship, and advocacy. Swift is one of the world's best-selling artists, with 200 million records sold worldwide as of 2019. She is the most-streamed artist on Spotify, the highest-grossing female touring act, and the first billionaire with music as the main source of income.



Sting

Sting

Gordon Matthew Thomas Sumner CBE (born 2 October 1951), known as Sting, is an English musician, activist and actor. He was the frontman, principal songwriter and bassist for new wave band the Police from 1977 until their breakup in 1986. He launched a solo career in 1985 and has included elements of rock, jazz, reggae, classical, new-age, and worldbeat in his music. With the Police, Sting became one of the world's best-selling music artists. Solo and with the Police combined, he has sold over 100 million records. In 2006, Paste ranked him 62nd of the 100 best living songwriters.



Carmine Rojas

Carmine Rojas

Carmine Rojas (born February 14, 1953) is an American bass guitarist, musical director and composer. His musical styles include rock, R&B, funk, and jazz. Rojas toured the world with David Bowie from 1983 through 1987, playing bass on "Let's Dance", "China Girl", "Modern Love" and "Blue Jean". Carmine has also recorded, toured and played alongside Rod Stewart, Tina Turner, Keith Richards, Stevie Wonder, Ron Wood, Stevie Ray Vaughan, B.B. King, Mick Jagger, Eric Clapton, Joe Bonamassa, Eric Johnson, Peter Frampton, Al Green, Carly Simon, Ian Anderson, Paul Rogers, Noel Gallagher, John Waite, Steve Winwood, Billy Joel, Herbie Hancock, Lee Ritenour, Julian Lennon, Richie Sambora, Robert Randolph, Joe Don Rooney, Carole King, Beth Hart, Bobby Womack, Sam Moore, Billy Squier, Olivia Newton-John, Michael Hutchence, Bernard Fowler, Blondie Chaplin, Billy Gibbons, Leslie West, Joe Lynn Turner, Carlos Santana, Todd Rundgren and many more.



Fabián with Carmine Rojas



Quincy Jones

Quincy Jones

Quincy Delight Jones Jr. (born March 14, 1933) is an American record producer, songwriter, composer, arranger, and film and television producer. His career spans over 70 years, with 28 Grammy Awards won out of 80 nominations, and a Grammy Legend Award in 1992. In 1971, Jones became the first African American to be the musical director and conductor of the Academy Awards. In 1995, he was the first African American to receive the academy's Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award. He is tied with sound designer Willie D. Burton as the second most Oscar-nominated African American, with seven nominations each. In 2013, Jones was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame as the winner, alongside Lou Adler, of the Ahmet Ertegun Award. He was named one of the most influential jazz musicians of the 20th century by Time



Fabián with Quincy Jones

The Pope Queen Elizabeth II Princess Diana

Count Charles Spencer Countess Karen Spencer

Mauricio Macri Juliana Macri Victoria Beckham

Elon Musk Gigi Hadid Valeria Marini Javier Milei

DIGNITARIES, ROYALTY & MOGULS

Current and past remarkable people who have left their influence in the world.



Pope Francis

Pope Francis

The pope (Latin: papa, from Ancient Greek: πάππας, romanized: páppas, lit. 'father') is the bishop of Rome and the visible head of the worldwide Catholic Church. He is also known as the supreme pontiff, Roman pontiff or sovereign pontiff. Since the eighth century, the pope has been the sovereign of the Papal States and later the Vatican City State. The current pope is Francis, who was elected on 13 March 2013.



Fabián with Pope Francis



Queen Elizabeth II

Queen Elizabeth II

Elizabeth II (Elizabeth Alexandra Mary; 21 April 1926 – 8 September 2022) was Queen of the United Kingdom and other Commonwealth realms from 6 February 1952 until her death in 2022. She was queen regnant of 32 sovereign states over the course of her lifetime and remained the monarch of 15 realms by the time of her death. Her reign of 70 years and 214 days is the longest of any British monarch or female monarch, and the second longest verified reign of any monarch of a sovereign state in history.



Princess Diana

Princess Diana

Diana, Princess of Wales (born Diana Frances Spencer; 1 July 1961 – 31 August 1997) was a member of the British royal family. She was the first wife of Charles III (then Prince of Wales) and mother of Princes William and Harry. Her activism and glamour, which made her an international icon, earned her enduring popularity.



Charles Spencer, 9th Earl Spencer

Charles Spencer

9th Earl Spencer

Charles Edward Maurice Spencer, 9th Earl Spencer, DL (born 20 May 1964), styled Viscount Althorp between 1975 and 1992, is a British peer, author, journalist, and broadcaster. He is the younger brother of Diana, Princess of Wales, and is the maternal uncle of William, Prince of Wales, and Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex.



Fabián with Earl Charles Spencer



Countess Karen Spencer

Countess Karen Spencer

Karen Anne Spencer, Countess Spencer (formerly Gordon, née Villeneuve; born June 6, 1972) is a Canadian social entrepreneur with a focus on systems change. Her varied career began as the founder of Whole Child International, a U.S.-based that works to improve the quality of care for vulnerable children. From its founding in 2004 she held the position of CEO, and is scheduled to transition to Chair in June 2024. She is the wife of Charles Spencer, 9th Earl Spencer, the younger brother of Diana, Princess of Wales.



Fabián with Countess Karen Spencer

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Mauricio Macri, President of Argentina 2015-2019

Mauricio Macri

President of Argentina 2015-2019

Mauricio Macri (Spanish pronunciation: (born 8 February 1959) is an Argentine businessman and politician who served as the President of Argentina from 2015 to 2019. He has been the leader of the (PRO) party since its founding in 2005. He previously served as 5th Chief of Government of Buenos Aires from 2007 to 2015, and was a member of the Chamber of Deputies representing Buenos Aires from 2005 to 2007. Ideologically, he identifies himself as a liberal and conservative on the Argentine centre-right.



Fabián Pérez and Mauricio Macri, President of Argentina 2015-2019

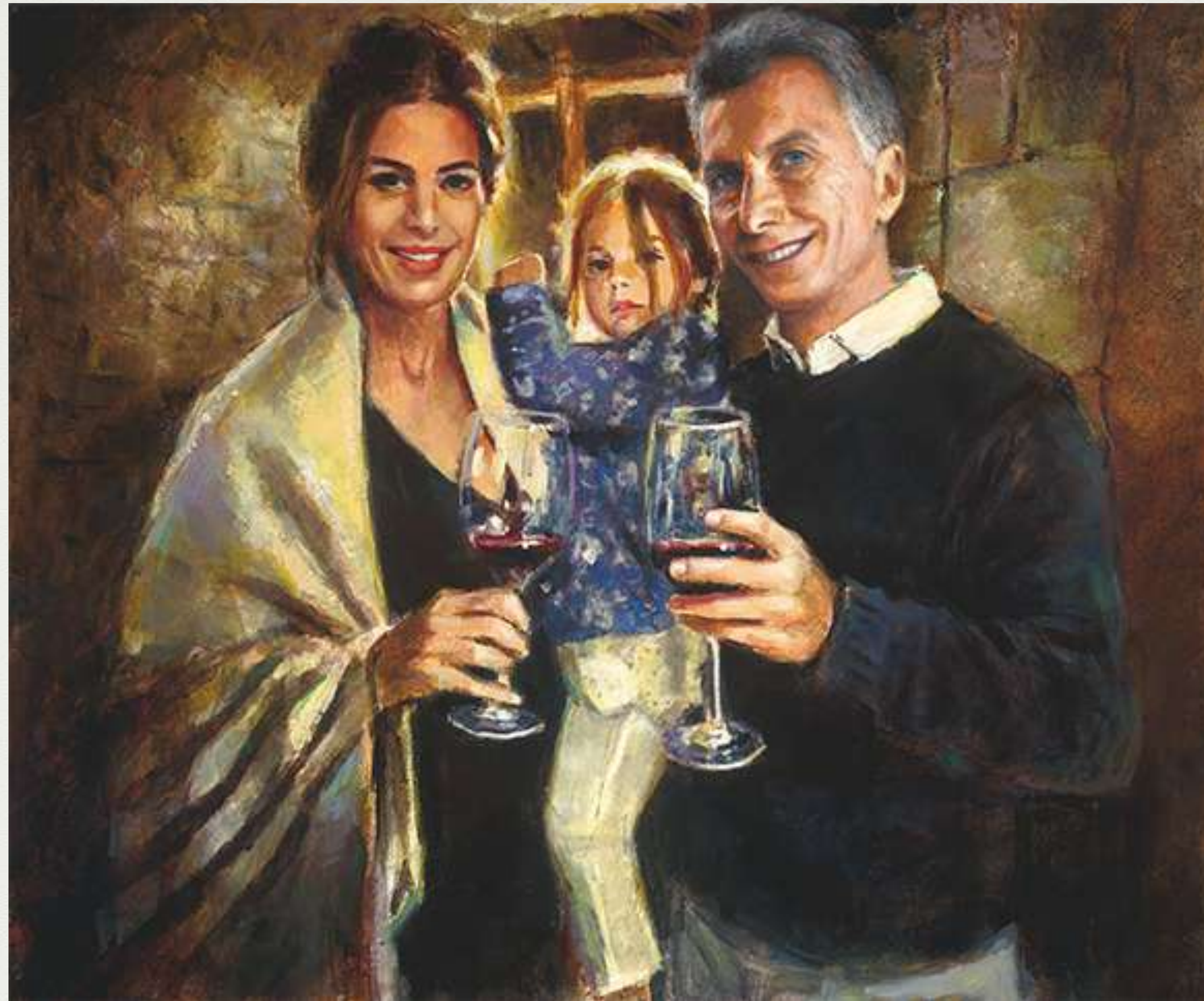


Juliana Macri, First Lady of Argentina 2015-2019

Juliana Macri

First Lady of Argentina 2015-2019

María Juliana Awada (born 3 April 1974) is an Argentine businesswoman who served as the first lady of Argentina from 2015 to 2019. She is the first woman in this role to have received the distinction of the of the Order of Isabella the Catholic in 70 years and the second in history after Eva Perón in 1947. In 2016, she was chosen as the most elegant First Lady in the world by ¡Hola! magazine.



Macri Family, First Family of Argentina, 2015-2019



Fabián Pérez and Mauricio Macri, President of Argentina 2015-2019



Victoria Beckham

Victoria Beckham

Victoria Caroline Beckham OBE (born 17 April 1974) is an English fashion designer, singer, and television personality. She rose to prominence in the 1990s as a member of the girl group the Spice Girls, in which she was nicknamed Posh Spice. With over 100 million records sold worldwide, the group became the best-selling female group of all time. After the Spice Girls split in 2001, Beckham was signed to Virgin Records, in which she released her self-titled debut solo album, which produced two UK Top 10 singles.



Elon Musk

Elon Musk

Elon Reeve Musk (born June 28, 1971) is a businessman and investor. He is the founder, chairman, CEO, and CTO of SpaceX; angel investor, CEO, product architect, and former chairman of Tesla, Inc.; owner, executive chairman, and CTO of X Corp.; founder of The Boring Company and xAI; co-founder of Neuralink and OpenAI; and president of the Musk Foundation. He is one of the wealthiest people in the world; as of April 2024, Forbes estimates his net worth to be US\$196 billion.



Gigi Hadid

Gigi Hadid

Jelena Noura "Gigi" Hadid (born April 23, 1995) is an American fashion model and television personality. In 2016, she was named International Model of the Year by the . Throughout her career, Hadid has made at least 50 appearances in international Vogue. Models.com ranks her as one of the "New Supers." Since 2017, Hadid has been one of the highest-paid models in the world, earning \$20 million.



Valeria Marini

Valeria Marini

Valeria Virginia Laura Marini (born 14 May 1967) is an Italian actress, showgirl and entrepreneur. Her first cinematographic appearance was in 1987 in the film *Cronaca nera*. After this she made her debut in theatre with the comedy *I ragazzi irresistibili*, in 1991. In 1992 she debuted in television with the show *Luna di miele*.^[2] It was in this programme that she was noticed by director Pierfrancesco Pingitore, who chose her to replace Pamela Prati in the *Bagaglino* spectacles, annual series of theatre shows transformed into television variety programmes.



Javier Milei, President of Argentina 2024-2024

Javier Milei

President of Argentina 2024-2028

Javier Gerardo Milei (born 22 October 1970) is an Argentine politician and economist who has served as the president of Argentina since December 2023. Milei has taught university courses and written on various aspects of economics and politics, and also hosted radio programs on the subject. Milei's views distinguish him in the Argentine political landscape and have garnered significant public attention and polarising reactions.



Fabián with Javier Milei

Leonel Messi Diego Maradona Mike Tyson Pep Guardiola

Kun Agüero David Beckham Rafael Nadal Roger Federer

Lewis Hamilton Zlatan Evander Holyfield Alessandro Del Piero

Anthony Joshua Ronaldinho John Terry Pochettino

Sergio Ramos Carlos Tevez Julio Cesar Chavez

SPORTS LEGENDS

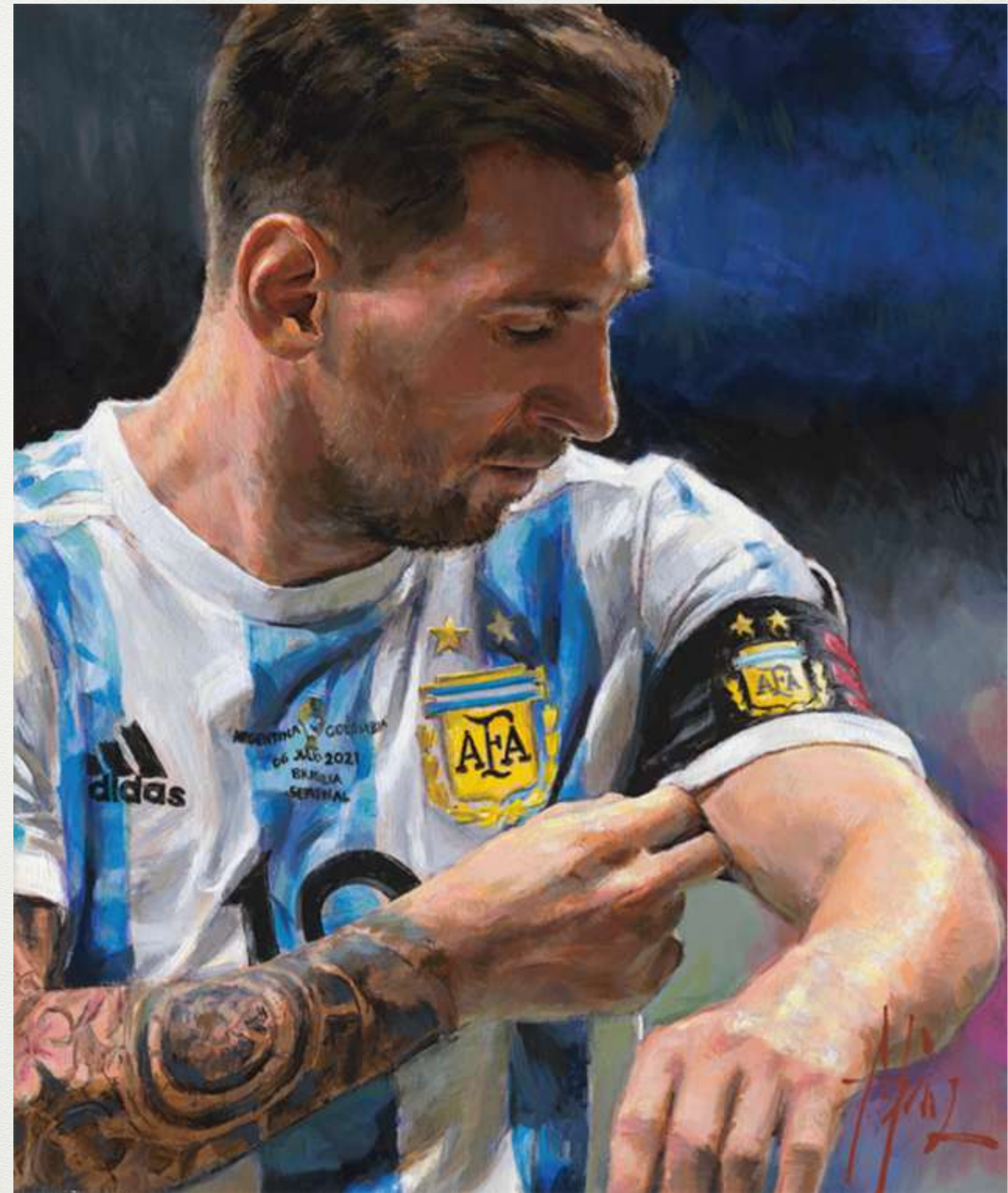
Sporting champions both active and retired, who have distinguished themselves not only in their sporting exploits but also for their example as inspiring role models for the new generations.



Leonel Messi

Leonel Messi

Lionel Andrés "Leo" Messi (born 24 June 1987) is an Argentine professional footballer who plays as a forward for and captains both Major League Soccer club Inter Miami and the Argentina national team. Widely regarded as one of the greatest players of all time, Messi has won a record eight Ballon d'Or awards, a record six European Golden Shoes, and was named the world's best player for a record eight times by FIFA. With his country, he won the 2021 Copa América and the 2022 FIFA World Cup. A prolific goalscorer and creative playmaker, Messi holds the records for most goals (474), hat-tricks (36), and assists in La Liga (192). He has the most international goals by a South American male (106). Messi has scored over 800 senior career goals for club and country, and the most goals for a single club (672).



Leonel Messi



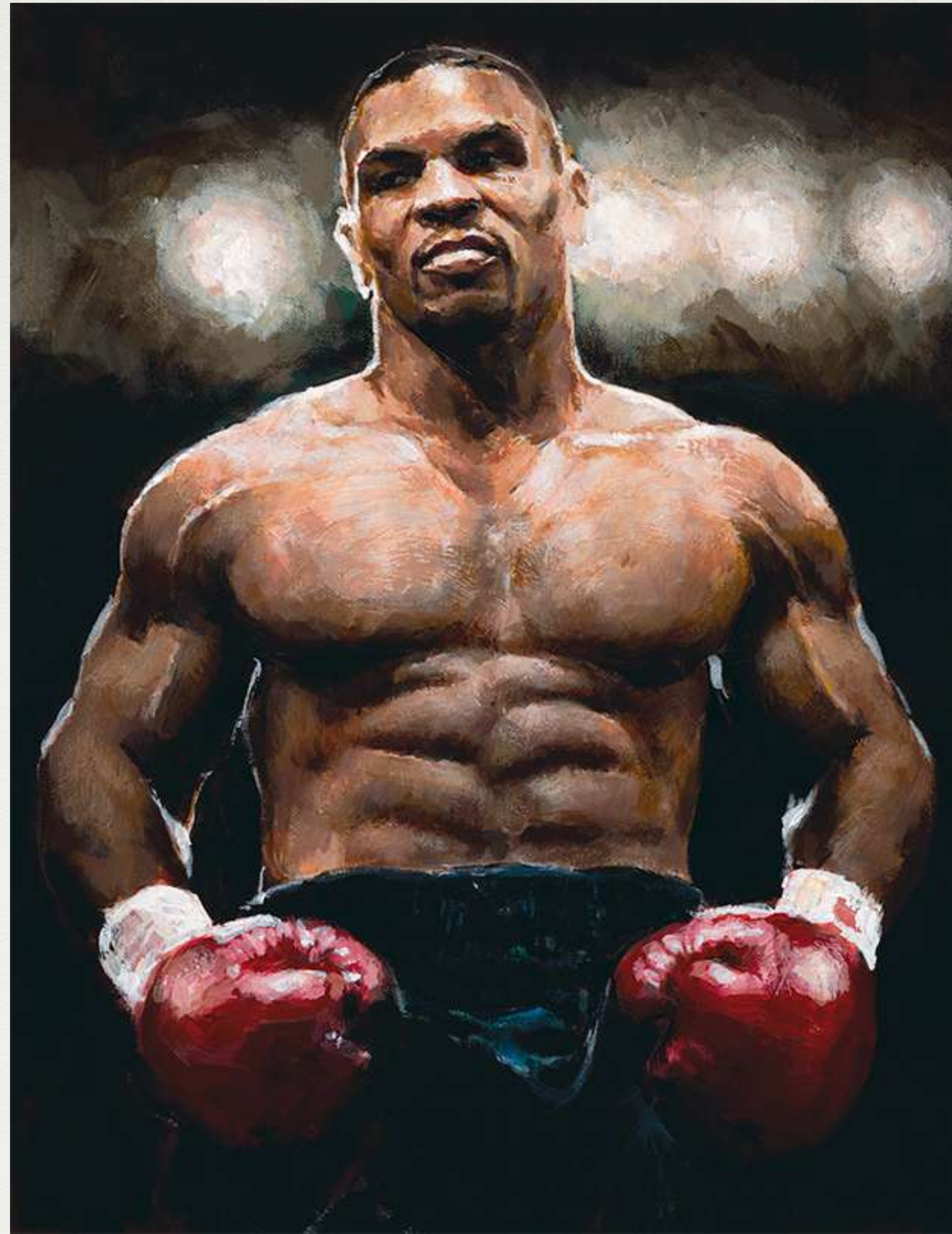
Maradona

Maradona

Diego Armando Maradona (born 30 October 1960 – 25 November 2020) was an Argentine professional football player and manager. Widely regarded as one of the greatest players in the history of the sport, he was one of the two joint winners of the FIFA Player of the 20th Century award. An advanced playmaker who operated in the classic number 10 position, Maradona's vision, passing, ball control, and dribbling skills were combined with his small stature, which gave him a low centre of gravity and allowed him to manoeuvre better than most other players. His presence and leadership on the field had a great effect on his team's general performance, while he would often be singled out by the opposition. In addition to his creative abilities, he possessed an eye for goal and was known to be a free kick specialist. A precocious talent, Maradona was given the nickname El Pibe de Oro ("The Golden Boy"), a name that stuck with him throughout his career.



Fabián with Maradona



Mike Tyson

Mike Tyson

Michael Gerard Tyson (born June 30, 1966) is an American professional boxer who competed from 1985 to 2005, and is scheduled to compete once again in 2024. Nicknamed "Iron Mike"^[4] and "Kid Dynamite" in his early career, and later known as "The Baddest Man on the Planet", Tyson is regarded as one of the greatest heavyweight boxers of all time. He reigned as the undisputed world heavyweight champion from 1987 to 1990. Tyson won his first 19 professional fights by knockout, 12 of them in the first round. Claiming his first belt at 20 years, 4 months, and 22 days old, Tyson holds the record as the youngest boxer ever to win a heavyweight title. He was the first heavyweight boxer to simultaneously hold the WBA, WBC and IBF titles, as well as the only heavyweight to unify them in succession. The following year, Tyson became the lineal champion when he knocked out Michael Spinks in 91 seconds of the first round. In 1990, Tyson was knocked out by underdog Buster Douglas in one of the biggest upsets in boxing history.



Fabián with Mike Tyson



Pep Guardiola

Pep Guardiola

Josep "Pep" Guardiola Sala (born 18 January 1971) is a Catalan professional football manager and former player from Spain, who is currently the manager of Premier League club Manchester City. Guardiola is the only manager to win the continental treble twice, the youngest to win the UEFA Champions League, and he also holds the records for the most consecutive league games won in La Liga, the Bundesliga and the Premier League. He is considered to be one of the greatest managers of all time.



Fabián with Pep Guardiola



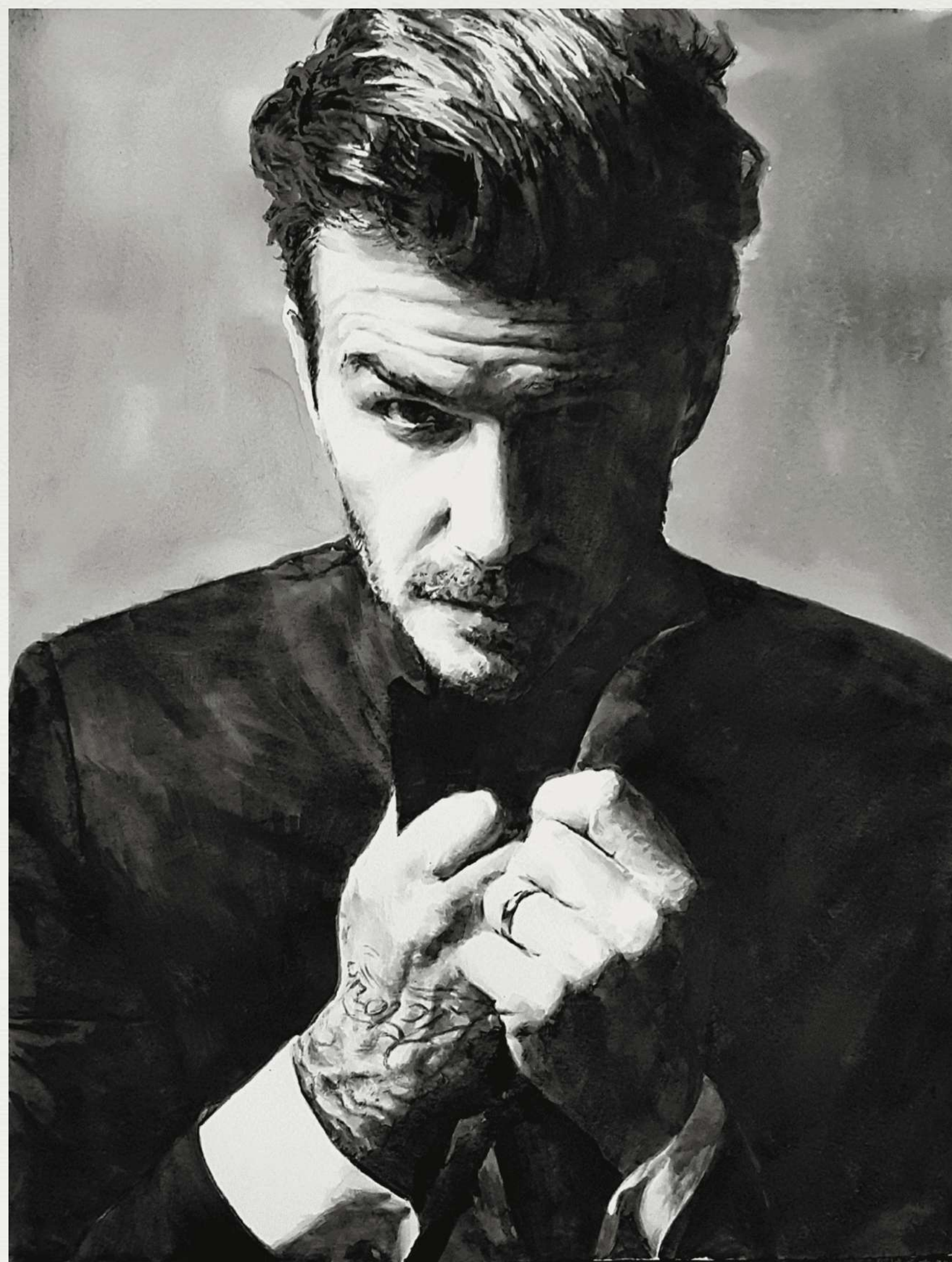
Kun Aguero

Kun Aguero

Sergio Leonel Agüero del Castillo (born 2 June 1988), also known as Kun Agüero, is an Argentine former professional footballer who played as a striker. He is regarded as one of the best strikers of all time and one of the greatest players in the history of the Premier League. He played for Manchester City from 2011 to 2021 and is the club's all-time top goalscorer and holds the record for most Premier League hat-tricks, with 12.



Fabián with Ken Aguero



David Beckham

David Beckham

David Robert Joseph Beckham OBE (born 2 May 1975) is an English former professional footballer, the president and co-owner of Inter Miami CF and co-owner of Salford City. Primarily a right winger and known for his range of passing, crossing ability and free-kick taking, Beckham has been hailed as one of the greatest and most recognisable midfielders of his generation, as well as one of the best free-kick takers of all time. He won 19 major trophies in his career, and is the first English player to win league titles in four different countries: England, Spain, the United States and France.



Rafael Nadal

Rafael Nadal

Rafael Nadal Parera (born 3 June 1986) is a Spanish professional tennis player. Nadal has been ranked world No. 1 in singles by the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) for 209 weeks, and has finished as the year-end No. 1 five times. Nadal has won 22 Grand Slam men's singles titles, including a record 14 French Open titles. He has won 92 ATP-level singles titles, including 36 Masters titles and an Olympic gold medal, with 63 of these on clay courts. Nadal is one of only two men to complete the Career Golden Slam in singles. His 81 consecutive wins on clay constitute the longest single-surface win streak in the Open Era.



Fabián with Rafael Nadal



Roger Federer

Roger Federer

Roger Federer (German pronunciation: (born 8 August 1981) is a Swiss former professional tennis player. Federer was ranked world No. 1 in singles by the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) for 310 weeks, including a record 237 consecutive weeks, and finished as the year-end No. 1 five times. He won 103 singles titles on the ATP Tour, the second most of all time, including 20 major men's singles titles (among which a record eight men's singles Wimbledon titles, and an Open Era joint-record five men's singles US Open titles) and six year-end championships.



Lewis Hamilton

Lewis Hamilton

Sir Lewis Carl Davidson Hamilton MBE HonFREng (born 7 January 1985) is a British racing driver competing in Formula One, driving for Mercedes. Hamilton has won a joint-record seven Formula One World Drivers' Championship titles (tied with Michael Schumacher), and holds the records for most wins (103), pole positions (104), and podium finishes (197), among others. Hamilton has been credited with furthering Formula One's global following by appealing to a broader audience outside the sport, in part due to his high-profile lifestyle, environmental and social activism, and exploits in music and fashion. He has also become a prominent advocate in support of activism to combat racism and push for increased diversity in motorsport. Hamilton was listed in the 2020 issue of Time as one of the 100 most influential people globally, and was knighted in the 2021 New Year Honours.



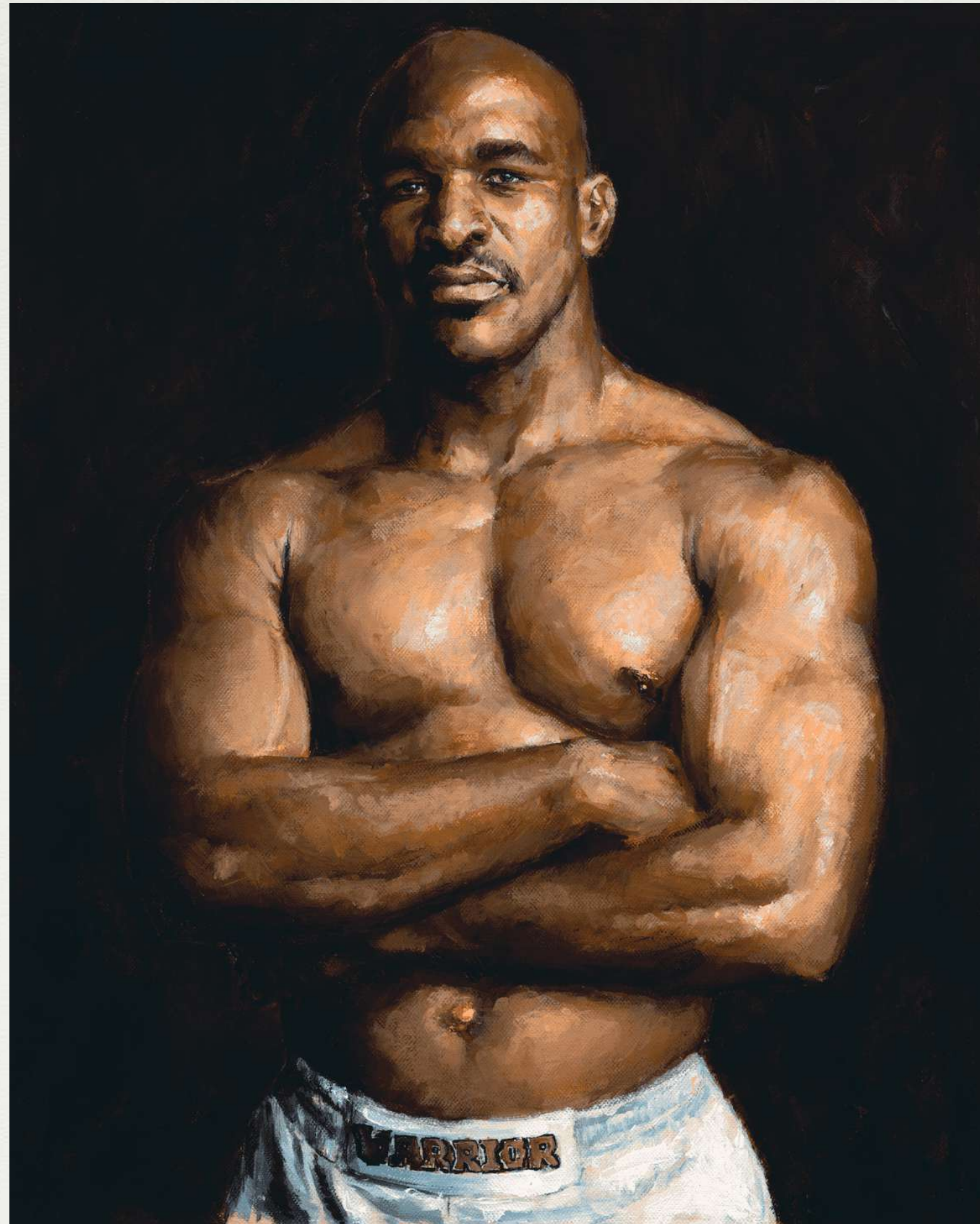
Zlatan

Zlatan

Zlatan Ibrahimović (born 3 October 1981) is a Swedish former professional footballer who played as a striker. Ibrahimović is known for his acrobatic strikes and volleys, technique and ball control, as well as his physical dominance. He is regarded as one of the greatest strikers of all time and is one of the most decorated footballers in the world, having won 34 trophies in his career. He has scored over 570 career goals, including more than 500 club goals, and has scored in each of the last four decades.



Fabián with Zlatan



Evander Holyfield

Evander Holyfield

Evander Holyfield (born October 19, 1962) is an American former professional boxer who competed between 1984 and 2011. He reigned as the undisputed champion at cruiserweight in the late 1980s and at heavyweight in the early 1990s, and was the only boxer in history to win the undisputed championship in two weight classes in the "three belt era", a feat later surpassed by Terence Crawford, Naoya Inoue and Oleksandr Usyk, who became two-weight undisputed champions in the four-belt era. Nicknamed "the Real Deal", Holyfield is the only four-time world heavyweight champion, having held the unified WBA, WBC, and IBF titles from 1990 to 1992, the WBA and IBF titles again from 1993 to 1994, the WBA title a third time from 1996 to 1999; the IBF title a third time from 1997 to 1999 and the WBA title for a fourth time from 2000 to 2001.



Fabián with Evander Holyfield



Alessandro Del Piero

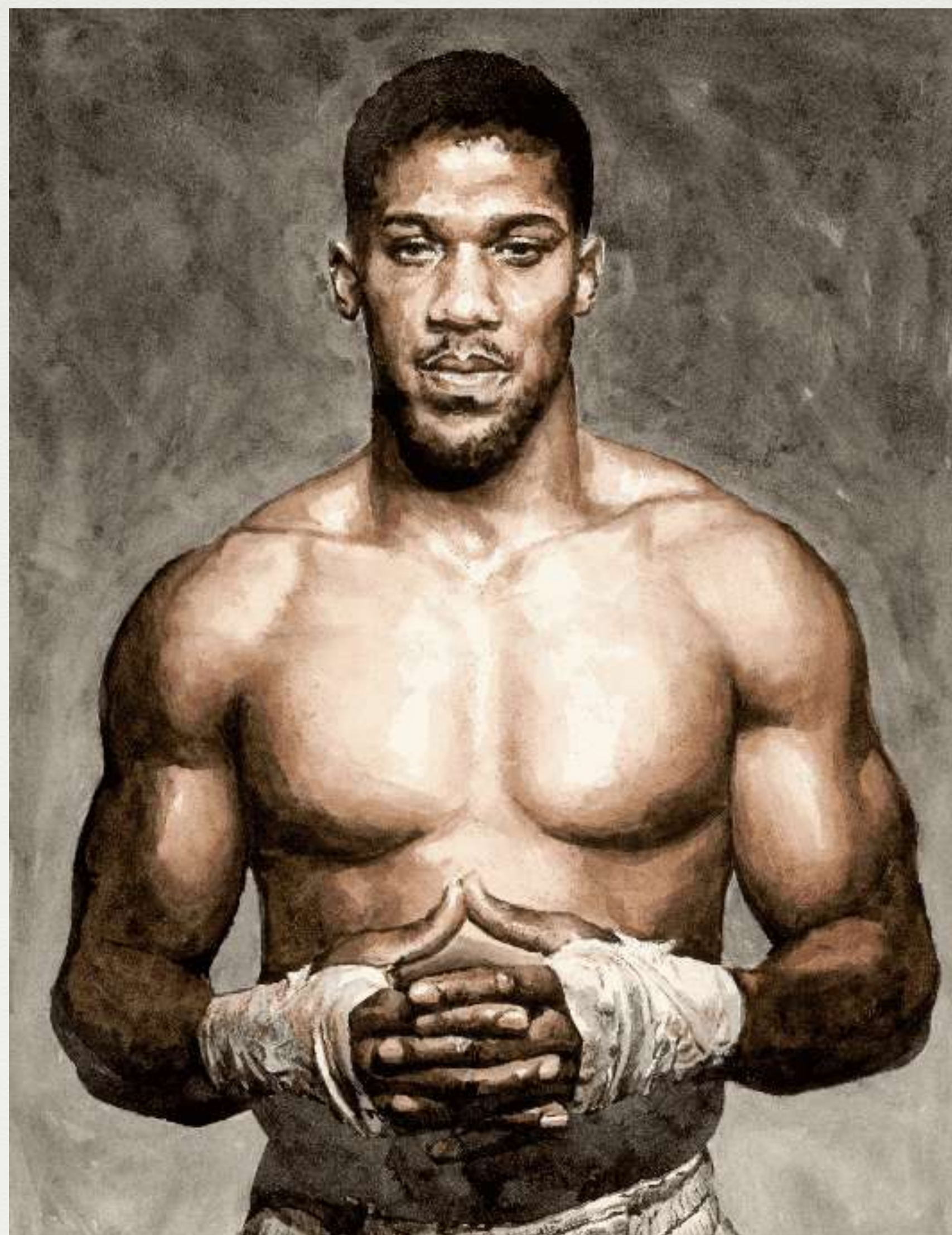
Alessandro Del Piero

Alessandro Del Piero Ufficiale OMRI (born 9 November 1974) is an Italian former professional footballer who mainly played as a second striker, although he was capable of playing in several offensive positions. Since 2015, he has worked as a pundit for Sky Sport Italia. A technically gifted and creative supporting forward who was also a free-kick specialist, Del Piero won the Serie A Italian Footballer of the Year award in 1998 and 2008 and received multiple nominations for the Ballon d'Or and FIFA World Player of the Year.

Fabián with



Fabián with Alessandro Del Piero



Anthony Joshua

Anthony Joshua

Anthony Oluwafemi Olaseni Joshua OBE (born 15 October 1989) is a British professional boxer. He is a two-time former unified world heavyweight champion, having held the World Boxing Association (WBA) (Super version), International Boxing Federation (IBF), and World Boxing Organization (WBO) titles twice between 2016 and 2021. He also held the International Boxing Organization (IBO) title twice during that reign. At regional level, he held the British and Commonwealth heavyweight titles from 2015 to 2016.



Ronaldhino

Ronaldhino

Ronaldo de Assis Moreira (born 21 March 1980), commonly known as Ronaldinho Gaúcho is a Brazilian former professional footballer who played as an attacking midfielder or winger. Widely regarded as one of the greatest players of all time, he won two FIFA World Player of the Year awards and a Ballon d'Or. He is the only player ever to have won a World Cup, a Copa América, a Confederations Cup, a Champions League, a Copa Libertadores and a Ballon d'Or. A global icon of the sport, Ronaldinho was renowned for his technical skills, creativity, dribbling ability and accuracy from free-kicks, his use of tricks, feints, no-look passes and overhead kicks, as well as his ability to score and create goals, all prominent characteristics of his early-age background playing futsal. He is known by the nickname "O Bruxo" ("The Wizard").



John Terry

John Terry

John George Terry (born 7 December 1980) is an English professional football coach and former player who played as a centre-back. He was previously captain of Chelsea, the England national team and Aston Villa. He is regarded as one of the greatest defenders of his generation, as well as one of the best English and Premier League defenders ever. Following his departure from Chelsea, Terry spent one season with Aston Villa in the Championship before retiring, ultimately losing the 2018 Championship play-off final. He returned to Aston Villa a few months later as assistant manager to Dean Smith. The side went on to win the 2019 Championship play-off final to be promoted back to the Premier League. Terry left the role in July 2021. When Smith joined Leicester City as manager in April 2023, he appointed Terry to his coaching staff once again.



Fabián with John Terry



Pochettino

Pochettino

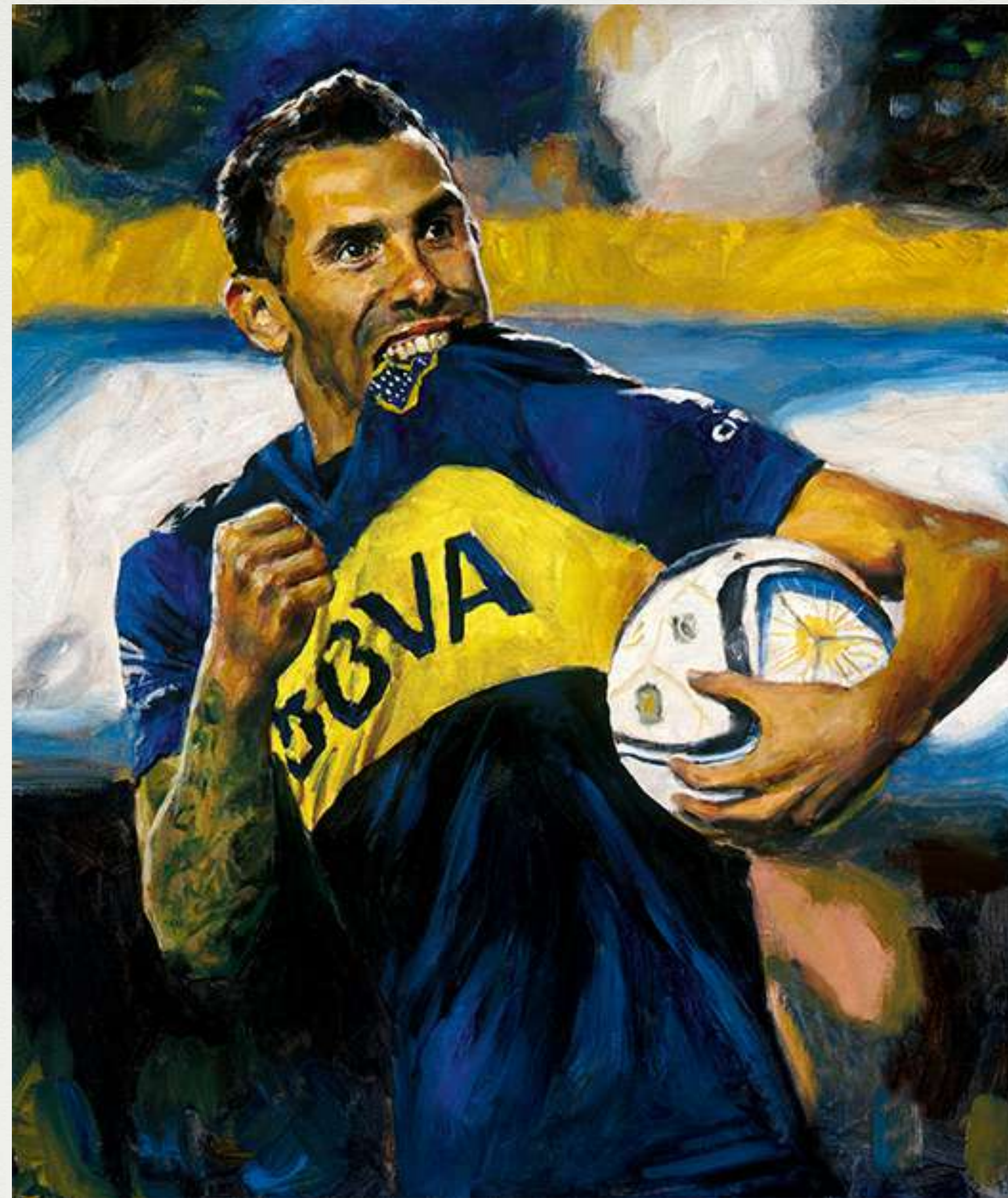
Mauricio Roberto Pochettino Trossero (born 2 March 1972) is an Argentine professional football manager and former player who most recently managed Premier League club Chelsea. After retiring as a player, Pochettino began his managerial career at Espanyol in 2009. He left the club in 2012 after poor results and financial disputes. In 2013, he was appointed at Premier League club Southampton, leading them to an eighth-place finish that season - equalling their highest ever Premier League finish. He signed for Tottenham Hotspur in 2014 and finished as league runners-up in the 2016-17 season, as well as leading the club to their maiden Champions League final. In 2021, joined Paris Saint-Germain, where he won the Ligue 1 title and Coupe de France but left one year later. He spent one season as head coach at Chelsea between 2023 and 2024.



Sergio Ramos

Sergio Ramos

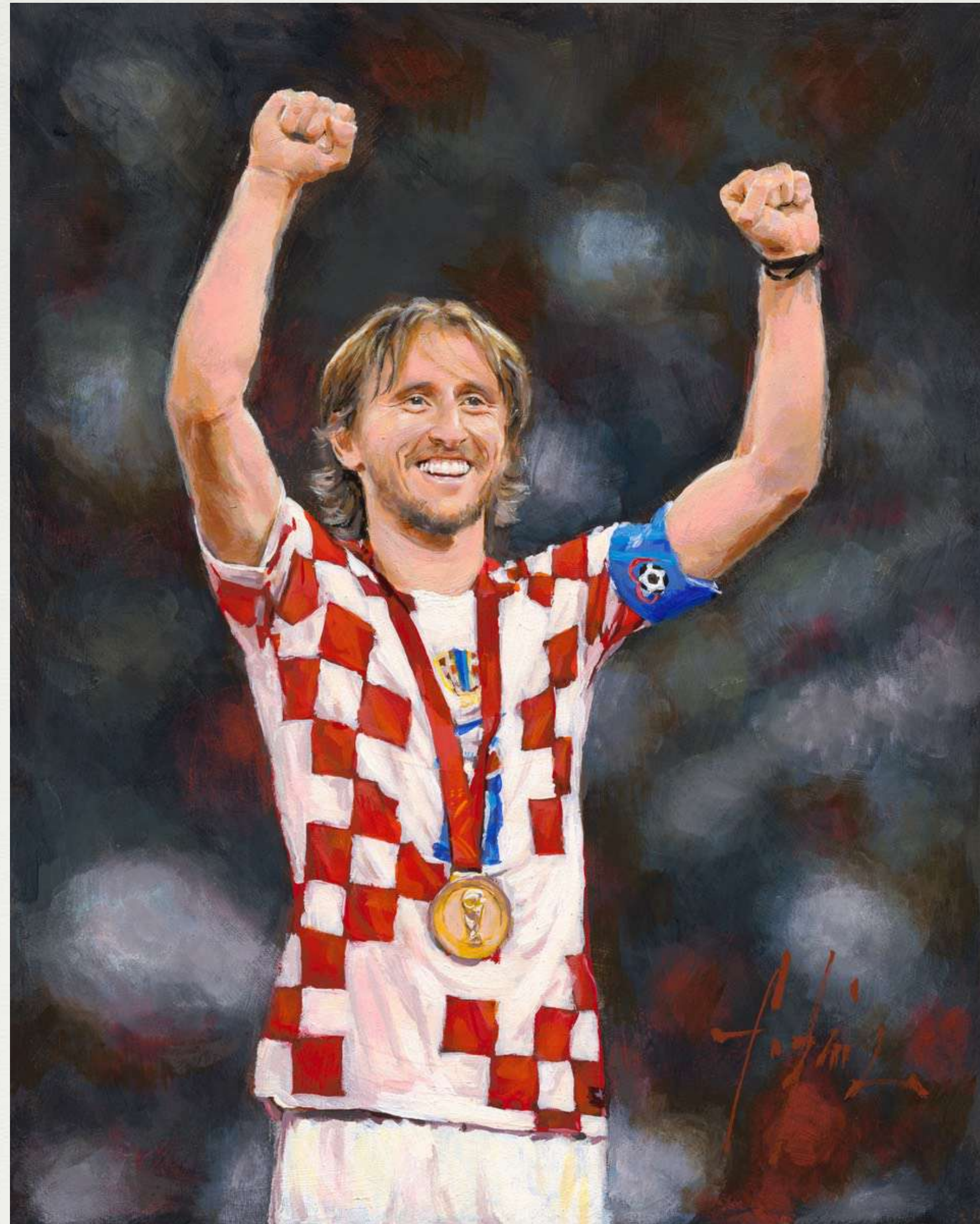
Sergio Ramos García (born 30 March 1986) is a Spanish professional footballer who plays as a centre-back for La Liga club Sevilla. Widely regarded as one of the greatest defenders of all time, he is known for his tackling skills, aerial abilities and leadership. He is best known for his sixteen seasons spent playing for Real Madrid, winning four UEFA Champions League titles whilst at the club, along with two UEFA European Championships and the 2010 FIFA World Cup with the Spain national team.



Carlos Tevez

Carlos Tevez

Carlos Alberto Tevez (born 5 February 1984) is an Argentine professional football manager and former player. A quick, tenacious, powerful, hard-working and dynamic forward in his prime, Tevez was capable of playing as a striker, as a winger, as a supporting forward, or as an attacking midfielder. He was recently the head coach of Primera División club Independiente. He has also been named in the South American Team of the Year three times. He announced his retirement from professional football in June 2022.



Luka Modric

Luka Modric

Luka Modrić (born 9 September 1985) is a Croatian professional footballer who plays as a midfielder for La Liga club Real Madrid and captains the Croatia national team. He plays mainly as a central midfielder, but can also play as an attacking midfielder or as a defensive midfielder. He is widely regarded as one of the greatest midfielders of all time, and as the greatest Croatian footballer ever. In March 2021, he went on to become the country's most capped player in history. Furthermore, he has been named Croatian Footballer of the Year a record twelve times between 2007 and 2023.



Fabián with Luka Modric



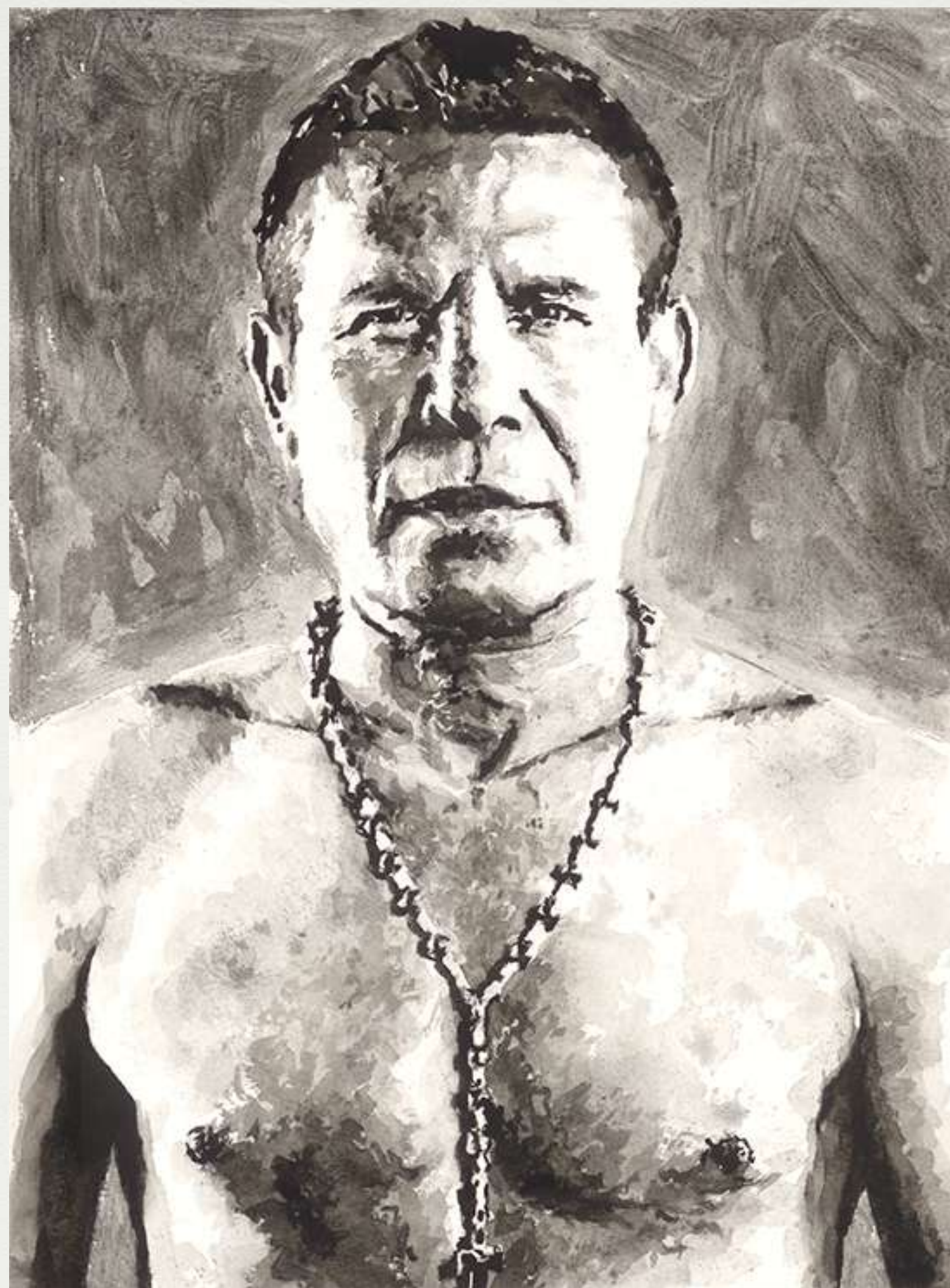
Angel Di Maria

Angel Di Maria

Ángel Fabián Di María (born 14 February 1988) is an Argentine professional footballer who plays as a right winger or attacking midfielder for Primeira Liga club Benfica and the Argentina national team. Known for his technical ability, agility, passing, and vision, Di Maria is widely regarded as one of the best players of his generation. Furthermore, Di María has also been part of the Argentina squads that have reached three different Copa América finals, in 2015, 2016 and 2021, winning the last one, with him netting the only goal in the final to win Argentina their first trophy in 28 years.



Fabián with Angel Di Maria



Julio Cesar Chavez

Julio Cesar Chavez

Julio César Chávez González (born July 12, 1962), is a Mexican former professional boxer who competed from 1980 to 2005. A multiple-time world champion in three weight divisions, Chávez was listed by The Ring magazine as the world's best boxer, pound for pound, from 1990 to 1993. During his career he held the WBC super featherweight title from 1984 to 1987, the WBA and WBC lightweight titles between 1987 and 1989, the WBC light welterweight title twice between 1989 and 1996, and the IBF light welterweight title from 1990 to 1991. He also held the Ring magazine and lineal lightweight titles from 1988 to 1989, and the lineal light welterweight title twice between 1990 and 1996. Chávez was named Fighter of the Year for 1987 and 1990 by the Boxing Writers Association of America and The Ring respectively.



Fabián with Julio Cesar Chavez

Press & Critics

“I HAVE BEEN DEEPLY PRIVILEGED TO HAVE ENJOYED BOTH A PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIP AND A PERSONAL FRIENDSHIP WITH HABIAN FOR MANY YEARS NOW, AND IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN QUITE CLEAR TO ME THAT HE IS SOMETHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY.

FOR AN INDIVIDUAL TO HAVE ANY ONE OF HIS EXTRAORDINARY ATTRIBUTES, THE RAW ARTISTIC TALENT, THE IMMENSE PERSONAL CHARM, OR THE FASCINATING AND ROMANTIC BACK STORY, WOULD BE ENOUGH TO SET THEM APART, BUT FABIAN COMBINES ALL THREE IN ONE CHARISMATIC AND INCOMPARABLE WHOLE.”

HELEN SWABY - CEO DEMONTFORT FINE ART - UK

"HIS APPEARANCES NEVER FAIL TO ATTRACT AN AUDIENCE FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY, FROM FIRST TIME BUYERS TO SERIOUS INVESTORS, ADORING FANS AND MORE THAN A HANDFUL OF CELEBRITIES. BUT ALTHOUGH HE HAS A FORMIDABLE REPUTATION IN THE ART WORLD, HIS WARM PERSONALITY HAS MADE HIM A GREAT FAVOURITE WITH ART LOVERS, AND HE IS ALWAYS HAPPY TO POSE FOR PHOTOGRAPHS...HE IS A LOVELY GUEST.”

DORSET ECHO NEWS - UK

"I HAVE MET MANY ARTISTS IN MY TRAVELS, AND I HAVE MANY ARTISTS FROM THE OLD MASTERS THAT I ADMIRE. HOWEVER, I HAVE TO HONESTLY SAY THAT I HAVE NEVER MET IN ONE SINGLE PERSON, THE QUALITIES THAT FABIAN MANIFESTS AS AN ARTIST AND HUMAN BEING, THE ART WORLD IS FULL OF SHARKS, SADLY, IT SEEMS, THAT SOMEWHERE ALONG THE WAY A LOT OF PEOPLE FORGET WHY THEY STARTED THE JOURNEY, THEY FORGET TO LOVE, TO LIVE FOR WHAT THEY BELIEVE. BUT FABIAN PEREZ IS A GREAT EXAMPLE OF PASSION AND LOVE FOR WHAT HE DOES, AND THAT RESTORES AND HEALS THOSE AROUND HIM."

ART TOUR INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE - VIVIANA PUELLO - CURATOR - WRITER

"WE ARE EXCITED TO HAVE AN ARTIST WITH SUCH UNDERSTANDING AND ENTHUSIASM FOR LATIN CULTURE AND ITS MUSIC. FABIAN'S TIMELESS ARTWORK IS FILLED WITH ENERGY AND EMOTION. HIS PIECE BRINGS A HUMAN ELEMENT TO OUR ARTWORK, A FIRST IN LATIN GRAMMY HISTORY, THAT CAPTURES THE EXCITEMENT AND PASSION OF THE PERFORMER. IT IS A PERFECT FIT FOR CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF THE LATIN GRAMMY AWARDS."

THE RECORDING ACADEMY - PRESIDENT GABRIEL ABAROA

FABIÁN PÉREZ IS A CONTEMPORARY ARTIST TO LEAVE HIS FOOTPRINTS IN HIS OWN LIFETIME, LIKE FEW ARTIST IN THE WORLD."

Carmela Russo - President of the Academy of Italian Artists

"FABIAN PEREZ, AN ARTIST WHO HAS REACHED A GLOBAL LEVEL OF RECOGNITION AND NOW SERVES AS A ROLE MODEL TO GIVE HOPE AND INSPIRATION TO OTHER ARTISTS. ONE OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL AND CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED ARTISTS TO HAVE EMERGED FROM ARGENTINA DURING THE LAST DECADES"

ART & CULTURE - LA NAZIONE



Tango en San Telmo



Tiffany at Las Brujas

Autobiography
Fabián Pérez

I was born in Campana on November 2nd, 1967. Campana (known as Argentine Manchester) is a city considered to be in the inland regions of my country, Argentina.

Back in my childhood, the capital city, Buenos Aires, seemed to be a lot more unreachable. I have wonderful memories from that period, like when we used to fish under the shade of the weeping willows, on the precarious piers on the shore of the Parana River. We were very young, and we would make our own lines and sinkers.

One of the other things I loved were the “inter-neighbourhood lightning soccer championships” with cash prizes. We had such an amazing team! The money from the first tournament we won was enough to buy new team shirts. The second time we came out as champions, the team bought me a blue goalie shirt. On Sundays, after the tournament was over, we would gather, our bodies still aching, to talk for hours about the most fascinating plays.

I also liked to watch the weddings over at the gipsy encampments close to my home. They would last for days. They would begin with music and end in chaos. I always admired how they were content with so little. This inspired me to think that what one has is not as important as compared to who you are enjoying it with. When I paint “nómades or gipsies,” it is nothing more than a return to those memories.

I had a healthy and simple childhood. The only reason I would not want to be a kid again is due to the phobia I had about school. My first day of class was a disturbing experience for me. As soon as my mother went home, leaving me alone with the teacher and my classmates, I fled running.

They caught up with me a block away. Dirty from having tackled me to the ground, my mother and my older sister took me back and pushed me past the school doors as the principal, a robust woman, pulled me in the same direction. Even though I left their legs bruised from all the kicking, I had no choice, but to go into class.

We finally came to an agreement, concocted by me, that lasted through almost the whole first grade. I would stay in class as long as my mother or my sister were sitting at the back of the room.

I would make up all sorts of lies in order to skip school, like saying one of the teachers had died and the school would be closed because everyone was going to the funeral, and things like that. I would always create these unbelievable stories on my way to school, and turn around half way there to return home to tell them to my mother.

I started drawing, like any kid, when I was very young. I would take it from my mom, who was very artistic. When I was 7 or 8, I would do portraits for those who came to our home and asked me to. Once at school, when I was in 5th grade, they asked me to draw the faces of 20 national heroes to pin up in the classroom and for different projects.

When I was 10, my mother signed me up for a drawing class, but it coincided with the month of the Soccer World Cup of 1978, so I attended a couple of classes, and then I dropped out so I could watch the matches on TV.

I continued to draw and paint with watercolours, tempera, etc. I would grab any material and manage to paint, even with synthetic enamel.

My dad was the owner of different nightclubs at different times, and he organised clandestine gambling rings. I remember we would cover the windows of our house with blankets to prevent the light and noise from being noticed in the wee hours of the morning.

The gamblers would park their cars away from the house so as to not arouse any suspicion. And I, surrounded by a thick cloud of cigarette smoke, would sell hot dogs and offer them 'mate' in exchange for tips.

Las Brujas, a title you can see in many of my paintings, was one of my father's nightclub located approximately 4 km out of downtown. He had different dealings. The ones he made the most profit from were the betting pools and illegal gambling. He was a 'banker' with another partner.

My dad was kidnapped once by another gang that was trying to intimidate him. He showed up three or four days later, very hurt, after being hit repeatedly with the butt of a gun. It was a very heavy environment. The bankers would fight for the territories.

I never saw my father rush. He always walked unfazed, with a cigarette in his hand, at a tired, yet proud pace, moving his hips like Richard Gere. My friends would tell me, 'Your dad looks like a movie star.' He had a thousand tales, but I never heard him tell them; he was very reserved, and never bragged. The only thing he ever shared with me was that the song that was playing on the radio one day we were together reminded him of a time in which he was detained at a police station, and as he was being hit with a prod, he would overhear the lyrics 'Movete, chiquita movete...' "Move, little girl move".

He also hosted dice games in the back room of a huge bar that had a bowling alley, close to the train station that was on the limits of downtown Campana. He had some guys that would do some sort of promotion to bring players, and at the end of the night, he would give them a commission.

During a gambling match at the same bowling place, the police showed up at dawn, and as everyone ran scared in every direction, my dad took advantage of the chaos to walk calmly among the police officers towards the entrance.

When he got to the street that was filled with police cars, he saw my third sister coming out of the club and walking down the street with her girlfriends. My dad locked arms with her and walked off with them.

During those times, it was normal to hear my mother telling close friends about the things that had happened the previous night. Like when the police would come at dawn and my mother would distract them with questions before opening the door to give my father enough time to jump the back fence and flee through the neighbouring homes.



Study for Whiskey at Las Brujas II



Gathering at Las Brujas



The Old and the New Boss



The Singer

After my father's death, my aunt confessed to me that, from a very young age, he would get arrested, and they tortured him a lot. He dropped out of school in the 4th grade, to go out to the streets with a cart to sell the vegetables that his mom would grow in a small orchard. After his father left him, his mom, and his sister, who was 4 years older than him, he returned to Spain, never to be heard from again. By the time he was 18, my father would organise gambling and soccer bet pools for some "capitalists.."

He would take the train back and forth from the capital so as not to leave his mom alone. As soon as he was able to save some money, he decided to do the same in Campana, and later expanded his dealings to the surrounding areas.

My father was a guy with a different kind of aura. Always dressed in a suit. At home, he would wear the same thing, but in a more casual way. He would roll up his sleeves and sometimes even the hem of his pants, and he would step on the back of his shoes to use them as slippers.

The only time I saw him wearing sneakers was on one Sunday, when we spent the whole day by the creek. After that, he couldn't even walk from the pain in his calves. Even though he dropped out of school at a very young age, he had beautiful calligraphy. He would mix the upper and lower cases, the cursive with block capitals, with a strong stroke, and he would end his written words with neglect.

He was very smart. His friends would tell me he would defend himself without an attorney during trial. When he was not around, we would call him 'the crazy one,' not because of his personality but because of his choices.

He was always very sweet to me; he never hit me or even raised his voice. I just remember one time when I got mad about something and I told him, 'You are not my dad.' He told me to sit on a chair; he grabbed a long ruler, sat beside me, and after hitting the table with the ruler a couple of times, he asked me, 'Who's your dad?' and I answered immediately, still keeping the rebellious look on my face, 'you.'

He asked me the same question three times, and three times I gave him the same answer. Satisfied, he dropped the ruler, gave me a big hug and a kiss, and left.

Eventually, he decided to get out of that life. He left the bank to his lifelong friend Lito and even left him his identity, because soon they started calling the new banker by the same name they used to call my old man, “el Pituco Perez” (“Posh Perez”).

Shortly after that, he went into a deep depression. For over two years, he would only leave his room to use the bathroom. Only my mother would go in with food, until Dr. Keglaz, a forensic M.D. who was a friend of my dad, was able to make him feel partially better using hypnosis, and he finally left his room. He slowly got better, until he was back to his old self, but calmer. Later, my mother’s absence would take him back to that dark part of his soul.

With great sacrifice, I started high school, and I dropped out that same year. It wasn’t for me. I have never considered my childhood a hard one, but it was definitely a peculiar one.

The death of my mother was a low blow because it was very unexpected. It came at a time in which we had finally achieved some sort of harmony between my parents and I (my sisters were already married and out of the house). After being hospitalised, my mother was waiting to be released, but when they arrived to pick her up, she had already passed. It was really hard to see my father wandering about the house, going to great lengths to appear all right, and to accept the fact that I would never see her again.

My mother was the main pillar of everything, and despite their epic fights, she was the perfect complement to my father. Edua Herreria was Brazilian, from Sao Paulo, her personality was as strong as it was kind, and she was as good as she was talented. She had dark skin, and black eyes and hair. She had something of the witch doctor about her, and everyone that knew her would come over to tell her their problems, or simply to chat. And she would listen to them with patience and compassion. She loved movies, and had a big collection of books related to them. She knew how to do everything: she would cut my hair, make my clothes, etc., and she was good at everything she did.



Fabián Pérez in his L.A. studio

In Brazil, she was an elementary teacher, and she spoke Japanese because her school was located in a Japanese colony in Sao Paulo. But her strong suit was gothic calligraphy and drawing, both done with quill and Chinese ink. My father met her because he heard there was a Brazilian, “Chiara Texeira” (my mother’s stage name), that sang at a cabaret in the city of Maschwitz. He went to see her, and he invited her to sing at his cabaret. She accepted, and shortly after they became a couple, and she became the “Madam” of the place in addition to her singing. Even though she was the one who would impose the rules at our house, she was very sweet to me, like my father.

When I was really young, she would take me to the movies every Sunday from 5 to 9 (even to watch the rated ones not suitable for children), and afterwards we would go to have pizza and talk about the film. We were very good friends, and we spent long hours talking and drinking together; that was my favourite part of the day, and from the look on her face, you could tell it was hers as well. Because she read so much, she was very well informed and educated; she knew everything. When she died, she left an emptiness that was impossible for us to fill.

Both my childhood and my parents have had a deep influence on my work, since I paint a lot about their way of life, their personalities. I also recreate them from my point of view, as real people. And from the point of view I had as a child, when I would see them like superheroes, everything was more fantastic and grandiose.

After three undesirable years for a teenager, my father committed suicide. He was extremely sad and was never able to overcome the loss of his partner, ‘the Brazilian’ as he endearingly called her. One afternoon in January, I was waiting for him outside our house to go to the doctor, and I heard a shot. I ran inside and saw him lying on my bed. Once the funeral was over, I left the house and never went back.

My friend and instructor, Renato Graziosi, offered me his office at his karate school so I could sleep while we spruced up a small shed in the back of the property. When we were done, I brought in my clothes, threw a mattress on the floor, and painted a mural on one of the walls. My friends and I christened the place by naming it ‘la pocilga’ (the pigsty).

I started practicing karate when I was 16, shortly after losing my mother. To me, what makes a difference is not the style, but the teacher. A lot of people have instructors for different things, but few are lucky enough to have a teacher, a guide, or someone you can believe in and follow unconditionally. I had the great fortune of meeting Master Higa, an exquisite person who became my mentor. He also studied architecture and the fine arts. He was the one who pushed me to take painting more seriously. One of the things I most admire about him is his capacity to adapt. He can be talking to a group of beginners or teaching a philosophy course in front of hundreds of people. He has the capacity to go up or down in levels with ease, compassion, humility, and the same enthusiasm. That is a quality of the great.

Karate is like any art since it focuses on teaching by concentrating on studying to improve the technique through practice and repetition, until you reach the point where you don't think about it any longer; you just do it instinctively and intuitively, focusing in the moment, without thinking of the outcome, without expectations or concepts. That is the moment in which art really flows. That is the moment in which a good karate expert, a guitar player, or a painter becomes an artist. It's the same with painting. You want to develop the idea but not execute it. You are not focused on the final result; you are expressing yourself with each brush stroke. You fuse and become one with the subject and your tools. The result blooms as a consequence. It is void of intention or thought, but filled with spirit. That is art for me, and it is created in sublime moments.

Art is the expression of emotion through the mastery of a technique. Karate, as opposed to other forms of art, also has a martial arts code of ethics, of attitude towards others and towards life in general, and that is something that is not taught in any other school of art.

I practiced karate with devotion and unconditional surrender, and I harvested self-confidence, conviction, determination, and security.

Many months would go by before I was able to close my eyes and not see my father, feel his presence, or smell his cologne. I would spend my nights walking around the empty town, trying to postpone going to bed to avoid that experience all over again.

After a while, the karate school was closed, and so I took to sleeping wherever night caught me, usually at my friend Fernando Caceres' place. According to his family, their dog would get sad when I showed up because I would eat the scraps that would have otherwise been his.

Despite everything, whenever I was able to get a moment of mental clarity, I would look at things in a positive way. I had many doubts about my future, but I would take that as a challenge. All these events made me grow up very fast, and I was hopeful that something good would come out of it. I never felt like a victim.

Argentina influenced me greatly through my early life experiences with my family. It is where I first learned to figure things out, where I met amazing people that helped me a lot, and a lot of friends that had the chance to show me how much they loved me during very difficult times for me. Afterwards, through travel and experiences, I kept meeting very interesting and good people. My personality was later polished and matured, which is why I consider myself an Argentine cultivated abroad.

Not long after my father's incident, with not much to lose and unparalleled freedom, I decided to leave the country. I felt I needed to be reborn. I would get caught in a feeling of anguish, uncertainty, and emptiness when it came time to say farewell to friends and acquaintances whenever I made those drastic changes between cities, countries, and even cultures. It is hard to describe that feeling when you return the keys to your place and are left empty-handed, not knowing where you are or where you are going to end up next. The good part was that when I would get to an airport, train station, or bus station, I would leave everything behind me, and I would feel as though it was the beginning of a new adventure.

I arrived in Italy, following my karate master. I was surprised by the order and cleanliness compared to Argentina. I felt people were more civilised and better mannered; they didn't argue about everything, and they did not talk behind each other's backs. There was also respect among friends, and the weaker ones were not made fun of. I would watch people leaving work and going off to dinner or for drinks with friends; on the weekends they would leave for the mountains or the coast, and it was strange not to hear the usual, 'I can't, I don't have money.'



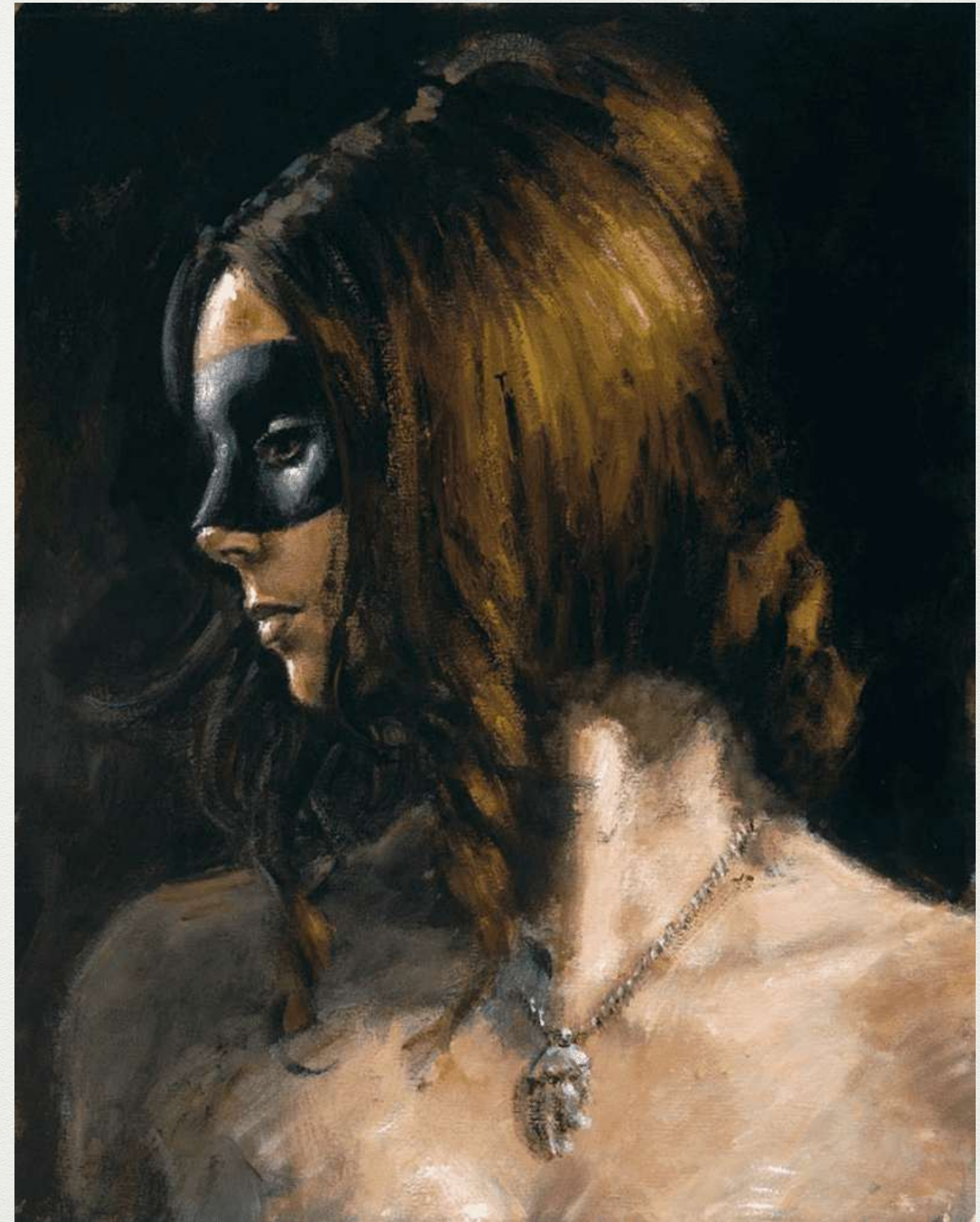
Venetian Nights



Dream in a Dream



Venetian Courtesans



Courtesan of Venice

My friends from Argentina and I were lower-middle class. When I was 13 or 14 years old, I had white Topper sneakers that I wore to play soccer all day, and I would paint them with white chalk to go out at night. I used to spend the evening shaking chalk powder off the hem of my pants.

It took me more than 10 years to go back to Argentina. For some time now, I have been going back more frequently, and I always make time to stop by Campana to visit my family and friends.

I went through many cities, but the two I spent the most time in were Padova, Italy, close to Venice, which for me is the most beautiful city in the world to visit, and Los Angeles, California, where I now live with my family. I always wanted to live as an outsider so as to never stop discovering new things. I used to think that whenever I lost the ability to be surprised, it was time to change and go to a different place. I did not want to get involved in the day-to-day routine of each place. Now that I have put down roots in Los Angeles, it is harder to move with a conservative wife and children who don't want to leave their friends or their school, but I am good and happy with that.

Almost every place and its people leave you with something. Now I laugh about the things I went through, like when I worked on the island of Sardinia at nightclubs, dancing on top of speakers. I never liked to dance; I felt ridiculous, but they paid very well, and I really needed the money.

One day I woke up with a particularly bad hangover and decided to go to a bar to read *La Gazzetta dello Sport* (I was a fan of Fiorentina del Bati at the time). I thought I was alone, aside from the bartender who looked like a vampire princess, but I noticed a group of young men looking at me from a corner, whispering and laughing.

I was used to people reacting that way about me because I tended to dress out of the norm, leaning towards a bizarre sense of style. I did this on purpose—to provoke and to prove that appearances were not important. I knew that as soon as I engaged in conversation, we would end up as the best of friends. This time was no exception. I greeted the group, and one of them came over. When they found out I worked at the nightclub, the other 4 or 5 followed. The islanders normally appear to be closed-up and not very intense, but once they open up, they will give you the shirt off their backs.

We ordered some local appetisers along with Campari, and I realised that the test to prove my manhood and resistance was starting. This was very common among young people, especially in small towns. Between empty glasses and laughter, we ended up bonding like brothers; they invited me to the donkey race that night, which was an annual affair in one of the mountain towns. I told them I couldn't and that I had to work, but I immediately thought that if the rest of their friends drank like they did, it would be an excellent deal because I also got a commission for every drink sold at the nightclub. So I suggested, 'Unless I go with you and after the race you help me hand cards out and we bring a group to the club,'

We watched the donkeys race; they would run around the streets without a jockey. I'm still not sure if there was a winner since all they did was run around in any direction except the finish line. Later, I arrived at the nightclub, very drunk and with sixty guests. They kept on drinking until they were all asleep in the parking lot.

When I lived in Abano Terme, I would go everywhere on a bike. One day a man from Africa asked me in very bad Italian where the Aliper (a big supermarket) was, and I responded also in bad Italian that it was about 4 kilometres away. I asked him how he was planning to get there, and he said, 'Run.' I took pity on the young man and told him I would take him. Minutes later, as I breathed and sweated heavily from the physical effort, I saw our reflection on the shop windows throughout the city. I was standing on the pedals as he sat on the bike rack with his legs open wide.

Another day, in Montegrotto Terme (next to Abano), I needed to clear my mind, so I called a friend and asked him if he would go with me on his scooter to the Monte de la Madonna; he, quite shocked, said yes. I left at 1 p.m., running through the zigzagging streets that led to the convent at the top of the hill.



Fabián Pérez in his L.A. studio

At one point I saw an African, who watched me from the back seat of a car, squished between other passengers, and as if he could understand my suffering, he kept nodding his head and looking me with a serious frown as if saying, 'Go on, go on, you can do it'.. That was one of the few times I felt really understood. Two hours later, we arrived at the convent; according to the scooter's odometer, we had covered 19 kilometres.

I remember a situation in Milan where they had hired me for a New Year's Eve party at a very exclusive karaoke bar. My job was to greet the guests, walk them to their table, and make sure everyone remained calm. Before the event, there was a dinner for ten couples that were friends of the two owners, and they invited me to join. As I heard them talk, there was obviously some sort of competition to see who had more money. One of the owners pulled his arm towards the centre of the table and, showing off his watch, said, 'I put on the Cartier to celebrate the New Year.'

They would also talk about the make and model of their cars. And the women would talk about the designer labels on their dresses and purses. I only had enough money to get back home. Later, when the party started, a lot of people came; everyone was happy and singing along. The last guests left at dawn, and the owners and the ten couples were the only ones left again.

They decided to go out for breakfast, and they told me to go with them so they could pay me for my work. On the way there, the other owner was talking to me about his black Corvette and asked me what I thought of being around all these very rich people, being that I was not used to seeing that where I came from (as I thought to myself, 'this guy thinks we still don't know what fire is').

Before going in, he gave me half the money they had promised me and told me, 'Sorry, the night was not very good for us.' I did not like that one bit, but since I had been referred to them by a great friend of mine, I didn't say anything. When I went in, I saw everyone sitting down, and I sat down. My blood was boiling in the only free space available at the head of the table. When the meal was over, the waiter brought the bill, and since everyone was talking and having fun and no one was making any attempt to grab it, the waiter brought it to me, who was the only one in silence and looking at the scene. I paid it with every penny I had earned. As soon as the waiter left, each of them looked at me, surprised, and thanked me kindly, but not one of them offered to pitch in.

After six years in Italy, with a heavy heart, I decided to leave. The first time I saw the Colosseum in Rome, I was overcome by emotion. The second time, I was still smiling admiringly. The third time, I was in my own thoughts and went by on a scooter without even noticing. I was too Italianized—too much in the system. I accepted the invitation to go to the first world tournament of karate in Okinawa, and I took everything I owned, knowing I would not return.

Once in Naha, Okinawa, I met an Englishman who lived in Tokyo, who before returning to his city of residence offered me a job at a pub and a place to sleep. I liked the idea, and a few days later I was at the airport of Narita, Tokyo, I called him from there. Maybe because he was drunk or because of his English and my Spanish, we did not quite understand each other, and the call from the public phone ended. I called him many more times, but he never answered. So, I stayed at the airport that had closed at midnight, with no place to go.

I tried to get some rest sleeping on the chairs until they reopened the doors. Then I took a train, but I couldn't read because everything was written in kashi (symbols) and people did not understand me when I tried to ask for information, so I got down at the stop that had the most traffic. From that station, I tried calling the Englishman again from another public phone. I thought throughout maybe the next day, with a clearer mind he would answer, but he didn't. So, I decided to wander the city, until I met a Spanish girl who helped me a lot. Sometime after, as I strolled down Roppongi Avenue, where half the people are Japanese and the other half are foreigners, I walked into an Irish pub, and who did I find there? Right! The Englishman! He apologized and invited me to a beer.

Although my stay in Hong-Kong was short, I had another experience that paved the way for another radical change.

I went to Dai-O, a small island on the outskirts of the city where their livelihood comes from fishing. I saw a bunch of small markets that were a toasted ochre color from the dried fish, flat or bloated, that they used for everything, even medicine. I walked alongside the shore of the never-ending channels that looked like muddy ditches. The tide was so low that they didn't have any water, and people would live in a very precarious way, living in huts made of canvas or plastic, that were only a meter and a half tall. Adults and children, all crouching and sitting without any type of comfort. Some of them cooking, others playing cards, etc., but everyone would look at me with a respectful and friendly smile, their faces and attitude exuded an appreciation for life.

That made me think that the most basic things we need to live are minimal in comparison to what we want. Normally, we as human beings are like “spoiled, rich kids”, who don’t appreciate what we have, who take everything for granted, who always cry because they want more. They teach us that the word “conformism” is a bad word and that to give up is for the weak. They also teach us that we have to possess, fight, conquer, and always win, even during a simple conversation; that we have to achieve a goal to be happy or to find peace. And we don’t realize that we are already born at the finish line, and a lot of times those very teachings are the ones that keep us from feeling that joy and peace. Sometimes it takes a lot more courage to be content with simple things, to attain peace and happiness without having to struggle, in an easier and more spontaneous way, through humility and comprehension.

I think that when we learn to accept one another and to accept things and life the way they are, we will not need to ask God for miracles. We are so used to feeling that it’s not worth it if there is no drama or struggle that most people live worried about other people’s business. They don’t do anything about it, but they feel altruistic just for thinking about them, as they lose sight of the life that surrounds them. A lot of people think it’s God’s responsibility because we were taught as kids that he was all-mighty, but they don’t realise that God is not known for “spontaneous miracles” and that all the wonderful things that we ascribe to the “Creator” were created through evolution, through infinite cause and effect, in a single and continuous universal karma.

We are at this moment an important part of this never-ending process because at every moment we have the opportunity to choose and change certain paths, whether it is with small individual actions or as a group. A very basic example would be: I am driving on the motorway, and my only apparent choice is to go in the same direction as everyone else. However, I can choose to go faster or slower; I can jam up traffic, cause an accident, get out of the road until traffic clears, etc. I can make all sorts of decisions, and almost all of them will impact others, because even if we have the freedom to make our own choices, these choices will partially impact the rest of “the whole.”

Life is our opportunity. Many times, we lose it in projections, focusing our consciousness on what could happen or what happened and “unconsciously” paying the least attention to the present moment, just enough to walk or drive without crashing. Nevertheless, I find it fascinating to watch people; it’s puzzling. We are privileged; we have the freedom of choice and the capacity to create and co-create life, food, climate, etc. And once we realise our capacity and potential, we will be even more superior.



Sensei Higa



Samurai



Geisha with Mirror



Japanese Girl

It was in Italy when my teacher, Oscar Higa, after seeing the drawings I would do at dawn, suggested I should take art more seriously because I could have a great future with it. He was amazed by the proportions, the expressions, the details, etc., because I would draw from my imagination without copying from anywhere. He knew how hard that was because he studied fine arts. I followed his advice, and I signed up for various classes so I could compare myself to others and figure out what level I was at. I won a few prizes and gained confidence that way.

Shortly after, I moved into a friend's hotel. When there were rooms available, I would sleep in comfortable beds, and when there were not, I would sleep in stock rooms, offices, etc. He also offered me a game room to use as a studio, since clients did not use it. To have a place to be able to paint really inspired me, and I painted a pretty sizeable collection for an amateur. So, the hotel guests started visiting my "atelier." Until one day one person came over; she worked at a gallery in Germany, and after looking at one of my watercolours, she asked me how much it was. Even though, to that point, I had never thought about pricing my work, I told her, '35.000 liras.' And she bought it! From that moment on, I started to think that if I could sell one, I could sell more, live from it, and paint as much as I wanted. That's how I started selling, but it wasn't until I came to the U.S. that I got my big break.

In 1997, I arrived in Los Angeles. I was passing by and decided to stay. I did not speak English; I had no friends or any point of reference. After walking for miles (LA is enormous), I found a cheap hostel in Venice Beach. I stayed there. There were 8 people per room, and it was \$14 a night.

A week later, there was an opening for a cleaning position at the hostel, so I traded in my work for accommodations. During the afternoon, I would go to the beach, to Santa Monica, Hollywood, and Beverly Hills, looking for work. I would speak to everyone to improve my English and my quality of life.

At the hostel, I got promoted to night guard, and I changed to working 3 days a week. Since at night there wasn't much work or anyone looking over me, I found the time to paint. I started on December 25th and did not stop. I wanted to have as many paintings as I could in case I found a place to exhibit them. In the meantime, I worked doing various things, including washing dishes, busing tables, clapping for TV shows, and working as an extra on movies and videos. One day in Hollywood, I met a Spanish actor who told me, 'You have the look to be an actor. You have a good face and a big nose.'

I had never really noticed my nose before, but when I looked in the mirror, I had to agree. That's when I learned that there are very obvious things we say, do, or subconsciously carry that can go unnoticed until someone points them out. Among all those odd jobs, one day I was hired by Universal Studios to work as a vampire for a month during Halloween. When I got there, I was impressed by the organisation and professionalism. With my job, I was able to leave the hostel and rent a basement for myself. It was a very small place with only one bed and a table, but I was still able to paint on the shared patio.

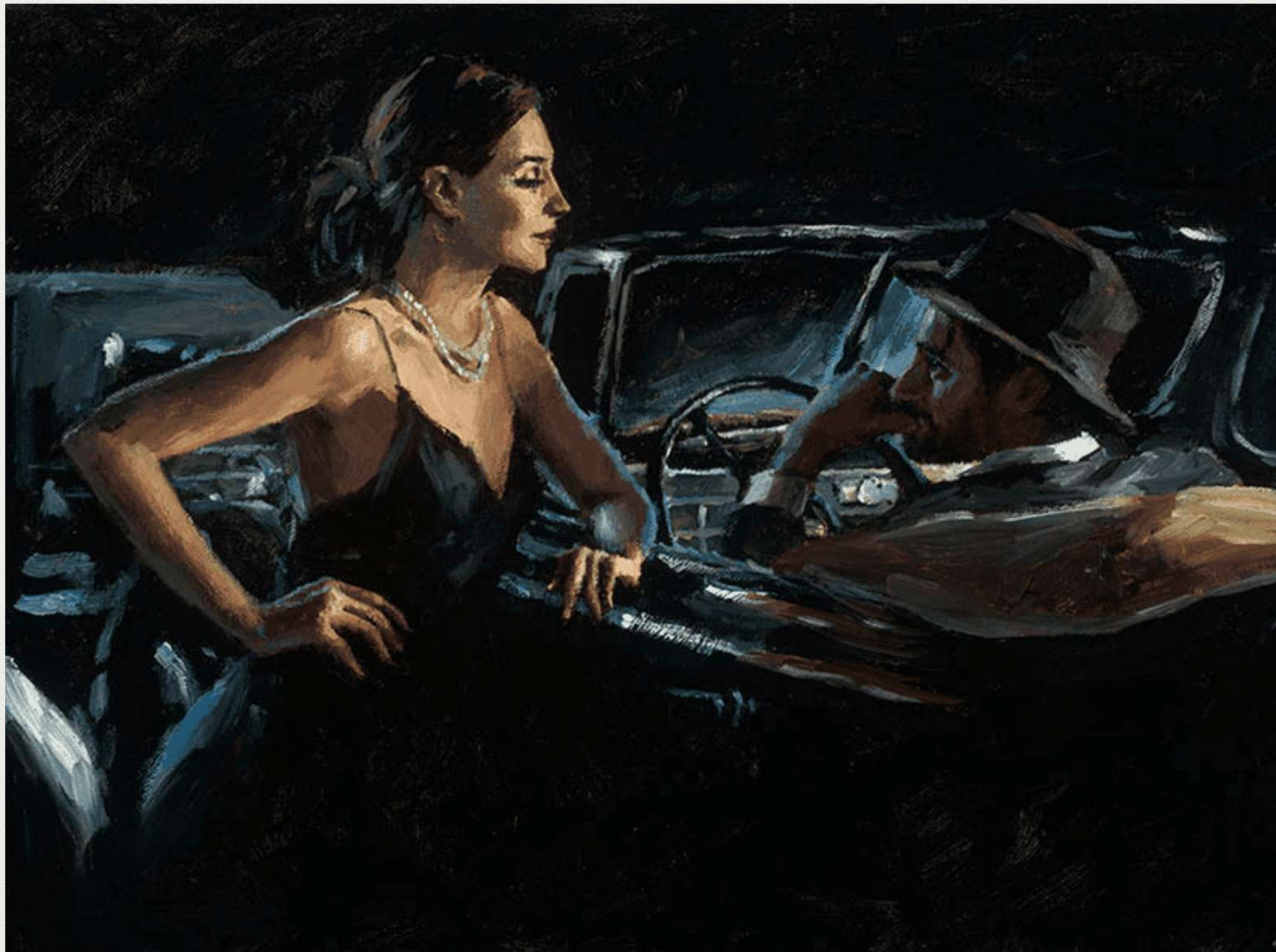
Los Angeles seemed very superficial at first, but after a while, I was able to find that it was more sophisticated. It has groups of very varied people. I can feel understood by many friends and acquaintances, all different kinds of artists and foreigners, and we have a lot of similar stories and backgrounds. In other places, it would happen to me that when I said I was an artist, they would tell me, "Okay, but what do you do for work?" Here, there are very talented people who could afford to live anywhere in the world, but they choose to be in L.A.

With time, I was able to leave the basement and rent my own apartment. I remember one afternoon I was coming back home, and the firemen had blocked the street where I lived. I left my car in the corner and walked to my building, which was filled with firemen who had just put out a fire. All my neighbours were on the sidewalk. When they saw me, they looked at me with sorrow. Immediately, one of the firemen in charge explained to me that because of a short circuit in the apartment below, my apartment had caught fire. All I saw when I entered the apartment was black; everything had burned down or was ruined by the smoke and ashes. Even a collection of my paintings that had been showcased at the Florida Museum in Coral Gables and that I had refused to sell despite the insistence of the art dealer. At that moment, I understood that I had to let my art go, because once one creates something, it doesn't belong to the author any longer; it belongs to the universe.

I would have to start again; everything was burned. I was looking for a new place, creating new paintings, getting new clothes, and leaving in my heart the few memories in photos I had of my family.



Fabián & Lucy



The Late Night

Once I was able to finish a collection of 20 paintings, I started exhibiting wherever I could, at bars, coffee shops, and restaurants, and I would invite everyone I could. I remember that I would always go to talk to a great friend from Barcelona, Victor, a virtuoso on the Spanish guitar, and I would share with him my new ideas. I was in a transition process between abstract style and Shodo (a Japanese style of painting), and one day I told him, 'I'm going to show you what I'm working on, but, please, you have to give me your honest feedback, ok?' 'OK!' he said.

A little while before he got to my apartment in Santa Monica, I painted a terrible eyesore. When he arrived, I held up the painting with both hands so as to show it to him and hide my face since it was hard not to laugh. And I asked him, 'Do you like it?' And he responded, 'Yes!' and I busted out laughing—even though I thought my little trick had been a bit cruel—and I learned I could not count on my friends for feedback. Since then, every time I show Victor a new painting, he always finds something to critique. I think it's just in case I'm playing another trick on him.

It was at one of those bar exhibits at a Japanese bar coffee shop in West Los Angeles that I met an Argentine painter, who, after a very good critique, asked me if I wanted to work as his assistant. That's how I started earning enough to be able to live off my art, and from there I was hired for lots of commissions, portraits, and murals.

I was already an established artist when I did an exhibit at Mauro's Café in West Hollywood, frequented by many movie stars and musicians. I did really well. A few days later, a guy called me at 2 a.m. and left me a voicemail showing a lot of interest in a piece called *Dancer in Black*. We met a couple of days later. I sold him the painting in a parking lot, and I asked, 'Someone mentioned you are a musician. Is that true?' 'Yes,' he answered, 'my name is Scott Wyland; I sing with Stone Temple Pilot,' and he continued saying, 'you will be very famous one day.' We shook hands, and he left with the painting on one arm and his son on the other.

It made me very sad in December 2015 when I got a text from my friend Phil Campbell (guitarist for Motorhead) saying, 'One of your first collectors passed away' along with a photo of Scott.

I was in Mauro's Café when I met my first art publisher back in 2002, and we became partners. After travelling a long way together, the turns of life led us to follow on separate sides.

In the same period, I met Lucy, who would later become my wife, the mother of my children, and my unconditional partner in the course of my career. For her, nothing is impossible. If I wish for something, she will try to make it possible for me. Lucy is my favourite model; she inspires me very much because of the love I feel for her and because, as the years go by, we are growing in the same direction. We find more beautiful things in common and more important than the years before. We are maturing together and making our love grow to a higher level.

With my first appearance at the Art-Expo (NY) 2004, I was approached by many galleries around the world, including Demontfort Fine Art from England. That year, I really established myself as a strong contender in the art world.

Later, I would be further established by my pieces for the 2009 Latin Grammys, the 2010 and 2012 Winter Olympics in Vancouver and London, respectively, the trophy for the MVP of the 2011 American Cup (won by Leo Suarez), and my collaboration with Fundación Leo Messi in the same period, among others. I was also the recipient of the 2014 Artist of the Year award from L'Accademia degli Artisti d'Italia, and Art Tour International magazine gave me the great honour of sharing the award for Contemporary Master of Art alongside Fernando Botero, who is in my opinion the greatest painter alive.

Years ago, I used to have more of a nightlife, and I painted at dawn when I returned home. Bars really inspired me, and the ones I was a regular at, they would bring me my favourite drink, some napkins, and a candle to light up what I would write or draw. Now I have changed my habits, and I coordinate things around my family's schedule.

I get up really early in the morning, and in that deep silence I make my “mate” (Argentine popular tea) like a ceremony, then I start reading and writing. At 7 a.m., I prepare breakfast for my small children while my wife gets them ready for school. They leave, and I go to my studio, which is at the back of my house. I return to the house to have lunch with my wife, and I go back to my studio (as long as there is no important soccer match playing on TV). At 3 p.m., the five of us meet again, and we spend the rest of the day together. I can spend days without leaving the house, even though I still go out some nights.

Now my life revolves around my kids; they are everything. The three of them are very artistic. Camila is really into art and music. Tiago is the sportiest in the family but still has his artistic side, and Santino is musical and enjoys comic drawing. We spend a lot of time together as a family. I wish they would never grow up, but that is the course of life; we have to enjoy them while we have them near.

On weekends, we usually go to Tiago’s soccer game in the morning, and afterwards, we barbecue with our friends. We have a simple and happy life. If there is no game, we go to the ranch we have in Kern County, in the city of Tehachapi. The kids love it there, even if we usually have no phone signal or wi-fi connection.

Even though I want to keep getting better as an artist, my priority is to be a good father.

It took many years for my wheels to travel on a sandy road. Along the way, I have left behind many things and so many others that I have lost. But the wheels keep turning, and I can see the road straight ahead of me, and I know that road will lead me to many new experiences.

My future in art is as complex as finalising a painting. I see it, and I realise it: it is not a process that takes hours; it is not by the metre or a race against time. Intuitively, I feel it; it is a movement, an energy. I do not know what the result will be, but I will take it to the limit so that it becomes a masterpiece. I hope you enjoy this book and that the message of my paintings reaches your heart. Fabian Perez, April 2.

“The importance of creating with deep emotion is above the technique which is being considered and utilised. It is critical for me to become one with the subject.”

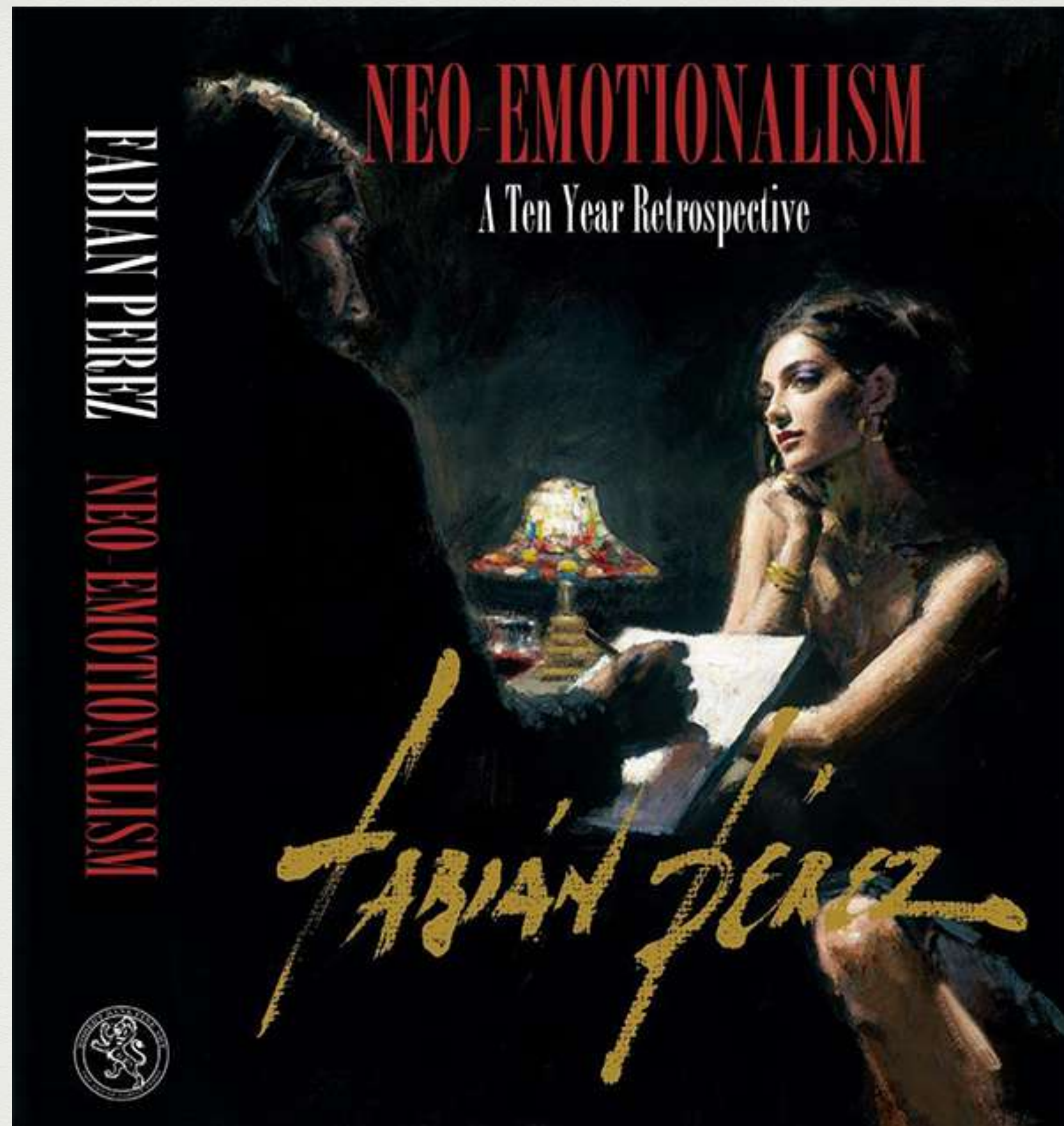
Fabián Pérez

A stylized red ink signature of the name 'Fabián Pérez' with a registered trademark symbol (®) at the end. The signature is written in a fluid, expressive cursive style.

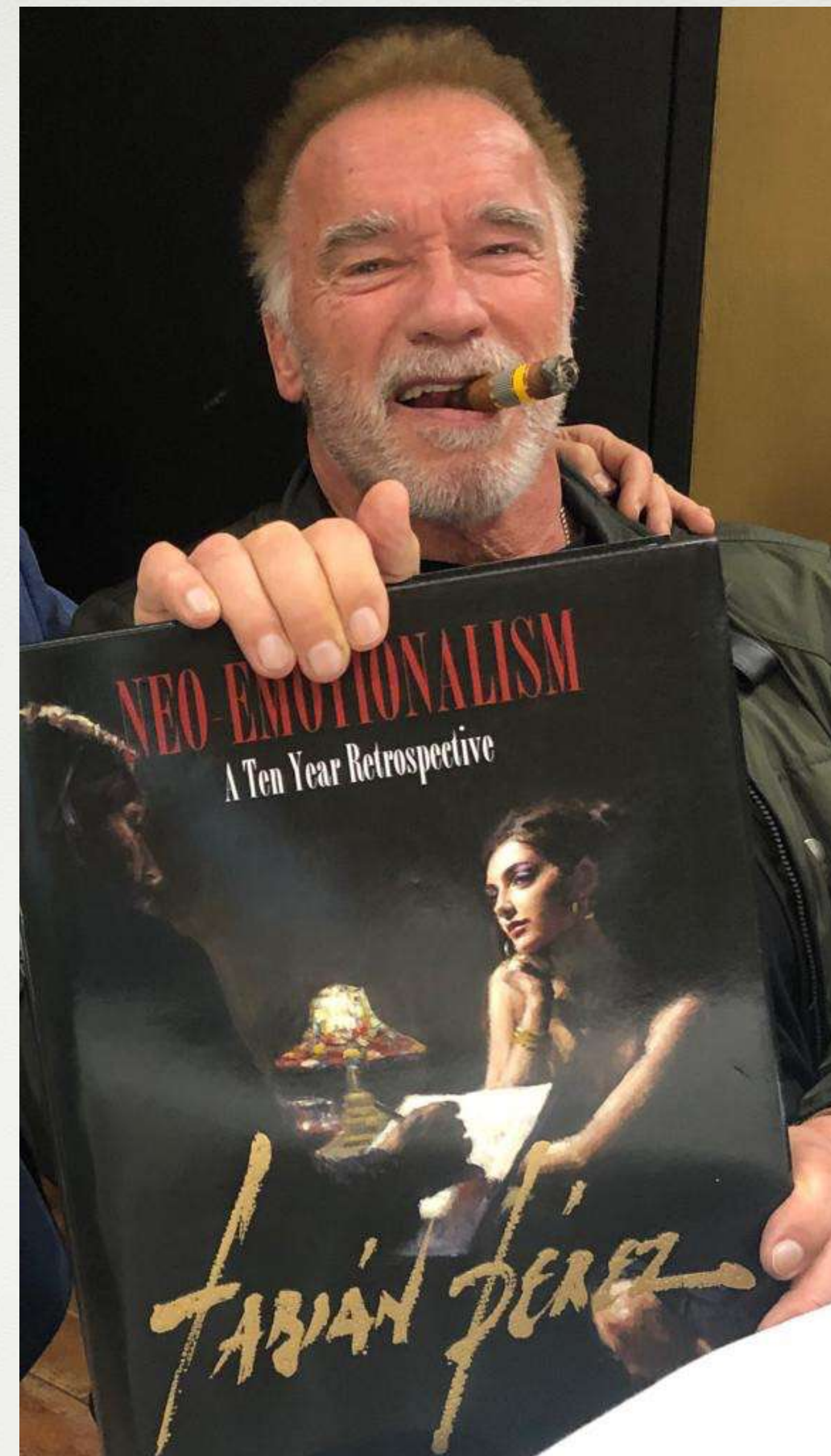


Fabián Pérez Self Portrait

Neo-Emotionalism Fundamentals



Neo-Emotionalism Book Cover



Arnold Schwarzenegger

Neo-emotionalism is the name I have chosen to describe the style of art I use for my creations.

I choose to paint figures because I consider them the most challenging form, but they are also accessible and can be assessed with critical awareness by the viewer regardless of their levels of knowledge.

It is a risk to create figurative art because one error can make a masterpiece fail. One false stroke can destroy the harmony of the whole; in other words, the success of the work is defined by the skill of the artist.

Beauty, in every sense of the word, is my inspiration and, in consequence, is the common element in every subject I create.

The importance of creating with emotional integrity is more important to me than the technique that is being considered and utilised. It is critical for me to become familiar with the subject.

Limiting a piece of art to just one category is difficult, as art should cross the boundaries of genre classification. My intention is not to depend on a rigid idea but rather to explore many ideas within the fabric of flexible feelings.

Neo-emotionalism will be recognised by the artists who, after creating their work, will simply feel liberated, and by the viewers who find they can feel the creations in their hearts.

Art happens in that sublime moment when the soul expresses itself through the skills of the artist.

Last Lines
by
Fabián Pérez

The person, the artist, and his work are inseparable. A piece of work that does not define its creator is not art. Art is genuine, because the artist strips himself of masks and armour, leaving his personality exposed. I am very introverted and extremely sensitive, an endless dreamer. I live a grand romance with life, with lots of intensity. I can see that I am living!

I believe God is much bigger than the common idea people have of him, and he makes the world more beautiful with the wonders of nature, and an artist's duty is to make it beautiful through his work. I always choose to show the good side of life, because I consider it to be the greatest. I see adversity as an opportunity to learn, mature, and grow.

I have never judged or analysed either my technique or my subjects. When I work, I interpret what I see by exploring the essence of my creativity. I consider a painting "good" when it is genuine, and when it portrays the emotions of the artist through his work. Art should not be defined by its meaning, but by what it expresses. Many times, we don't know what an artist wants to say in his work, yet we have a personal response to it, which may be very strong. I would like my work to be appreciated by people with or without art knowledge.

For a long time, I did not want to define my way of painting, so as to not limit myself, but a few years ago, I felt the need to create my own movement, and I called it Neo-Emotionalism. The importance of creating with emotion goes beyond the technique used.

For me, it is essential to paint figures because I consider it riskier and more challenging, since it exposes the artist's ability, and a mistake can ruin a painting that could have been a masterpiece.

Beauty, in every sense of the word, is my inspiration and, in consequence, is the common element in every subject I create. My intention is to create a style that is not rigid, that can be recognised by the artist, who, after finishing his work, feels liberated; and by the viewer, who feels the creation in their heart.

I would describe many artists whose work I see as inventors because they are more preoccupied with creating something that no one has created before than with sincere emotional expression. Often, they have good ideas, but their work doesn't show extraordinary ability. It is easier to shock people with creative ideas than with beauty.

It is very hard to define why certain paintings are more successful than others. I believe it's a combination of elements: the subject or object, composition, colours, and technique. But ultimately, I think the most fundamental part of it is the intention, intensity, and energy that the artist puts into it. I am convinced that energy travels from the canvas to the viewer. And you can feel it even though it's not tangible.

Beauty is synonymous with harmony and truth, with purity and simplicity, and it is everywhere. We need to free the concept of beauty from our own limitations, it is more than just a sunrise or sunset. Of course, beauty can be found in a life of peace, because you can only be at peace when you intuitively know that you are in harmony with life, with a superior and single truth.

I normally paint individuals by themselves, because I find them closer to their own personal reality that way. When they are alone, no-one is worried about acting in a certain way or pretending; they don't have a "way of being" that they need to protect; they are not worried by other people's comments. In that moment, I could see their essence shine. That's where beauty resides for me, not in the physical appearance. I use that physical attractiveness to capture the attention of the viewer, but I always try to go beyond that, with the goal of painting a body to portray the soul. That is the main idea of neo-emotionalism.

For a long time, I was the kind of person who thought that everything felt "too tight." I always wanted to be somewhere other than where I was. Looking for something better. But I realised that when I painted, I would go into a sort of trance, and I felt good, without expectations, living intensely in the present, and I didn't need anything else. My mind would go quiet, and the search was over. That's why I felt better there than anywhere else. Here is when Neo-Emotionalism comes to life.

Today, I live most of the time much more at peace. In a book by Nisargadatta Maharaj, I read: Do not you realise that the search for happiness is what makes your life miserable?" and I felt as if I had just been slapped. I closed the book, and I couldn't stop laughing. I changed my attitude from "seeking" to "finding".

Neo-Emotionalism starts the moment I decide to go to my studio, that's the prelude to that sublime, almost magical moment. I go with determination, always alone. I choose the canvas I will paint on. I study a bit to see where to start, since I am not methodical. I choose the colours to use, and once I put them on my palette, I start "not thinking" and concentrating on what I'm doing, and I start painting from that state of mind that deepens as I go on. The result can be compared to that of an alchemist, since you start with relatively everyday materials that you must combine to create something precious.

When I start, I feel pressure but also enthusiasm for being able to express myself. It feels as if every painting I start is the first one. When I'm done, I feel liberated. It's as if the idea that was dancing in my head gets heavy and suffocating, and I need to let it out.

Clear goals, discipline, and self-confidence. The more of these qualities an artist can gather, the further they will be able to go. Fabian Perez.



Fabian Perez painting in Los Angeles 1997

"Searching for inner peace is like searching for
your keys when you have them in your hands".
Fabián Pérez

Fabián Pérez®



The Club

