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# COLLECT ART

Special Edition

## MEN ART



VOL 61

March, 2025



**on the cover 'Melting Pot, Powder Keg' by Stephen Von Mason**

# Introduction

Art is a mirror of the human experience, a reflection of the emotions, struggles, and triumphs that shape our world. Throughout history, male artists have played a pivotal role in pushing the boundaries of creativity, transforming the visual landscape, and redefining artistic movements across generations. Men Art, the latest special edition of our magazine, celebrates this legacy by showcasing a diverse collection of international artists who continue to challenge and expand the discourse of contemporary art.

In this edition, we take a deep dive into the minds of painters, sculptors, mixed-media innovators, digital artists, photographers and ceramicists who each bring a unique perspective to the table. Through their works, these artists explore themes of identity, culture, history, and the human condition. Their practices span traditional and modern techniques, blending time-honored craftsmanship with digital innovation, pushing the limits of form and expression.

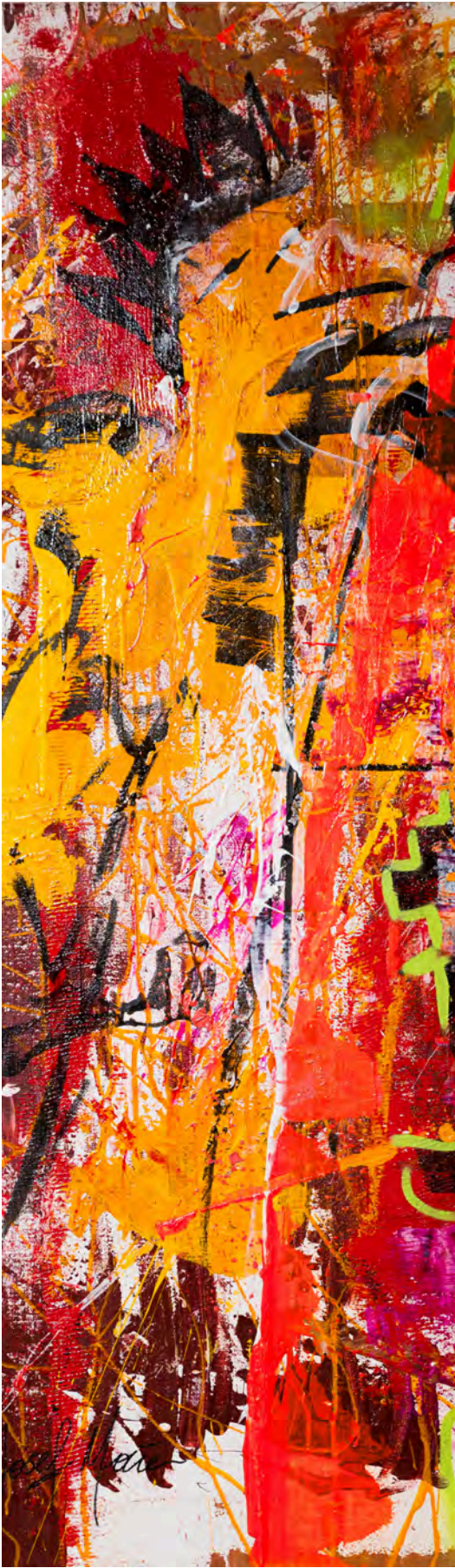
At the heart of Men Art is the belief that art is deeply personal yet profoundly universal. We present in-depth interviews that reveal the inspirations, challenges, and philosophies of each featured artist. Their voices, woven together with striking imagery, provide an intimate look at their journeys—how they navigate the art world, respond to societal changes, and redefine masculinity through their creative lens.

This issue also highlights the power of artistic diversity. From hyper-realistic portraiture to raw abstraction, from monumental sculptures to intricate ceramics, every piece tells a story that demands to be seen and felt. By juxtaposing classical techniques with contemporary thought, these artists remind us that art is ever-evolving, deeply reflective, and infinitely expansive.

Men Art is not just about gender; it is about vision, perseverance, and the relentless pursuit of artistic excellence. Whether through paint, clay, or pixels, the artists in this edition reaffirm the timeless significance of creativity and its ability to shape our understanding of the world.

We invite you to immerse yourself in these pages, to engage with the stories behind the art, and to celebrate the rich tapestry of male artistry from around the globe. This special edition stands as a testament to the transformative power of art and the men who continue to redefine its possibilities.

— Editorial Team



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**Detail from 'Rebellion in Color' by Josef Maier**

# JOSEF MAIER



## Bridging Medicine and Art

Josef Maier, an Austrian artist with roots in the field of medicine, has carved out a distinctive space in the world of fine art. Utilizing oil, acrylics and spray paints as his primary media, Maier merges expressive hyperrealism with dynamic abstract art, crafting pieces that are as captivating as they are thought-provoking. His journey, marked by a blend of self-taught exploration and mentorship under renowned artists such as Fabiano Millani and Tom Lohner, showcases a deep commitment to his craft. Maier's artistic voice is profoundly influenced by his background in anatomy and an acute understanding of the human psyche. Each work vibrates with raw emotion, embodying themes of energy, dedication, passion, and strength. His ability to intertwine these elements results in works that resonate deeply with viewers, offering a powerful window into the complexities of human experience.

Currently exhibiting in Austria, Maier was a prominent part of Graz Art Week, where his work is earning acclaim for its unique fusion of technical skill and emotional depth. Looking ahead to 2025, Maier's art will take on an international stage, with planned exhibitions in Germany and participation in the prestigious Florence Biennale. These milestones mark his evolution from a national treasure to an artist of global significance. Josef Maier's art is more than visual; it is an exploration of life's vibrancy and resilience, making him a standout figure in contemporary fine art.





Temper Tantrum Chic  
Oil & acrylic on canvas,  
90x180cm, 2024

"Temper Tantrum Chic" is a work that presents emotions in their purest and unfiltered form - not tamed, but consciously unfolded. The bold reds and vibrant accents of yellow and pink symbolize the intensity of inner turmoil, while the cool blue creates balance, like a silent observer in the midst of a storm. It's a metaphor for the way we deal with strong emotions: a dance between control and the uncontrollable flow of the moment.

Interestingly, the image also tells a second, playful story. During the creative process, Momo, the artist's furry companion, decided to make his own contribution. Two delicate paw prints adorn the work - a humorous, almost philosophical reference to the fact that life often unexpectedly bursts into our carefully planned moments and even outbursts of anger. The tracks are a reminder of how unpredictable life can be and how important it is to embrace chance.

The composition invites the viewer to reflect more deeply: on the beauty of imperfection, on the expression of emotions and on the importance of finding some kind of balance even in life's most stormy moments. It is an image that represents strength and vulnerability in equal measure - without judgment, without restraint.

A work of art for the soul:

"Temper Tantrum Chic" speaks to the childlike energy of emotional outburst, but captures it in a mature, reflective context. It is a celebration of humanity and the small, unexpected moments that make life so special.

"Temper Tantrum Chic" is not just a work, it is a dialogue - between order and chaos, between planning and chance. And maybe also between humans and cats.

**Coming from a background in medicine, how has your understanding of anatomy and the human psyche influenced your approach to painting?**

*My medical background has given me a deep understanding of anatomy and the human body, but the most profound impact came from my experiences in the dissection room. It was there that I reflected on life, death, and the relationship between body, mind, and soul. Over time, I realized that something was missing in my life and medical career, which led me to explore psychology. This journey ultimately revealed my true calling as an artist, using painting as a medium to explore human existence. I see my artwork as a channel for self-reflection, inviting viewers to examine their own emotions—whether joy, sadness, or anger—and to ask themselves why they feel that way. In doing so, they may uncover insights that foster personal growth.*

**Your work blends expressive hyperrealism with dynamic abstraction. How do you navigate the balance between these two contrasting styles?**

*Rather than adhering to a single style, I create transformative art, allowing each piece to dictate its own visual language. For example, in my Healthy Anger series, I explored the transformation of anger into something constructive. This began with aggressive, chaotic strokes—splashes of red, torn canvas, raw expression—before refining the composition into something more harmonious. It's similar to experiencing a tantrum, then stepping back, repairing the damage, and creating something positive from the chaos. In contrast, my Mosaic of Souls series, which delves into the conscious and unconscious aspects of identity, required a much gentler approach. Here, I envisioned women interacting with delicate materials like gold, liquid, and feathers. Unlike Healthy Anger, an aggressive abstract approach would have disrupted the essence of the theme. The key is to let each concept guide the artistic process organically.*

Part of the series: Healthy Anger "Chaos Therapy" - or as Josef Maier affectionately calls it: "The Color Rage" Self-help book on canvas". What we see here is nothing less than one artistic nervous breakdown in all its glory - but one of the pure, colorful, optimistic style. The left side of the picture looks as if the painter was having a color battle won the sky. Blue and yellow dance wildly together, like two drunk friends at a party while the white watches everything and keeps thinking, "What the hell is happening here?" A collapse occurs in the middle angry ray of sunshine - perhaps an attempt to order the chaos, only to give up in frustration and dissolve into red. On the right the party continues, but here the colors have apparently decided to fight a fiery argument. Red screams so loud it almost the other tones are swallowed up, while pink and orange act as mediators, who just want to keep the peace. The irregular splashes of paint, drips and streaks? This is no coincidence - This is the figurative expression of "I don't care, I'm throwing everything away now." On the screen." A real moment of catharsis. The interpretation? This picture is proof that chaos is not just one condition, but also a lifestyle. It screams, "It's okay to be angry as long as you make it colorful!" And let's be honest, who needs it? Okay, if you can carry a color battle in your heart? So, dear viewers, "Chaos Therapy" isn't just a work of art - it's a wild dance of emotions, a battlefield of colors and an artistic one. Reminder that sometimes the best way to heal is a good, colorful one Scream to the universe. Or on a canvas.



**Emotion plays a significant role in your art, with themes of energy, passion, and resilience. How do you translate these intangible feelings into visual form?**

*I approach painting as a process of discovery rather than executing a pre-defined vision. Each emotion carries a certain energy that translates naturally onto the canvas. For example, when I think of energy, I see vivid colors, rapid movements, and an almost electrifying intensity—this sets the foundation of the artwork. Passion, on the other hand, feels slower, deeper, and more present, which manifests in softer, more deliberate strokes. The painting evolves as I immerse myself in the emotion, guided by intuition rather than conscious thought. The result is an expression that feels right, even if I don't analyze it in the moment.*

**You've studied under artists like Fabiano Millani and Tom Lohner. How has mentorship shaped your artistic evolution?**

*Both Millani and Lohner have played a crucial role in my artistic growth, particularly in refining my technique. Despite their contrasting styles and personalities, they share an intense passion, discipline, and presence in their work. Their mentorship has reinforced my belief that dedication and authenticity are essential in creating meaningful art.*

**You work with oil, acrylics, and spray paints. What draws you to these particular media, and how do they contribute to your creative process?**

*Just as I don't confine myself to a single style, I choose my media based on what best serves the artwork. Each material has distinct sensory qualities that evoke different responses—the scent of oil paint triggers a different emotional connection than the sharp, industrial smell of spray paint. Likewise, the tactile experience of applying thick oil layers contrasts with the fluidity of acrylics or the immediacy of spray paint. These elements influence not only the technical aspects of my work but also the emotions and energy I channel into each piece.*



**How do you see your work evolving as it reaches a global audience?**

*With every exhibition, painting, conversation, and interaction, my work continues to evolve. As I gain a clearer understanding of myself and my artistic vision, my ability to communicate my ideas improves, allowing my work to resonate on a broader scale. Art, for me, is about contributing to a world that feels meaningful and worth experiencing, and reaching a global audience enhances this impact.*

**Graz Art Week was a major milestone for you. How did that experience impact your career?**

*Graz Art Week marked my first step into the international art scene. It provided invaluable insight into how people perceive my work and significantly boosted my confidence. This exposure led to greater opportunities, including exhibitions alongside renowned artists like Andy Warhol, Gustav Klimt, Friedensreich Hundertwasser, and Friedrich Nitsch. It reinforced my belief that I am on the right path—one that is more fulfilling and impactful than my previous medical career. After all, no one would want surgery performed by someone whose heart truly belongs to art!*



**The Florence Biennale is a prestigious event. What does participating in it mean to you, and what can audiences expect from your contributions?**

*Being part of the Florence Biennale is an overwhelming and exciting milestone. It represents a significant achievement for any artist, and I am honored to contribute to such an esteemed event. Audiences can expect an authentic and immersive experience, as I incorporate augmented reality elements into my paintings. This dynamic feature adds another layer of engagement, transforming a static artwork into something interactive. By scanning the provided QR code, viewers can explore this fusion of traditional and digital art.*

**Your paintings offer a deep exploration of human experience. Do you have a particular piece that holds special significance to you, and if so, why?**

*Every painting I exhibit holds deep personal significance and serves as a transformative piece, both for myself and the viewer. Within each series, there is always one painting that resonates most profoundly. From my latest collection, Mosaic of Souls, there is one piece in particular that empowers me, strengthens my beliefs, and nurtures my identity as an artist. It is called The Golden Self: Rediscovering One's Own Worth.*

**What message or feeling do you hope people take away after viewing your art?**

*I hope that something shifts within them. Many people go through life without truly living the way they want, held back by societal expectations of success, money, and reputation. My goal is to inspire viewers to reconnect with themselves, to question what truly fulfills them, and to pursue their own path with courage. If my art sparks even a small realization in someone—an urge to change, to grow, or to see the world differently—then I have achieved my purpose.*



Between structure and authenticity – Oil on canvas, 120x120cm, 2024



Inner dissolution: Melting identity – Oil on canvas, 120x120cm, 2024

