

LEONARDO VARGAS

Born in 1982 in Barrancabermeja, Colombia
Lives and works in Strasbourg.

<https://www.leonardovargast.com/>
<https://galerielessirard.com/en-us/leonardo-vargas-en/>



Photo : Irina Sabatina

Leonardo Vargas, born in 1982 in Barrancabermeja, moves at the frontiers of a pictorial exploration where gesture merges with the discontinuous flow of the contemporary image. Now based in Strasbourg, he approaches painting as a space of resistance and slowness: he collects, recomposes, strips, confronting humanity with the saturation of the visible. In contrast to the sterile prowess of reproduction, he offers a form of painting where the artist's hand reclaims each fragment, subtly questioning presence and absence.

Flesh occupies a central place in his practice: never an object, always living matter moving across the canvas. The artist brushes against it, allowing it to settle in layers, in transparencies. Bodies never appear as wholes: they are recomposed, erased, or vibrate, as if searching for their own definition at the threshold of disappearance. His painting demonstrates an organic tension, wavering between latent power and the fragility of forms. Each stroke embodies a tactile, intimate vibration, where the material breathes, bleeds, sometimes gleams, and opens itself to uncertainty.

This oscillation bestows his work with a precious penumbra: here, the visible is never a given, but a promise—a trace of the living pulsing beneath the surface. Vargas thus favors clues, erasures, and a gaze's ambiguity over spectacular assertion. His painting invites contemplation, asking of the viewer a subterranean engagement, a reading that is purposefully delayed.

Exhibited in Strasbourg, Munich, Amsterdam, and Athens, Leonardo Vargas embodies the uncommon rigor of an artist who seeks less to impose than to reveal. He now finds, at Galerie Lessirard, a place where his quest for intensity and mystery resonates with a resolutely contemporary vision of painting—where the skin of the image becomes both a site of appearance and sovereign withdrawal.

GALERIE LESSIRARD

www.galerielessirard.com
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IN A FEW KEY DATES

2025 *Aux jardins* - Galerie Bertrand Gilig - Strasbourg, France

2024 *PhD in Visual Arts, dissertation: "Pictorial Production in the Digital Age"* - Université de Strasbourg - Strasbourg

2023 *Leonardo Vargas : Peintures 2019-2022* - Council of Europe - Strasbourg , France

2021 *Leonardo Vargas / (Daguerréotypes)* - Galerie Bertrand-Hassoun - Besançon, France

2019 *Portraits* - Cube Expo, Constituency Office of Deputy Sylvain Waserman, Vice-President of the French National Assembly, in collaboration with Galerie Bertrand Gillig - Strasbourg , France

2017 *Artlab* - Galerie Benjamin Eck - Munich, Germany

2012 *Muted Distortions* - Metamatic : taf - The Art Foundation - Athens, Greece

2011 *On The Walls* - NDSM Treeshouse - Amsterdam, Netherlands

Colombian Artists in The Netherlands - Pulchri Studio - The Hague, Netherlands

2010 *Master Beaux-Arts* - Hogeschool voor de Kunsten Utrecht - Utrecht, Netherlands

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2025

Aux jardins - Galerie Bertrand Gilig - Strasbourg, France

2024

Saffron Gym - Palais Universitaire de Strasbourg - Strasbourg , France

2023

Leonardo Vargas : Peintures 2019-2022 - Council of Europe - Strasbourg , France

Leonardo Vargas - Galerie Bertrand-Hassoun - Besançon , France

Aria - Galerie Bertrand Gilig - Strasbourg, France

2022

Pop-up Galleries - Fondation Fernet Branca - Solo show presented by Galerie Bertrand Gillig in "Pop-Up Galleries" - Saint-Louis, France

2021

Chanson d'automne : Peintures (in)connues - Galerie Bertrand Gilig - Strasbourg, France

Leonardo Vargas / (Daguerréotypes) - Galerie Bertrand-Hassoun - Besançon, France

2019

Leonardo Vargas / Peintures - Galerie Bertrand Hassoun - Besançon, France

Portraits - Cube Expo, Constituency Office of Deputy Sylvain Waserman, Vice-President of the French National Assembly, in collaboration with Galerie Bertrand Gillig - Strasbourg , France

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2011

On The Walls - NDSM Treeshouse - Amsterdam, Netherlands

They have a rotating cap and permanent body - Kinderdijk Project - Nieuw-Lekkerland, Netherlands

GROUP EXHIBITIONS (curated selection)

2024

Nature & découvertes - Museum Maison du Kochersberg - Truchtersheim, France

2023

Summer Breeze - Galerie Art Center Berlin - Berlin, Germany

2019

Luxembourg Art Week 2019 - Contemporary Art Fair - Presented by Galerie Bertrand Gilig - Luxembourg

Bienvenue - Contemporary Art Fair - Presented by Galerie Bertrand Gilig - Cité Internationale des Arts - Paris, France

Peintures d'Aline Olukman et de Leonardo Vargas - Banque Richelieu & Galerie Bertrand Gilig - Strasbourg, France

2018

Photo-Peinture - Galerie Bertrand Gilig - Strasbourg, France

Artlab - Galerie Benjamin Eck - Munich, Germany

2013

VI Salon de Arte Bidimensional - Fondation Gilberto Alzate Avendano - Bogota, Colombia

2012

Muted Distortions - Metamatic : taf - The Art Foundation - Athens, Greece

Art Asylum - Saint Germain - Amsterdam, Netherlands

2011

Tricking the Everyday - Academie Galerie - Utrecht, Netherlands

Colombian Artists in The Netherlands - Pulchri Studio - The Hague, Netherlands

Duik in het Jaar der zotheid - Genooschap Kunstliefde / Ruitme voor Belldende Kunst - Utrecht, Netherlands

2010

D.A.R.E. 5. Collective Individualism. Interventions in and through the public space - Expodium / Platform voor jonge Kunst - Utrecht, Netherlands

Catching Up! - HKU - Utrecht, Pays-Bas

Snargled Megalopolis - Platform IHC / University of California Santa Barbara - Santa Barbara, USA

Thanks for giving of me / Gracias for pensar en mi - Museum of the Caribbean - Barranquilla, Colombia

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2008

4to Salon de Arte Joven Club el Nogal - Bogota, Colombia

Libros de apuntes, bitácoras y diarios de artistas - Galería La Localidad - Planta Baja - Bogota, Colombia

2007

La Ciudad - Fundación Cu4rto Nivel Arte Comtemporaneo - Bogota, Colombia

EDUCATION

2024

PhD in Visual Arts, dissertation: "Pictorial Production in the Digital Age" - Université de Strasbourg - Strasbourg, France

2010

Master of Fine Arts - Hogeschool voor de Kunsten Utrecht - Utrecht - Netherlands

2007

Spécialist in History and Theory of modern and contemporary Art - Universidad de los Andes - Bogotá, Colombia

OTHER PROJECTS

2017-2024

Member of the ACCRA research team (Contemporary Approaches to Creation and Artistic Reflection) - Humanités - Université de Strasbourg - Strasbourg, France

2012

OHREBUS 529 (a 5 minute live painting) - Project for ASCA International workshop - Université d'Amsterdam - Amsterdam, Netherlands

Panel presentation "Scapes and Paces" for ASCA International Workshop

Member of Read-in research team (2010-2012) - Project for "User's Manual: *The grand Domestic Revolution*" Casco projects - Office for Art, design and theory - Utrecht, Netherlands -> <http://www.read-in.info/>

2011

Ribba 16" (a 5-minute painting Live From the Van Abbemuseum) - Eindhoven, Netherlands

"Views of a Dutch Landscape" - Collaboration for "...And something happened to me" - B32/F65 - Maastricht, Netherlands

"There's no such thing as an innocent Reading" - (Read-in's collaboration for P for performance) - Van Abbemuseum - Eindhoven, Netherlands

Member of Genootschap Kunstliefde - ruitme voor beeldende Kunst - Utrecht, Netherlands

2009

Assistant researcher for project assistant pour le projet ICAA (International Center for The Arts of The Americas) - Universidad de los Andes/Houston Museum of Fine Arts

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