

**HECTOR DIAZ**

# **Javier Arizabalo**

## Biography

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The artist at his studio in Irún, Spain | Art & Photo © Javier Arizabalo

## **Javier Arizabalo García**

B. April 6, 1965 - Saint-Jean-de-Luz, France.

His first memories of crafts were in preschool, in the French town of Hendaye. There, he took refuge in working with his hands in an environment that seemed strange to him. Soon his parents moved him to Irún, Spain, to begin his education.

Seeing his mother's sensitivity in making some small paintings, and in some books about art that were in his parents' house, he came into contact with art.

Irún is the region where he lives with his family, it is a special place as it is the intersection of roads between Spain and France.

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It is a prosperous town, with an international atmosphere, with a small but thriving artistic activity. In it, glass and porcelain artists together with the activity of galleries in the neighbouring town of Hondarribia, are an attraction for painters and illustrators. Also in this area coexists a group of artists, mainly sculptors, of the Basque sculptural avant-garde.

All this allowed Javier to join, from the early age of nine, the municipal drawing classes, and to attend craft and painting classes with artists from the city.

During these years of childhood and youth, Javier has contact with artists and illustrators of various styles. He practices drawing from life, and begins to learn different painting techniques.

At the age of 18 he begins his studies of Fine Arts at the Faculty of Leioa, near Bilbao, finishing five years later, specializing in Graphic Techniques, although during that period he continues to attend painting sessions with a life model in Irún.

In 1989 he begins to work in a small advertising agency, near San Sebastian, doing what was called final art, design and layout, and occasionally illustration, and at the same time he continues to make paintings and drawings in his free time. At this time he ventures into 3D, and increases his knowledge of photography, now digital, in the first years of the new millennium.

In 2005 he quit his job and began to move towards a more artistic activity. He was undecided about whether to dedicate himself to photography or painting, but opted for the latter, taking into account his greater degree of training in it.

Based on his artistic training, what attracts him is classical painting, baroque painting, late impressionism by artists such as Joaquín Sorolla or John Singer Sargent, photorealism and the realism practiced in contemporary painting in Spain. His first steps will be in the creation of classical figure paintings.

Professionally, he began with the Archange Gallery in a well-known Parisian square full of galleries, to which he sent works of figures, generally female, and a series of baroque-illuminated hands. In them he combines his ease of drawing with his admiration for the classical nude and chiaroscuro lighting.

In addition to this French gallery, he has other collaborations with Spanish and some Mexican galleries.

In 2015, he joined the Ibex Collection project, along with more than twenty artists, to create a Masterpiece, to be exhibited in a unique location. The project underwent modifications and its

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original proposal was abandoned, but Javier completed the painting, which took almost a year to complete, the artist's most ambitious project to date.

His painting work is complemented by painting classes through weekend or full-week workshops in different locations in Europe and America, as well as video tutorials with a well-known training platform.

The three main areas of his work are distributed among collaboration with galleries, mainly in Mexico, commissions and sales to individuals, which come from his dissemination on social networks, and finally his teaching work, in face-to-face workshops.

Among his different lines of paintings we can find a small format line, focused on details of the human face, and another line focused on academic nudes, outdoors and indoors, with few accessory elements, such as fabrics and hats. The male works are divided into those that highlight anatomy, and those that represent people of a certain age, as an example of the passing of the years and the vicissitudes. At some specific times he may do some still lifes.

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