

April 7, 2026, Los Angeles, CA - Announcing artist, Ben Horton's solo show, *Absence* at Ellie Mayer Gallery in Hollywood, Los Angeles, opening April 25 through May 23, 2026, with an artist's reception from 5-8 pm on April 25th.



Ben Horton, *Absent*, 2026, ink on paper, 11 x 8.5 in



Ben Horton, *On the Surface*, 2022, acrylic and mixed media on wood panel, 48 x 48 in

Ben Horton has never had a social media account but has been asked to do solo art shows in cities around the world. Despite his notoriety, Ben is unaffected and down-to-earth. There's an awareness in the work that we're all a part of the world around us, while simultaneously being confronted by our abuse of this world. He's the kind of artist we need desperately right now – to mirror our ugliness and to illustrate what's worth preserving. Ben's work consists mostly of people and animals created from ink, graphite, oil pastel, acrylic and mixed media, on wood, canvas or paper, and is impeccably detailed; his draftsmanship intricate, including shading with hatching and cross-hatching. His fine line is beautifully rendered, giving the feeling of awe for his subject matter, reminiscent of scientific illustrations by early explorers thoroughly chronicling each detail. Horton's people show a mid-20th-century hopefulness mixed with desperation. Sometimes smiling confidently, though their face has a hole in it, or they have a wind-up mechanism in their back that questions their sophistication. Others might be addressing the viewer, which the artist hand-letters, such as a man in a gas mask saying, "It's not you, it's me."



Ben Horton, *Least Concern*, 2017, acrylic and mixed media on wood panel, 48 x 48 in

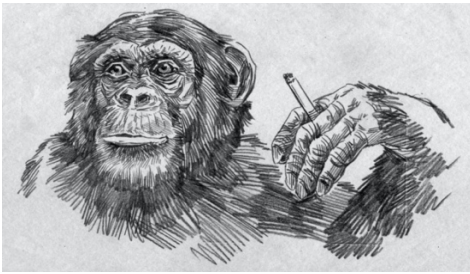


Ben Horton, *Whole Man*, 2026, oil stick on paper, 14 x 11 in

He recently took some time away from the studio to collect notebooks of ideas and thoughts written and sketched while traveling and living abroad over the past fifteen years. With these notebooks as reference, he began new work. Since Ben lives and works in Hong Kong, the gallery has granted him a special artist-in-residence to create work for this exhibition directly in the space.

"*Absence* is a range of artwork examining social aspects of human societies. Specifically, the build-up and breakdown of our systems, classes, economies, and policies, along with the toll these processes take on us and all living things."

–Ben Horton, March 2026



Ben Horton, *Chimp*, 2022, graphite on paper, 7 x 10 in



Ben Horton, *Endangered Quality*, 2022, acrylic and mixed media on wood, 24 x 48 in

About Ben Horton:

Ben is a mixed media artist working mostly with ink and acrylic paint on backgrounds collaged with found paper items from the past. His artwork has shown in galleries around the world including Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Diego, Portland, Liverpool, Montreal, Tokyo, Shanghai, & São Paulo. Ben has been a part of RVCA's Artist Network Program since 2003. He has also worked in the skateboard industry for over 30 years with various brands including Vans, and recently launched a new skateboard company; Glass House. Ben currently resides between Hong Kong & San Diego. www.benhortonart.com

SELECTED SHOWS

2022 - "DOWNSTREAM" - Solo Show at RVCA Gallery - San Francisco, CA
2019 - "BLUNT EXHIBITION" - Group Show at Carnegie Center for Art & History - Jackson, TN
2019 - "TIMES TABLE" - Solo Show for VPS at Espace Oppidum - Paris, France
2019 - "TIMES TABLE" - Solo Show for VPS - Montreal, Canada
2019 - "TIMES TABLE" - Solo Show for VPS at Art Labor Gallery - Shanghai, China
2019 - "NEW WORK" - Solo Show for PHXAM at Legend City Studios - Phoenix, AZ
2018 - "NEW WORK" - Solo Show at Alé Jordão Gallery - São Paulo, Brazil
2018 - "PAST TENSE" - Solo Show at RVCA Gallery - Tokyo, Japan
2018 - "PAPERWEIGHT" - Dual Show at Seeing Things Gallery - San Jose, CA
2017 - "NB NUMERIC SHOW" - Solo Show for New Balance at TFR Gallery - San Diego, CA
2017 - "DRINKIN, SMOKIN & WEST COASTIN" - Group Show at Think Tank Gallery - Los Angeles, CA
2017 - "TWENTY-ONE" - Group Show at Subliminal Gallery - Los Angeles, CA
2016 - "ADVANCE" - Group Show at Darwin Ecosystem - Bordeaux, France
2016 - "SOME DRAWINGS & PAINTINGS" - Solo Show at Bold Street - Liverpool, England
2016 - "LIVING CONDITIONED" - Dual Show at Super Ordinary Gallery - Denver, CO
2016 - "SOME DRAWINGS & PAINTINGS" - Solo Show at Skylark - Edinburgh, Scotland
2016 - "ATLAS" - Solo Show at Cut & Mix - Marseille, France
2015 - "LIVE FREE" - Group Show at Danial Rolnik Gallery - Santa Monica, CA
2015 - "BLIND SPOT" - Solo Show at HSCC Gallery - Oceanside, CA
2015 - "AGENTS PROVOCATEURS" - Group Show at Subliminal Gallery - Los Angeles, CA
2014 - "SEEING THINGS SHOW" - Solo Show at Seeing Things Gallery - San Jose, CA
2014 - "NEW STUFF" - Solo Shows at The Black Sheep & Mrs. Athas - Manchester & Leeds, England
2014 - "NEW STUFF" Solo Show at Bold Street - Liverpool, England
2013 - "THE FUTURE IS NOW" Group Show at Melissa McCaig Welles Gallery - NY, NY
2013 - "SEA LINE" Solo Show at The Republik - Honolulu, HI
2013 - "LAND LINE" Solo Show at HSCC Gallery - Oceanside, CA
2012 - "ART FOR AWARENESS" - Group Show for OAC at Anti Campognone Projects - Pomona, CA
2012 - "ART ON THE MOVE" - Group Show for OAC at White Walls Gallery - San Francisco, CA
2011 - "PUBLIC DOMAIN" - Group Show at À La Gaîté Lyrique - Paris, France
2010 - "NEW WORK" - Solo Show at Escapist - Kansas City, MO
2009 - "NEW WORK" - Solo Show at Voice 1156 Gallery - San Diego, CA
2008 - "OPENING SHOW" - Solo Show at Swiv Tackle Circus Gallery - Oceanside, CA
2005 - "DUAL SHOW" - Dual Show at Powell's Book Store Gallery - Portland, OR
2004 - "RVCA ANP SHOW" - Group Show at KCDC - NY, NY

About Glass House Skateboards:

"Glass House is a reflection of some aspects of modern-day society, and the current delicate state of things. Centering on the deterioration of privacy, freedom and environment due to corporatism, politics, social media, authority, etc. Our lives seemingly becoming more transparent, plastic and fragile, creating a feeling of lack of control and wariness of the future. Our data is being collected; our movements recorded. Invisible rules for an invisible order. I'm not suggesting that I have solutions. Maybe nothing matters and that's cool too. Things fall apart.

The "Necker's Cube" optical illusion illustration is used in the graphics, showing the human ability to easily see the same thing from different perspectives. If we can do this, maybe we can acknowledge and accept other viewpoints. The classic idiom: "people who live in glass houses, shouldn't throw stones," is a part of it. The cube logo also represents a rudimentary glass house, suggesting this is our home or cell. A sort of transparent isolation. Glass house arrest."

—Ben Horton in an excerpt from an interview with Jenkem Magazine, May 2025

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