



K O O L K O O R



Charles Hargrove, aka KOOL KOOR, was born in New York in 1963 and is a pioneer of the New York City Graffiti Art scene. He is also a member of the first generation of Graffiti Artists that made the transition from the streets to the galleries and Museums.

Coming from a family of painters, he drew every day and was passionate architecture. By 1980, at just 15, he exhibited at Fashion Moda, the first New York gallery interested in Bronx artists.

In New York, KOOL KOOR participated in numerous major graffiti art exhibitions and began showcasing his work in galleries and museums worldwide.

His art is included in prestigious American collections such as The Metropolitan Museum, The Chicago Renaissance Society, The Butler Museum, The Groninger Museum in The Netherlands, and the Fine-Arts Museum in Mons Belgium to name a few.

KOOL KOOR's works explore the idea that the visible world doesn't reflect true reality, with a strong emphasis on architecture. Fascinated by architecture since his youth, he depicts parallel worlds with labyrinthine structures in a style he calls Futuristic Symbolism.

His architectural structures resemble bundles of nerves, linking to other realities through robotic shapes. Recently, his work has evolved, incorporating various phases of his long career, characterised by voluminous brushstrokes and fluid labyrinths connecting different levels of reality.

While he has moved beyond simple graffiti, KOOL KOOR's style has evolved into a "galactic" surrealism, maintaining his unique Futuristic Symbolism.

Internationally, KOOL KOOR has coordinated and led numerous leadership development projects, empowering youth to hone their talents and navigate their creative paths successfully. Using street art as a tool, he has created socially inclusive public mural projects in collaboration with local governments, NGOs, and institutions.

Remaining committed to his mission to heal, uplift, and inspire, KOOL KOOR is an engaged philanthropist, supporting foundations and associations. He actively gives workshops and lectures at schools and universities worldwide.



Double Infinity - 2025 - 100 x 100 cm - acrylic on canvas

The movements seen here represent the source of life free flowing in a dance in-between infinities. We are free to explore this concept following the curves of colour. Wherever we look a new story begins. here is no beginning and there is no end.



Shanghai 2520 - 2025 - 140 x 140 cm - acrylic on canvas

In the year 2520, we plunge into a sea of liquid architecture. There is a metropolis on the rise within this aquatic dreamscape. In this not so distant future cities are above and below the sea level and society has mastered the balance of life between the two.



In a mindful way - 2025 - 100 x 100 cm - acrylic on canvas

Harmony, peace, and love flows within every line we see. When we quietly calm the mind and calmly follow our breath, these colours can help us raise our vibration to achieve a higher state of mind and become connected to the here and now.

KOOL KOOR

1963 Born in the Bronx, New York, U.S.A.

EDUCATION

1978 ~

1982 The High School of Art & Design, NYC, U.S.A. Diploma (Architecture Major)

1981 The School of Visual Arts NYC, U.S.A. Certificate (Illustration)

PRIVATE AND PUBLIC COLLECTIONS (SELECTED)

The Metropolitan Museum of Art New York City USA
Musée des Beaux-Arts Mons Belgium
The Groninger Museum Groningen Holland
STRAAT Street Art Museum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Neumann family Collection USA
Herbert and Leonore Schorr Collection USA
Norman Dubrow Collection USA
Eric Ogden Collection USA
Henk and Leonie Pijnenburg collection The Netherlands
Communauté Française, Belgium
Alain Dominique Gallizia collection France
Galleria Comunale d'Arte Moderna Bologna Italy
Stadtliche Galerie Goppingen Germany
Galerie der Stadt Esslingen am Neckar Esslingen Germany
The Butler Institute of American Art, Youngtown, Ohio USA

SOLO EXHIBITIONS (SELECTED)

2026 "AXION SYMMERTA" The Buckminster Fuller Dome, Edwardsville, Illinois, USA

2025 "SUGAR AND SALT" Alliance Française, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

2024 "KOOL KOOR" Condor, Courfaivre, Switzerland
"KOOL KOOR" ART BUNKER GALLERY, Urban Art Fair Paris, France

2023 "TIMELESS" Shin Gallery, New York City, USA

2022 "MACRO MICRO MEGASTRUCTURES" Arena Studio d'Arte, Verona, Italy

- 2021 "ROOKS & ROBOTS" Chateau de Forbin, Marseille, France
 "ROOKS & ROBOTS - back in the days" Ghost Galerie, Marseille, France
- 2019 "Chroma" Galerie Bogart, Knokke, Belgium
- 2018 "SANCTUARY" Cherokee Street Gallery, St. Louis, Missouri, USA
- 2018 "spek - trem" Galerie Martine Ehmer, Brussels, Belgium
- 2017 "SOMETIME IN THE FUTURE" Stradedarts Gallery, Milan, Italy
- 2016 "Past Present Past" Galerie Francis Noel, Liege, Belgium (May~June)
- 2015 "TRIBAL MOVEMENTS" Galerie Martine Ehmer, Brussels, Belgium
 "Black Gold.. and More" Galerie DZD Art, Roermond, Holland
- 2014 "TREASURE lost and found" Hotel Marignan Paris, Paris, France
 "Black Gold" NK Gallery, Antwerp, Belgium
- 2013 "Transform.. Evolve' Covart Gallery, Luxembourg
- 2012 "Melanges with Kool Koor" blank, Brussels, Belgium
- 2011 'A NEW WORLD' LBK Bank, Brussels, Belgium
 "The Arbitrator' Covart Gallery, Luxembourg
- 2009 "Jewels of the Trade" Galerie Etienne De Causan, Paris, France
 "Schilderijen en Objecten", Galerie DZD Art, Roermond, Holland
- 2008 "Koor – Back to the Roots" Gallery 151, New York City, U.S.A.
 "Schilderijen en Objecten", Galerie DZD Art, Roermond, Holland
- 2006 "Seven Sources" Tempus Arte, Landen, Belgium
- 2005 "Koor" Galerie Willy Schoots, Eindhoven, The Netherlands
 "Microkoorsm" Fine Art Studio, Brussels, Belgium
 "EYE CANDY" Museum Tongerlohuys, Roosendaal, The Netherlands (2 man show)
- 2004 "Koor, Recent Works" Fine Art Studio, Brussels, Belgium
 "Reality Revisited" Sabine Watchers Gallery, Knokke, Belgium
- 2003 "Koor" Galerie Willy Schoots, Eindhoven, The Netherlands
 "Elevations" Privé Domein, Deurne, The Netherlands
- 2002 "Draftworks" Privé Domein, Deurne, The Netherlands
- 1999 "3D Skryptroniks" Ancienne Belgique, Brussels, Belgium

- 1998 "Monoliths vs. Pyroliths" Tour et Taxis" Brussels, Belgium
- 1996 21st International Kunst en Antiekbeurs, Knokke, Belgium
- 1995 "KOOR" Galerie Dis, Maastricht, Holland
- 1991 "KOOR" Galerie der Stadt Esslingen am Neckar, Esslingen, Germany
 "KOOR" Gallery M, Bayreuth, Germany
 "KOOR" Maurice Keitelman Gallery, Brussels, Belgium
- 1990 "KOOR" Art Boom, Deurne, Holland
- 1988 "KOOR" Gallery 69, New York City, U.S.A.
 "KOOR" Maurice Keitelman Gallery, Brussels, Belgium
 "KOOR" Forum, Hamburg, Germany
- 1985 "The Arbitrator KOOR" Cable Gallery, New York City, U.S.A.
 "The Arbitrator KOOR" Maurice Keitelman Gallery, Brussels, Belgium
- 1984 "The Arbitrator KOOR" West Central Graphics, New York City, U.S.A.
- 1983 "The Arbitrator KOOR" Lucky Strike, New York City, U.S.A.
- 1982 "The Arbitrator KOOR" Hostos Community College

GROUP EXHIBITIONS (SELECTED)

- 2026 "DALLA SRADA ALLA TELA: WRITERS" IDEARTE Gallery, Ferrara, Italy
 "80's NYC" Palazzo della Cultura di Catania, Catania, Italy
- 2025 "Shin Collection" Ulsan Museum of Art, Ulsan, South Korea
 "BX to BXL" KOOL KOOR X ARTGROVE, 68, Brussels, Belgium
 "Urban Legends - NYC Masters" Arena Studio d'Arte, Verona, Italy
- 2024 "ARCANA ARCANORUM" Avantgarden Gallery, Milano, Italy
 "Libertà non autorizzata" Museo le Carceri, Asiago, Italy
 "GRAFFITI AND THE ECHO OF FUTURISM", -
 Fabbrica del Vapore", Milan, Italy
 "STAYING ALIVE" Robertaebasta, Milan, Italy
 "Meet the Artist" BIPOCA Incubator & Gallery, Fort Wayne, IN, USA
 "Le Molitor Hotel & Spa Paris MGallery" Paris, France (opens 19 September)
- 2023 "Eye & Mind" Nassau County Museum of Art, Roslyn Harbor, NY, USA
 "ALL BLACK EVERYTHING" Museum of Graffiti, Miami, Florida, USA
 "Meet the Artist" BIPOCA Incubator & Gallery, Fort Wayne, IN, USA
- 2022 "Amalgamation" Shin Gallery, New York City, USA

"Concrete to Canvas", West Chelsea Contemporary, Austin, Texas, USA

"Cancer fundraiser show", Kate Oh Gallery in New York, USA

2021 EMUA - EPHEMERAL MUSEUM OF URBAN ART, Lisbon, Portugal

"Nos Phantomes" Ghost Galerie, Paris, France

"Writing the Future: Basquiat and the Hip-Hop Generation" MFA Boston, USA

2020 "LEGENDS", Hausammann gallery, Miami, Florida, U.S.A.

"Writing the Future: Basquiat and the Hip-Hop Generation" MFA Boston, USA

"YES WE CAN - JETTE 2020" Jette, Brussels, Belgium

"CONCRETE TO CANVAS" West Chelsea Contemporary, Austin, Texas, USA

2019 "Museum of Graffiti", grand opening, Miami, Florida, U.S.A.

"From NYC to Marseille/III", Ghost Galerie, Marseille, France

"Street Art" Galerie Vieceli, Cannes, France

"ATM05PH3R3" The Art 5 Company, Suspenso, Lisbon, Portugal

"Melting Pot" De Cacaofabriek, Helmond, The Netherlands

"3rd Small Biennale of Contemporary art" Mountados, Tinos, Greece

"WAX MASTERS", La Manufacture 111, Brussels, Belgium

2018 "STROKAR INSIDE", Brussels, Belgium

"Variations" Galerie Joel Knafo, Paris, France

"FROM NYC TO MARSEILLE" Ghost Galerie, Marseille, France

"Spanning" Cwart, Knokke, Belgium

2017 "Yo" Bozar Museum, Brussels, Belgium

"leaving signs" Galerie Martine Ehmer, Brussels, Belgium

"Beyond the Wall" Art Bunker Gallery, Lille, France

"A COMMON SPACE", HADS Gallery Brussels, Belgium

"STROKAR 2017", Brussels, Belgium

2016 "Glamorous Graffiti " Nassau County Museum, N.Y. U.S.A.

"Pressionism" Pinacothèque de Paris, Singapore, SG

"INÉDITE(S)" Galerie David Pluskwa, Marseille, France

"IN LOVE WITH BEAUTY" Transfo, Zwevegem, Belgium (April)

"Trinity Hip Hop Festival" Trinity College, Hartford CT, USA (April)

"Cordici Sordenci" Palazzo Platamone, Catania, Italy

"STOKAR 2016" Dexia Art Center, Brussels, Belgium (May)

2015 "Pressionism" Pinacothèque de Paris, Paris, France

"Cordici Sordenci" Palazzo Platamone, Catania, Italy

"SNEAKERS" La Mediatine, Brussels, Belgium

"URBANMATTERZ" Cacaofabriek, Helmond, The Netherlands

"New York Meet's the Dam" Amsterdam Museum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

2014 "City as Canvas" Museum of the City of New York, N.Y.C. U.S.A.

"DECADE" Galerie Martine Ehmer, Brussels, Belgium

"COVERED", NK Gallery, Antwerp, Belgium
"Dali fait le Mur", Dali Museum, Paris, France
'WALL STREET L'or de la rue.', Bastille Design Centre, Paris, France

- 2013 'U.R.' Urban Renewal, Galerie Martine EHMER, Brussels Belgium
'ORGANIC STRUCTURES' Annasatoko Gallery, Istanbul, Turkey
'Museum Night Fever' Museum of Natural Science, Brussels Belgium
'TOUT & MINI' Begramoff Gallery, Brussels, Belgium
'DAY ONE FESTIVAL' Antwerp, Belgium
'Marquers de Vie' Brussels, Belgium
'L'Or' Eglise de la Trinity, Brussels, Belgium
'Crimes of Minds' Brest, France
'Melanges – Retrospective' Blank, Brussels, Belgium
"Tekens aan de Wand" Tongerlohuys Museum, Roosendaal, The Netherlands
- 2012 'JIM' Covart Gallery, Marciac, France
- 2011 'IK MIS JE- I MISS YOU' Krabbedans, Eindhoven, The Netherlands
'ART IN THE STREETS' MOCA, Los Angeles, California, U.S.A.
'EXPLOSION' Musee du Ixelles, Brussels, Belgium
'Tag in Monaco' Grimaldi Forum, Monaco, France
'ART ACCESS AND DECAY 1975~1985' Subliminal Projects, LA California, U.S.A
- 2010 "Graffiti" Scription Museum, Tilburg, The Netherlands
"The Alchemy of Delusion" Aeroplastics Contemporary, Brussels, Belgium
- 2009 "Le Tag", Grand Palais, Paris, France
"Ne Dans La Rue", Fondation Cartier, Paris, France
"d'RAW" Schunck Glaspalaies, Heerlen, The Netherlands
"East African Art Biennial" Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, Africa
- 2008 "Fruits de une Passion" Musee des Beaux Arts, Mons, Belgium
- 2007 "East African Art Biennial" Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, Africa
- 2006 "New Giants" Brandon Pijnenburg, Barcelona, Spain
"Kunst en Bedrijf", DZD ART, Roermond, The Netherlands
- 2004 "New York Graffiti a Retrospective" Maurice Keitelman Gallery, Brussels, Belgium
- 2003 "Writings on the Wall" Sotheby's, Amsterdam, Holland
- 2002 "The Nature of Things" The Gallery of Visual Artists House, Warsaw, Poland
- 1999 Gallery Declercq, Knokke, Belgium
- 1998 "New York Graffiti" Das Museum der Stadt Ratingen, Ratingen, Germany
"Fruits de une Passion" Musee des Beaux Arts, Mons, Belgium

- 1996 "Het Vanijn van de Muze" Stadelijk Museum Roermond, Roermond, Holland
- 1993 "Against the Wall" Space Time Light Gallery, New York City, U.S.A.
- 1992 "New York Graffiti" The Groninger Museum, Groningen, Holland
- 1991 Musee National des Monuments Francaise, Paris, France
 "American Grffiti a Survey" Liverpool Gallery, Brussels, Belgium
 The Federal Reserve Board, Washington D.C. U.S.A.
 "Junge Schweinfurter Kunstler" Schweinfurt, Germany
- 1989 "Le Premiere Beinnale Jeune Peinture" Cannes, France
 The Museum of American Graffiti, New York City, U.S.A.
 "New York Graffiti" Stadtische Gallerie, Goppingen, Germany
 "An Der Wand" Weisbaden, Germany
 The Museum of Heidelberg, Heidelberg, Germany
 Gemeente Museum, Helmond, Holland
 The Groninger Museum, Groningen, Holland
- 1988 Gallery Thomas, Munchen, Germany
 Fashion Moda, New York City, U.S.A.
- 1987 "Melee" Franklin Furnace, New York City, U.S.A.
 "Maurice Keitelman Gallery Presents" Lineart Gent, Belgium
 "New York Graffiti" Wilhelm-Hack Museum, Ludwigshafen, Germany
 "Beyond Word" fashion Moda, New York City, U.S.A.
- 1986 112 Green Street Gallery, New York City, U.S.A.
 "Fine and Functional Art" Art et Industrie, New York City, U.S.A.
 "Graffiti art for the Collector" "Gallery International 52, New York City, U.S.A.
- 1985 Mirano International, Brussels, Belgium
 "Urban Abstraction" Frank Bernaducci Gallery, New York City, U.S.A
 "Festivale Culturale" Ivrea, Italy
 "A One Koor Toxic" Fashion Moda, New York City, U.S.A.
 "Arts Delores Ormandy Neuman Presents" International Art Fair Chicago, U.S.A.
- 1984 "Calligraffiti" Leila Taghina Milani Gallery, New York City, U.S.A
 Gallery Communale d'Art Moderna, Bologna, Italy
 Gallery Thomas, Munchen, Germany
 Beinnale Venice, Italy
 Fashion Moda, New York City, U.S.A.
 "Graffiti Thanks Alot" Fun Gallery, New York City, U.S.A.
 "Post Graffiti" Sidney Janis Gallery, New York City, U.S.A.
 "New York Graffiti" Maurice Keitelman Gallery, Brussels, Belgium
 "Jean Michel Basquiat-Rammellzee-A One-Koor-Toxic" Paige Powell, NYC, U.S.A.

- 1982 "Ikonoklast Panzerism vs Tricnology" Squat Theater, New York City, U.S.A.
The Hudson Valley Museum, Hudson Valley New York, U.S.A.
"Camouflaged Panzerism" Fashion Moda, New York City, U.S.A.
- 1981 "The South Bronx Show" Fashion Moda, New York City, U.S.A.
- 1980 "Graffiti Art Success" Fashion Moda, New York City, U.S.A.