

JULIAN SCHNABEL

Biography

Julian Schnabel was born in New York in 1951 and grew up between Brooklyn and Houston, where he attended the University of Houston from 1969 to 1973. Shortly after graduating, he joined the study program at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York. In 1976 he held his first major exhibition at the Contemporary Arts Museum in Houston, and in 1979 he achieved his breakthrough with a solo show at the Mary Boone Gallery in New York, where all the works were sold in advance.

During the 1980s Schnabel established himself as one of the leading figures of Neo-Expressionist painting, taking part in international exhibitions and developing monumental paintings and sculptures characterized by unconventional materials.

Alongside his work as an artist, Schnabel launched a significant career in cinema. In 1996 he directed *Basquiat*, a biographical film about the painter Jean-Michel Basquiat, followed in 2000 by *Before Night Falls*, starring Javier Bardem, Olivier Martinez, Johnny Depp, and Sean Penn. He also directed *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly* (2007), which won awards at Cannes and received multiple Academy Award nominations, and *At Eternity's Gate* (2018), dedicated to the painter Vincent van Gogh.

Schnabel's works are held in the collections of the world's leading museums, including the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; the Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; the Museo Reina Sofía, Madrid; the Tate Gallery, London; and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, among many others.

In 2023 Schnabel presented *Bouquet of Mistakes*, an exhibition of new velvet paintings at Pace Gallery in New York, reflecting his ongoing experimentation and interest in non-traditional surfaces and materials.

In 2024 he was featured in *Julian Schnabel: Selected Works From Home* at Guild Hall in East Hampton (New York), an exhibition bringing together paintings, drawings, and sculptures from his

personal collection, offering an intimate view of his artistic production over the past 45 years.

For the 2025–2026 season, Mnuchin Gallery in New York presents *Julian Schnabel: Plate Paintings, 1978–2025*, a retrospective dedicated to his iconic broken-plate works, spanning nearly five decades of material experimentation in painting.

Alongside his artistic practice, Schnabel continues to work in film: his feature *In the Hand of Dante*, with an internationally renowned cast, is presented out of competition at the 2025 Venice International Film Festival, where he also receives the *Cartier Glory to the Filmmaker Award* for his original contribution to contemporary cinema.

Beyond these major exhibitions, Schnabel's work continues to be included in international programs, and his artworks are regularly shown in public and private spaces worldwide.

Julian Schnabel lives and works between New York City and Montauk, Long Island.