Fuzzy bunnies, big-eyed girls, meat, magic, and mystery

Mark Ryden’s carnival of curiosities

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Blending themes of pop culture with techniques reminiscent of the old masters, Mark Ryden has created a singular style that blurs the traditional boundaries between high and low art. His work first garnered attention in the 1990s, when he ushered in a new genre of painting, “Pop Surrealism,” dragging a host of followers in his wake. He has trumped the initial surrealist strategies by choosing subject matter loaded with cultural connotation.

Ryden's vocabulary ranges from cryptic to cute, treading a fine line between nostalgic cliché and disturbing archetype. Seduced by his infinitely detailed and meticulously glazed surfaces, the viewer is confronted with the juxtaposition of the childhood innocence and the mysterious recesses of the soul. A subtle disquiet inhabits his paintings; the work is achingly beautiful as it hints at darker psychic stuff beneath the surface of cultural kitsch. In Ryden’s world cherubic girls rub elbows with strange and mysterious figures. Ornately carved frames lend the paintings a baroque exuberance that adds gravity to their enigmatic themes. Complex in its arcane and idiosyncratic subject matter, Ryden’s work can leave no viewer unmoved.

Pinxit, whose title refers to the Latin term meaning “painted by,” is organized by the themes of Ryden’s major exhibitions—The Meat Show, Bunnies & Bees, The Tree Show, and so on—and includes collected essays by Yoshitoshi Nara, Carlo McCormick, and others, and a new essay by culture critic Kristine McKenna. Ryden's paintings and drawings are reproduced using the finest techniques available in this oversize edition, which includes two vertical and five horizontal foldouts that open up to a staggering 150 cm (59 inches) across.

Many books have been published on Mark Ryden before, but none like this large-format monograph, released in a boxed Collector’s Edition of 1,000 numbered copies, each signed by the artist; and also available in an Art Edition of only 50 copies, which come with an eight-color serigraph, Eye of Eternity. This sweeping retrospective brings together nearly two decades worth of Mark Ryden’s paintings and works on paper, broadening the horizons of his uncanny universe and bringing it to the world, one big page at a time.

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This edition is limited to 1,050 numbered copies signed by Mark Ryden.

Handbound in a clamshell box, 37.5 x 50 cm (14.8 x 19.7 in.), 366 pages, includes 5 foldouts and 2 posters.

Trilingual edition: English, German, French

The artist: Mark Ryden received a BFA in 1987 from Art Center College of Design in Pasadena. His paintings have been exhibited in museums and galleries worldwide, including a retrospective, Wondertoonel at the Frye Museum of Art in Seattle and Pasadena Museum of California Art, and in the exhibition, The Artist’s Museum at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles. He currently lives and works in Los Angeles.

This teaser is produced at the actual size and using the same paper stock as the book.


"At night my head is so full of ideas I can’t sleep. I mix it all together and create my own doctrine of life and the universe. To me the world is full of awe and wonder. This is what I put in my paintings." —M. Ryden

"The godfather of Pop Surrealism." —INTERVIEW NEW YORK
Collector’s Edition
Edition No. 51–1,050

- Edition of 1,000 numbered copies signed by Mark Ryden
- Quarter-bound cloth cover with dyed calf leather spine
- Packaged in a cloth-covered clamshell box
- Front cover and box feature gold-relief embossing crafted by the master printers at Pressure Printing
- Two vertical poster-style foldouts and five horizontal foldouts, the largest of which opens to 150 cm (59 inches) across
- Essays by Yoshtomo Nara, Kristine McKenna, Carlo McCormick, Amanda Erlanson, Dehra Byrne, Holly Myers, Kirsten Anderson, and Mike McGee
- Printed on archival-quality paper
- Sumo size: 37.5 x 50 cm (14.8 x 19.7 in.)

ISBN 978-3-8365-2066-9
LIST PRICES: EUR 750 | USD 1,000 | GBP 650

Art Edition
Edition No. 1–50

- Limited to 50 numbered copies, signed by Mark Ryden
- Comes with a numbered, signed silkscreen print created by Mark Ryden for this edition
- Full calf leather cover and cloth covered clamshell box feature gold-relief embossing by the master printers at Pressure Printing

ISBN 978-3-8365-2580-0
LIST PRICES: EUR 4,000 | USD 6,000 | GBP 3,500

Eye of Eternity
Limited edition serigraph print, 35.5 x 48 cm. (14 x 19 in.)
Limited to 50 copies, this eight-color fine serigraph is a perfect reproduction of an original Ryden painting made especially for this exclusive print. The print was meticulously crafted by the fine print-makers at Pressure Printing. It is printed on finely handmade paper from Bhutan, and carefully dyed and aged; the work is embossed with a beautifully hand-sculpted bee and printer’s chop. The edition is numbered and signed by Mark Ryden and comes with a certificate of authenticity also signed by the artist.

“Mark Ryden is a master of the style.”
TASCHEN NEW YORK
Grotto of the Old Mass (No. 90)
Oil on canvas, 61 x 91.4 cm
(24 x 36 in.), 2008

Fur Girl
2008 (detail)
The Tree of Life (No. 63)
Oil on canvas, 85 x 56 in., 2006

OIL PAINTING

The Tree of Life (No. 63)
Oil on canvas, 85 x 56 in., 2006
(85 x 56 in.), 2006
Searching for the Mystical in the Physical

The Pumpkin President, 1998 (detail)

Following the Moon, 2010 (detail)