

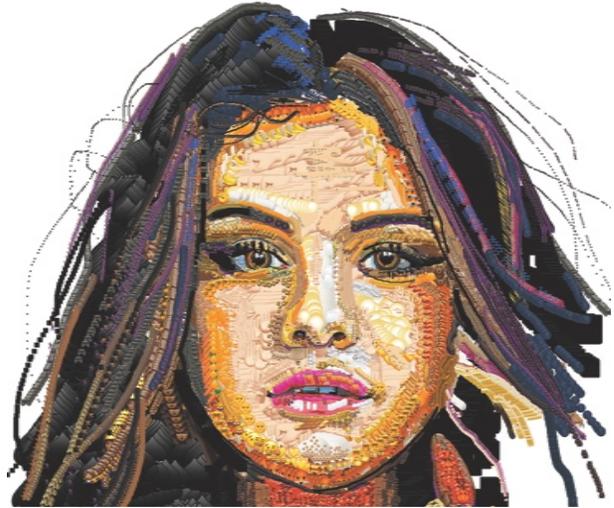
# TRIPOLI GALLERY

## **Press Release**

Tripoli Gallery  
30a Jobs Lane  
Southampton, NY 11968  
T. 631 377 3715  
E. info@tripoligallery.com  
Hours: 11 am – 6 pm; Closed Tuesday  
Sunday, 12 – 5 pm

## **Yung Jake: *Emoji Portraits***

July 14<sup>th</sup> – August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
Opening reception: Saturday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, 7 – 9  
p.m.



**Yung Jake**  
*selena*, 2017  
digital painting  
70 x 82 x 2-1/2 inches  
Image © Yung Jake

**Southampton, NY** – Tripoli Gallery is pleased to present *Emoji Portraits*, its second solo exhibition with Los Angeles-based creator, Yung Jake. Featuring digital paintings ranging from 2015 to today, this exhibition marks the first presentation of his world-renowned emoji portraits in hard copy. On view from July 14<sup>th</sup> through August 14<sup>th</sup>, a public reception will be held for the artist on Saturday, July 15<sup>th</sup> at 30a Jobs Lane, Southampton, NY, from 7 to 9 p.m., with an after-party to follow.

In this exhibition, Yung Jake touches back to his core as a painter. Aware of modern day technologies and unbound to any particular creative field or medium, his work is constantly evolving, always one step ahead of today's fast-paced trends. Drawing since he was a child, Yung Jake began a series of self portraits with oil paint while attending Bridgehampton High School. Incorporating digital technology into his current work, Yung Jake's emoji portraits showcase the same painterly skills he developed painting portraits in his formative years.

Yung Jake started painting his emoji portraits in 2015 and since then has been generating a body of work that is deeply rooted in contemporary pop culture. His company *Tig.ht Corp.*, co-founded with partner Vince McKelvie, developed *emoji.ink*, which allows its users to paint with emojis. From the movie cameras speckling Leo's jacket, to the rabbits on Bowie's face, to the green plants ornamenting Willow Smith's forehead, each painting is a synthesis of diverse emojis, recreating the unique pulse of its subject. A self portrait, *yung jake*, is rendered from honey pots, hands, moons, paint palettes, treble clefs, and with a biohazard sign centered between his eyes; each emoji adds a new shade and color of content to his character.

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**Yung Jake** earned his BFA from California Institute of the Arts (CalArts) in 2012. His emoji portraits have been featured in print in *Time Magazine* (2015), and online by *Creators Project* (2015), *WNYC* (2015), *Wired* (2015), *Artnet News* (2015), *Business Insider* (2015), *BBC News* (2015), *Complex* (2015), *The Fader* (2016), *W Magazine* (2016), and many others. This year, *SchoolArts Magazine* showcased one of his self portraits, *yung jake*—included in this exhibition—on the cover of its April edition. He has had ten solo exhibitions since 2014, including five shows at Steve Turner in LA, a project at *ABC Berlin*, and his previous solo show with Tripoli Gallery, *Twisted Metal*. His artwork has been included in more than twenty group shows and showcased and sold in numerous art fairs including MiArt, Milan (2015), UNTITLED, Miami Beach (2016), Art Brussels, Belgium (2016), the Seattle Art Fair (2016), and the Dallas Art Fair (2016). His work has been featured at venues including Sundance (2013), where his videos *Datamosh* (2011), and [E.m-bed.de/d](#) (2012) were screened, as well as performances in Los Angeles at the Hammer Museum (2013), REDCAT (2013), MOCA (2014), The Getty Center (2015), and in New York at the Museum of Modern Art (2016). Most recently, his solo booth with Steve Turner at the 2017 edition of *Zona Maco Sur*, Mexico City sold out in January. Currently, a series of powder-coated metal pieces are on view at *ARS17*, Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art, Helsinki, Finland, as well as in Yung Jake's most recent solo exhibition at Steve Turner titled *Caution: Wet Floor*, on view through July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017.

For press inquiries, images, or further information, please contact [info@tripoligallery.com](mailto:info@tripoligallery.com) or call [631.377.3715](tel:631.377.3715).