

**BIOGRAPHY**

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Artist

**Carlos Leal**

After having been the singer of the rap group Sens Unik, Carlos Leal began an acting career in Paris. Since then, he has received 4 acting awards including the Shooting Star at the Berlinale.

In 2010, driven by the desire to propel his acting career to an international level, Carlos Leal left Europe to settle in Los Angeles, but socially, Carlos did not find his feet, too upset by the codes of an environment where the majority is only interested in one goal: success.

Carlos Leal has always had a passion for photography and during his travels he started to take pictures to help him build the logbook of his fictional characters. Storytelling and minimalism are essential in his approach. For him, the importance of a photograph is where aesthetics and purpose meet and push us to question our social system.

As an ex-rapper, he can't help but have the eye of an urban journalist and the instinctive need to depict the Los Angeles he comes into contact with on a daily basis and which he sees with a completely different eye than postcards with silhouettes of palm trees cutting through the sky of a California sunset.

The critical view he takes of his environment is not meant to be anti-American, that would be too easy coming from a child of old Europe. But how can we ignore the fact that the nation that constantly invents superheroes to deliver us from the forces of evil does not know how to look back on itself and realise that it is totally unaccountable for its failings and its losers ?

In the megalopolis of exacerbated fantasies, Carlos scans the streets of the city for hours on end, looking for a visual poetry that will bring him closer to this American society from which he feels so distant.

After showing his work in Switzerland and Los Angeles, he is exhibiting for the first time in Paris at the Galerie Esther Woerdehoff. Carlos lives between Europe and Los Angeles.

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**Exhibitions****2023**

Théâtre Raymond Kabbaz, Los Angeles, United-States

**2022**

The Cube, Zurich, Switzerland

*Through Space and Time*, Galerie Trittligasse, Zurich, Switzerland

*I Need a Dollar a Dollar is What I Need*, Abstract Centre d'art contemporain, Lausanne, Switzerland

**2021**

PhotoSchweiz, Zurich, Switzerland