

## Yann Kebbi

Movement: agitation, tremor, emotion. On the surface of oneself, the train passenger is caught in a displacement that no longer concerns the body but the mind. He enters a metaphorical tunnel compressing time and space. Carried along yet motionless, the traveler drifts into contemplation (*J'aime bien le train, on a le temps de regarder*).

In black and white, Yann Kebbi's line plunges into the latency of inner transport, into the marbling of a seat or a thought, into the mise en abyme created by windows suddenly plunged into darkness, multiplying reveries and toying with reality. In the distance, ink diffuses its colors like a soft vapor. It dissolves figures while preserving impressions— here, the ephemeral attaches itself to a sense of eternity.



Yann Kebbi, *J'aime bien le train, on a le temps de regarder*, 2024, encre de Chine sur papier, 109 x 60 cm ©Yann Kebbi / courtesy Galerie Martel

## BIOGRAPHY

Yann Kebbi studied illustration at École Estienne before graduating from the École des Arts Décoratifs in Paris. During an exchange program in New York, he was noticed by art directors from The New Yorker and The New York Times. This led to collaborations with leading publications such as The Guardian, Le Monde, Télrama, and XXI, as well as specialized magazines including Pandora, La Revue Dessinée, and TafMag, alongside his personal projects.

In 2011, his work was awarded the Prix Antoine Marin at the Julio Gonzalez Gallery, under the patronage of Antonio Seguí. In 2016, he was the subject of an exhibition at the Taichung Cultural and Creative Park (Taiwan), followed by a solo show in Hong Kong in partnership with Galerie Agnès B. Since 2021, he has collaborated with the Fondation Cartier, producing several original works exploring the relationship between humans, art, and the environment.

In 2022, he participated in the 23rd International Exhibition at the Triennale di Milano (Mondo Reale), curated by Hervé Chandès. For the occasion, he created a monumental work over 2.5 meters wide, offering his own interpretation of the individuals and spaces that shape such an event — an exhibition within the exhibition. This ambitious approach echoes one of his most striking projects, *Fondation Kebbi* (Actes Sud, 2019), where he explores movement within the defined space of an exhibition. Through large-scale, highly detailed drawings, he unfolds the architecture of a museum displaying his own work.

From engraving to monotype, collage to pencil, pastel to pen, and even analog photography, Kebbi works across media without constraint. Playing with codes and boundaries, he develops a rich and original body of work that questions the relationship between humans and images, and how they inhabit exhibition spaces. Based in Paris, Kebbi draws daily, developing a distinctive visual language marked by both the violence of the line and bursts of color.

In 2021, he collaborated with filmmaker Mike Mills on *C'mon C'mon*, producing over 300 drawings documenting the film's production. A selection was exhibited at Galerie Martel Paris in autumn 2022. That same year, he was a finalist for the Prix du Dessin des Beaux-Arts.

In 2022, he created the *Louis Vuitton Travel Book – Las Vegas*, later presented at Art Basel Unlimited. In 2024, several of his works entered the collection of the Fondation Cartier. That same year, he was featured in the Galerie Valois (Palais-Royal – Musée du Louvre metro station) in an exhibition titled *Chantier*, presenting works created during the construction of the Fondation Cartier's new building, set to open in 2025.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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- 2023 — *Louis Vuitton Travel Book – Las Vegas*, Éditions Louis Vuitton
- 2023 — *C'mon C'mon: Drawings From the Set*, A24
- 2022 — *Persons of Interest*, 3 fois par jour
- 2020 — *Purge*, livre d'artiste coédité avec M.Durringer
- 2019 — *Fondation Kebbi*, Actes Sud BD, collection Lontano
- 2017 — *La structure est pourrie camarade*, avec Viken Berberian, Actes Sud BD
- 2017 — *P.O.V.*, 3 fois par jour
- 2016 — *Monotypes*, 3 fois par jour
- 2015 — *HOWDY*, dessins d'Amérique, avec Idir Davaine, Éditions Michel Lagarde
- 2014 — *Choco et Gelatine*, Sarbacane
- 2013 — *IMMO +*, 3 fois par jour
- 2012 — *Americanin, un chien à New York*, Éditions Michel Lagarde