Claudio Parentela: Biography

Born in Catanzaro (1962, Italy), where he currently lives and works, Claudio Parentela is an eclectic contemporary artist whose career spans decades of intense activity in the international underground and contemporary art scenes.

As a multi-disciplinary creator, his work crosses numerous boundaries: he is an illustrator, painter, digital artist, photographer, mail artist, cartoonist, collagist, textile artist, and freelance journalist.

Artistic Vision & Collaborations

Known for his obscure, chaotic, and wonderfully "crazy" visual style, Parentela has built a massive global network. Over the years, he has contributed to and collaborated with countless contemporary art zines, literary journals, and comic magazines, both in print and across the web. His work has been featured in prominent publications worldwide, including *NYArtsMagazine, Stripburger, Komikaze, Put!, Mineshaft, Exquisite Corpse, ROJO®magazine,* and *MungBeing*, among hundreds of others.

Deeply connected to the global underground culture, he is an active participant in the international Mail Art movement and frequently collaborates with musical acts in the industrial, noise, experimental, electronic, metal, and punk scenes.

As an illustrator, he has brought to life the poems, stories, and music of authors and artists such as Gavin Burrows, Harry Wilkens, Michael Kriesel, and Nathan Medema, and has co-created art with figures like Maurizio Bianchi (M.B.), Marcel Herms, and Elvi Athan.

Selected Exhibitions & Galleries

Parentela's artwork has been exhibited in a vast array of physical galleries and digital spaces globally. Key physical exhibitions and venues include:

- **International Festivals & Museums:** Guest at the *BREAK 21 FESTIVAL* (Ljubljana, Slovenia); CAM (Casoria Contemporary Art Museum, Italy); the Italian Institute of Culture (London, UK).
- **Galleries & Art Spaces:** *Galerie Slaphanger* (Amsterdam), *Andenken Gallery* (USA), *The Wurst Gallery* (Portland, USA), *Black Maria Gallery* (Los Angeles, USA), *Diesel Gallery* (New York, USA), *Little Cakes Gallery* (New York, USA), and *Artitude Gallery* (Paris, France).
- **Italian Venues:** *La Casa Di Tolleranza* (Milan), *Forte Prenestino* (Rome), *Tenax* (Florence), *Castello di Rivara* (Turin), and the *San Carpoforo Church* at the Brera Academy of Fine Arts (Milan).

Major Publications & Tarot Decks

He has authored and illustrated numerous underground comic books and poetry chapbooks for publishers worldwide, including:

- *Il Ratto Bavoso* and *L'Incubo Dimezzato* (B.G.A. Comix, Italy)
- *Fashion Robot* (David Lasky, USA)
- *Black Kisses and Other Stories* and *The Book Of Secrets* (La Cafetiere Editions, Belgium)

- *Endless Tongue* (with Richard D. Houff, The Benway Institute, USA)
- *Matter Ballet* (with Michael Kriesel, BoneWorld Publishing, USA)

In addition to his books, he has designed and published several highly sought-after tarot decks, including **Tarocchi Evoluti**, **I Tarocchi dell'Iride**, and **I Tarocchi Dell'Archetipo Blu** (published by Associazione Hermatena, Italy).

Contact & Web Presence

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Selected Portfolios & Socials

- **Official Portfolios:** Il Ratto Bavoso | I Believe in Black Aliens | Wix Portfolio
- **Social Media:** Instagram | Twitter/X | TikTok | Tumblr | Facebook
- **Art Blogs:** The Extra Finger | Foggy Grizzly | Variations in Northern Degradations