ALMINE RECH

Javier Calleja
Mr. Günter, the Cat Show

Mar 4 — Sep 6, 2023 | Centro Cultural Fundación Unicaja de Málaga

Javier Calleja presents in Malaga *Mr. Günter, The Cat Show* from March 4 until September 6. In this exhibition the artist brings together his best works since 2017, 209 of them sent by collectors from 27 countries to the capital with the aim that his talent would be recognized by all Malagueños. After more than a decade without exhibiting in Malaga (his hometown) Javier Calleja returns with more international recognition than ever along with his character, Mr. Günter, who is already popular in Japan.

Mr. Günter the Cat Show is a project carried out by the Andalusian banking institution and Javier Calleja's own studio, in collaboration with Alicia Gutiérrez Mármol and Shinji Minamizuka. It comes to the Costa del Sol after settling last year in Tokyo and Vancouver.

Javier Calleja was born in Malaga in 1971 and began his artistic career three decades ago. His main purpose when designing his works has always been to attract the attention of his viewers. After making himself known nationally and in Europe, he made the leap to the international world in 2017, thanks to the Asian gallery Aisho Nanzuka. From there, he began to grow without stopping.

With this exhibition, the author has discovered in these children's figures with a tender gaze his seal of identity. This is because these characters reflect the perfect metaphor of what he intends to communicate to the public: one must look with the innocence of a child, as one who discovers the world for the first time, without abandoning the accurate irony of an adult.