**Artist´s Statement**

I paint to keep myself insane.

I paint anxiety to be calm.

I paint war to have peace.

I paint sadness to be happy.

I paint the dark to be in the light.

I paint death to be alive.

I paint a story so that I don’t have to tell a story.

Quotes:

“Evocative artist Johan Wahlstrom aims to encourage the celebration of daily life and incite happiness through the acceptance of reality. His emotionally charged neoexpressionist paintings are a contemporary hybrid of Jean DuBuffet’s chaotic geometric canvases and Jean-Michel Basquiat’s subversively scrawled social critiques. Based in Malaga, Spain Wahlstrom works in series that function as pointed signifiers to his artistic intention. His work aims to elucidate the uncontrollable nature of reality in an effort to embrace the small sufferings that signify life.

Wahlstrom’s work continues to gain attention fuelled by his overwhelming desire to connect with humanity in the hopes of provoking conversation. Pushing his abilities to the limit, Wahlstrom transcribes visual stories to enact societal change by illustrating the erratic and confusing nature of human existence”.  
Kristen Nicholas/Art Voices Magazine, New York/Los Angeles, December 2014

“It’s Boring to Die – Johan Wahlstrom evokes through his paintings, one should appreciate all emotion, because dying is certainly boring. As I walked through the show once again, the work of Johan Wahlstrom’s faces and strategically placed hands became familiar old friends. Some figures were floating, as in Chagall’s work and some, reminded me of Munch’s The Scream. The blues and explosions of red become meshed into a field of emotions that on closer inspection tells a myriad of different stories, like the art goers at thereception. Conversations were revealed and reveled in.”  
Olga Turchini/Art Fuse, New York, September 2013

**Johan Wahlstrom is an international recognized artist exhibited in:   
New York, Boston, Miami, Los Angeles, London, Berlin, Milan, Amsterdam, Madrid, Barcelona, Zurich and many others across Europe/USA.**

**www.johanwahlstrom.com**