

WALLWORKS NEW YORK

Don't Sweat the Technique – group exhibition
January 18 – February 13, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JANUARY 16, 2019 (BRONX, NEW YORK) – WALLWORKS NEW YORK is proud to announce our first exhibition of the new year, a group show curated by gallery director Anna Matos. *Don't Sweat the Technique* is an exploration of the process of meditative, stream of consciousness and memory in art as seen through the lens of seven different emerging, contemporary artists.

Inspired by the lyrics of Eric B. & Rakim, Matos asks the viewers to “tract the hint and check the file...see who bent and detect the style” of the featured artists. The exhibition can be seen as showing two themes: art as a meditative, methodical process that produces the final product, and art that is focused on the mind—memories and nostalgia and idea of the unconscious.

Artists like Ilan Leas, Buz163, Reynan Punzalan and Joe Blens all have a quality of their work that leads to a meditative process that becomes integral to the overall composition. Leas' use of intricate line work and precision becomes a contemplative development that is both thoughtful, and contradictory as a way to not think. Leas explains:

I began drawing as a way to turn my mind off. Everything else in life I over think, but when I'm making marks, I rely solely on my instincts and intuition. With this method, I'm in a meditative flow state, which allows me to create unique works where lines, shapes, and characters emerge from my subconscious.

The same can be said for the collage making process of the works of Buz163. The act of cutting and pasting and fitting forms and shapes of different color and texture to create an image from a sketch of a memory becomes just as important to the work as the overall final picture.

The colorful weaves of Reynan Punzalan also fuel this theme. Based on memories of his travels from around the world. When asked about his works, Punzalan explains, “I try to capture spontaneity in my compositions and allow the fibers to guide the course of my work...I aim to evoke a sense of discovery and surprise.”

For Joe Blens, it is the process of having a conversation of textured surface, blending and writing as it is defined in the context of graffiti. His mixed media work is a microcosm of the raw, urban surfaces writers often encounter, put into a fine art lens of canvas work.

All these themes of process and almost stream of consciousness flows into the works of Chakima Micheau, BOSK and Khilali Marquez. Each artist uses themes directly influenced by the mind in their artwork. This can easily be seen in Micheau's 90s nostalgia canvas works. Drawing from her childhood memories of growing up in The Bronx, her works induce wistfulness of the viewers, inviting them to share their own memories and stories. This concept of talking and sharing becomes just as important as the artwork.

Calling upon these ideas of thoughtfulness and conversation, we can look to the works of BOSK, whose anthropomorphic shapes summon us to draw upon our subconscious to find the recognizable. And in the most literal example of these greater themes of mind in art, newcomer Khilali Marquez draws on the perception of the mind disconnecting from society and the affects on mental health that comes with that.

So we ask you to enjoy the show, let your mind explore the connections and process of these works, and remember, "don't sweat the technique". *Don't Sweat the Technique* will run through February 13, 2019.

Featured Artists:

Buz163

Chakima Micheau

Ilan Leas

Joe Blens

Khilali Marquez

Pedro BOSK Fernandez

Reynan Punzalan

ABOUT WALLWORKS NEW YORK:

WALLWORKS NEW YORK is a contemporary art gallery in the Mott Haven neighborhood of The South Bronx, dedicated to reminding everyone of the rich artistic history of the neighborhood.

The passion project of legendary Graffiti pioneer John CRASH Matos and entrepreneur Robert Kantor, WALLWORKS is based on showcasing new and exciting art from both emerging and established artists from both The Bronx and around the world.