

LONDON-BASED ARTIST REMI ROUGH TO HAVE FIRST NEW YORK SOLO SHOW AT WALLWORKS NEW YORK THIS NOVEMBER

October 30, 2019 (BRONX, NY) – WALLWORKS NEW YORK is proud to announce our next exhibition, a solo show from London artist Remi Rough. In his first solo exhibition in New York, Rough will showcase new works and an on-site installation in the gallery.

His signature, geometric and colorful style and put on full display on paper and wood panel. Influenced by graffiti legend Zephyr's exhibition at FUN Gallery from 1984, Rough's entire exhibition is driven by his great appreciation of those who paved the way for the Graffiti movement, proving its longevity and significance around the world.

When asked about his inspiration for the show and what impacted the works, Rough explained:

1984 was an extremely important year for me. I had just started at a new school, which was massive, and I felt a little lost being in such a big school but I also discovered graffiti, which made me feel like I completely belonged. A book on New York subway graffiti (Subway Art), was loaned to me over a weekend that was supposed to be for friends and homework and then turned out to be for study and learning. I am still as particular about my tastes in graffiti writing today, as I was in 1984 Mare139 and Zephyr were two of a handful of names whose work for some reason resonated with me.

Fast-forward to 1989 and influenced by an artist called Juice126 who had this amazing collection of magazine cut outs from Flash Art, Artforum and various other art magazines. I t would go into the British Library over the course of some weeks with a tiny razor blade and sift through American art magazines from 1980 up until the then present and carefully cut out anything I found of interest. One being a show flyer for Zephyr's 1984 show at the Fun Gallery entitled 'REPTILES AND NEW MECHANIZED HIGH-TECH GRAFFITI WILD STYLES.' There was no image of artwork, just a candid black and white photograph of a then 23 year-old Zephyr with a respirator around his neck. My mind was filled with curiosity and questions. Where was the work? What did it look like? How could I get to see it? The image stayed with me my entire career and I knew that if I ever get to do a solo show in New York I have to in some way pay my respects to this image and my connecting story to it.

The works I have made for this show are modernist 'Wild styles'. They inter connect with each other and overlap much like wild style letters that sit within base lines much like the early trains I painted in the late 1980's in London or the trains painted in New York in the 70's and 80's which were my first insight into this culture. My journey through graffiti to now has been an amazing ride of color, shape and form but the work now more than ever sits in this 'post graffiti' capsule that I can comfortably look at it and see my trajectory with both joy and understanding. Referencing the young artists who unknowingly led me on this bizarre journey seems like the only way I can say thank you. I am so lucky to be a part of this culture and even more so that some of these artists have become my friends. These paintings are the purest forms I could ever hope to make. Even though they no longer move on the metal serpents that we played amongst as children they now have lives of their own and cannot in any way be restricted by surface or nostalgia. The paintings have become all of us and shall be so forever more.

Remi Rough's exhibition Air miles and new mechanized high-tech graffiti wild styles will run from November 2 – December 13, 2019 and will subsequently be the last exhibition at the current WALLWORKS space before moving to Kreate Hub in January 2020.