

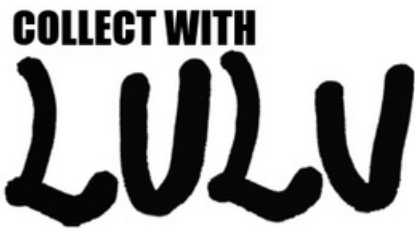
BROOKLYN BOUND EXHIBITION

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AL DIAZ



Al Díaz's career spans five decades. Born and raised Puerto Rican in New York City, by age 15 he was an influential first-generation subway graffiti artist known as "BOMB-ONE." His friendship and artistic collaboration with high school schoolmate Jean-Michel Basquiat on SAMO©, (a late 70s Avant-garde graffiti tag project) has been noted often in contemporary art history. Díaz later contributed percussion to numerous musical recordings and performances, including Basquiat's historic 1983 record, "Beat Bop," (considered to be one of the earliest hip-hop albums).

Díaz is sought-after as an expert of New York City counterculture art. He appears often in publications, as a highlighted speaker for a variety of panel discussions at universities and museums (including Smithsonian Institution, the Brooklyn Museum, The New School and Christie's Education), and has been featured in several films, including Boom for Real: The Late Teenage Years of Jean-Michel Basquiat, BBC's American Masters — Basquiat: Rage to Riches and Jean-Michel Basquiat: The Radiant Child.

Díaz' current creative practice in Brooklyn includes gathering the standard "WET PAINT" signage used throughout the NYC MTA, and reconstructing them to create clever, poignant anagrams in various mixed media and public art formats. His work is shown and privately collected internationally.

In 2018, Diaz authored SAMO©...SINCE 1978, an in-depth, color illustrated history of the street art legacy that he began with Basquiat in the late 70s. A notebook that Díaz made with Basquiat in his teens is currently held in the collection of the Yale University Beinecke Library.

BG183



BG183 was born and raised in the South Bronx. One of the founding members of the legendary Tats Cru – The Mural Kings. Defining his style as the Art of Letters. He has painted graffiti for 37 years and exhibited artwork around the world. He has become world famous for his many styles of letters, detailed characters and complex backgrounds. BG183 is one of the most dynamic and innovative graffiti artists of our time.

BG183 has collaborated on corporate campaigns with McDonalds, Coca Cola, MTV and created advertisements for Jennifer Lopez, Ice-T, Fat Joe and John Mayer. His work has been exhibited in Museums and Galleries throughout the United States and internationally including The Smithsonian Museum, The Bronx Museum, BOX Gallery Guangzhou – China, Casa de Cultura – Mexico, Hip Hop Paris 2015 – France, Jardin Orange – China, La Jardin Rouge – Morocco.

BG183 has been featured in various publications such as: The New York Times, Vibe Magazine, Chicago Tribune, The Source Magazine and in books: Spraycan Art, The Art of Getting Up, Broken Windows and Graffiti World.

CHRIS RWK



A child of the 70's into the 80s, ChrisRWK's world was often completely flooded with the imagery and ideas presented by his television, his comic books, and the music and movies of the time. Immersed in these various mediums, ChrisRWK began to store the images brought forward through these everyday experiences in what he refers to as a "mental journal". This journal was a haven of his thoughts that he could refer back to whenever necessary. ChrisRWK's paintings frequently cite past conceptions of popular culture embedded in his psyche's cache. This use of intertextuality also serves to offer a comfort or familiarity of sorts to the viewer. ChrisRWK's works frequently reveal everyday musings and people one would pass on the street without looking or thinking about twice. These images also aid ChrisRWK in the creation of a visual language comprised of his own iconographic imagery. Through the repetition of this imagery, ChrisRWK strives to familiarize his viewers with the language he has constructed. ChrisRWK believes that the notions within his pieces serve as a backbone to the many stories created by the onlooker when he or she is viewing the work.

In 2001 ChrisRWK set in motion RobotsWillKill.com. Robots Will Kill is an arts site dedicated to community and exposure for artists/media often disregarded by the mainstream art world. Rather than featuring his own work exclusively, he opened it up to allow the possibility for it to become whatever it evolved into being. ChrisRWK has used this interaction and collaboration with artists to help develop his artwork in new ways. Over the years ChrisRWK's imagery has become quickly identifiable and familiar to many people. He is trying to evoke more stories in people's minds everyday.

COPE2



Born 1968 as Fernando Carlo, Jr. in New York City. Cope 2's paintings have been exhibited in solo and group exhibitions in galleries and museums throughout the United States and internationally. He is a self taught artist who is a celebrated legend contributing over 35+ years to the graffiti and street art culture. One of New York City's most prolific graffiti artists, he began tagging his name in the South Bronx in 1978. He developed his style painting his name cope2 on the NYC subways and streets of the Bronx creating graffiti productions and murals throughout the 1980's and 1990's and even today achieving international recognition for his distinctive authentic raw style.

In recent years Cope2 has been commissioned by Time Magazine, Converse, Adidas among others. His work has even crossed into the virtual realm with appearances in video games such as Mark Eckos: Getting up and Rockstar Games: Grand Theft Auto IV.

Today, you can catch Cope 2 in the studio painting, bringing his raw energy into abstract expressionist style masterpieces, intertwined with his trademark bubble letters and tags on canvases. Cope2 crosses between art world, mainstream and street culture alike.

EASY



Easy is a world-renowned artist who was born in Brooklyn, Shortly after his birth his family relocated to Harlem then the Bronx New York. He has a fond interest in music, astronomy, physiology, anatomy and sports. After moving to Manhattan, Easy was initiated into graffiti by his cousin Josh 5, who had a profound influence on him. He was writing the tag "LC" before a female classmate gave him the nickname "EASY" because of his smooth demeanor. He immediately shifted his focus to the arts abandoning all the dreams of becoming a baseball player and a doctor.

Easy began engaging in chalkboard battles with Keith Haring on the MTA subway stations. While writing his legendary tags, Haring was drawing his iconic characters with them both battling to see who could cover all the MTA Chalkboards first. EASY, Josh 5, and Joz began painting hundreds of trains on the subway lines while simultaneously painting the streets. They created a historic street movement that influenced decades of artists to come.

Easy's tag became the blueprint for what was considered an iconic hand style. Keeping the entire movement alive while there was a crackdown on painting and vandalizing of MTA trains. Easy's work has been featured in many music videos featuring artists such as Wu tang Clan, KRS One, and Grammy award winner Macklemore to name a few. Even lending his hand style to be used in the hit video game Grand Theft Auto 5.

Easy has transitioned his classic style and new techniques into galleries, a museum, and collector's homes worldwide. His work speaks for itself. Easy was featured in countless books, magazines including The New Times. He was recently asked to be a part of the reconstruction and resurrection of the Late Jean Michel Basquiat's famed studio in Manhattan. After 30 years, Easy was one of the few artists selected to be a part of the re-opening of this this legendary studio. Easy shows no signs of stopping with an arsenal of works being created and waiting to be seen by the art world. From the streets to galleries Easy does it all. Easy has started a new chapter of street-art by installing his sculptured tag and art works throughout New York and beyond. Easy is also in the process of writing a book.

ERIC ORR



Eric Orr is an artist and designer from New York City. He pioneered the substitutive style of graffiti art in the late '70s, eschewing "writing" in favor of visual iconography, and in the process, created the distinctive robot that would become his signature and alter-ego. In 1984, he collaborated with pop artist Keith Haring on a series of drawings in the NYC subways that featured his "robot head" character alongside Haring's iconic "radiant baby". In 1986, he created and published four issues of "Rappin' Max Robot", the first Hip-Hop comic book.

He has designed and illustrated images, covers, and logos for musical artists including Jazzy Jay, Busy Bee, Positive K, Jazzy Joyce, Masters Of Ceremony, Ultimate Force, Lord Finesse, Diamond D, and Diggin' In The Crates (D.I.T.C.); worked with and exhibited alongside such notables as Futura, Seen, Doze, and Kaws; and his work has been featured in publications including Juxtapoz, Mass Appeal, Sketchel, Complex, and the International Graffiti Times. In 2014, his personal archives were acquired by Cornell University for the Hip-Hop collection in their archive of rare books and manuscripts, and in 2015, Columbia University added copies of his works to their permanent collection. In 2022, Eric's "Rappin Max Robot" is currently featured at the Universal Hip Hop Museum's [R]Evolution of Hip Hop.

<https://news.artnet.com/art-world/profile-eric-orr-universal-hip-hop-museum-2229839>

KIT 17



KIT 17 was born and still lives in the Bronx, New York and began writing his name on New York City buses. In 1974 At the age of 13 He graduated to the New York City subway trains after being introduced to the yards by Mark 198 and Hysen, founding members of Mission Graffiti crew aka MG Boys. This crew was instrumental during the mid to late 1970's, and instrumental in pushing forward the new subway train era in New York City Graffiti History. Known as a Colourist Kit 17 produced a significant amount of work painting on 100's of New York City subway trains.

His graffiti has been featured in the documentary films: Watching my name go by (BBC, 1976), 80 blocks from Tiffany's (1979) and Stations of the elevated (1981), as well in the books: The History of American Graffiti(Caleb Neelon & Roger Gastman, 2011), Fuzz one: a Bronx childhood, 2005 (Vincent Ferdorchak), Don 1 the King from Queens (Louie Gasparro, 2014) Graffiti New York(Eric Felisbret, 2010) (New York Subway Graffiti Todd Lange, 2009) (Spray Nation Martha Cooper,2022) and Classic Hits (Alan Fleisher, Paul Iovino, 2012).

Still actively painting graffiti, KIT 17 also works on canvas that explores abstract art letter Styles, color palette and designs reminiscent of his days fighting his way through the subway yard to get his name up. These paintings explore memories, inspirations and document a history that evaporated before the impact of graffiti captured by the mass media in the 1980's. His work is collected privately and shows in gallery exhibitions throughout the US and globally.

SKEME



Born in 1964 in Bronx, NYC, Skeme lived there for five years before moving to Manhattan with his family. Surrounded by numerous graffiti pieces and murals as a teenager, Skeme began soaking in New York art. He did his first graffiti in 1978. However, he painted his first train in 1980. Since then, the artist had begun tagging the train lines one by one. His persistence ultimately resulted in his pieces traveling through all five boroughs of New York City, or All City, as it became known. Only a handful of artists have managed to pull off this feat.

Skeme had made over a hundred different graffiti pieces in an amazingly short time. At only 16, the artist became known as "the king" of lines 1 and 3. His works could go side by side with some of the most prominent graffiti giants of the time, such as Daze, Kool 131, Chain 3, and Phase 2, to name a few. He was also a part of many well-known groups like TMT (Ten Million Tags), INDS (Independents), 3YB, and TDS.

Skeme came into prominence when he appeared in a documentary film titled *Style Wars*, about Hip Hop and Graffiti culture, and a graffiti book entitled *Subway Art*. In the movie, he talked about his beginnings and the invitation he received from Phase 2 to paint a wagon (the wagon was subsequently titled *Tuff City*). However, after his face appeared in the movie and his identity was revealed, his mother suggested he leaves home. She pressured him to give up on graffiti and join the military when he was only 17. Skeme enlisted in 1982 and, for 28 years, served in various parts of the world. The night before he left, he created one final piece *Farewell-for-Now*. When he returned to the US in 2010, he was taken aback by the still popular and ever-developing graffiti art. He continues to produce his pieces to this day.

Skeme is still very active in the international graffiti scene. In 2017 he was invited to make his mark on the street in Copenhagen, together with Swet and Sabe. The artist's work has been exhibited by numerous galleries around the world, including New York and Galleria Varsi in Rome. In 2022 his work appeared as part of an exhibition titled Martha Cooper: Taking Pictures at the URBAN NATION Museum in Berlin. Skeme was featured in articles published by Fast Company, New York Times, and The Chicago Tribune.

TKID



Raised in the Bronx by first generation Latino immigrants, Julius Cavero received his artistic training in the streets when he started in the 1970s, tagging the name "King 13" every time he'd win a challenge, performing daredevil tricks on swings in local parks. His start on trains had a take-no-prisoners attitude and he quickly gained a reputation as a style master for creating exciting and innovative whole cars. He later became the president of TNB (The Nasty Boyz) and ex-president of TVS (The Vamp Squad), one of the most notorious New York graffiti crews. T-KID is still active and his work can be seen in the Bronx as well as around the world. He is also a member of MAC crew from Paris. T-Kid was originally asked to be the narrator for the Hip-Hop documentary Style Wars but he declined.

By the early 1980s his trains were the ones to watch out for and were photographed by photographer Henry Chalfant and included in the book, "Subway Art." Today Julius, travels around the world collaborating with other style masters and influencing new generations with his paintings. More recently T-Kid has appeared in Marc Ecko's 2006 video game, Marc Ecko's Getting Up: Contents Under Pressure. Also in the book "The Terrible Nasty T-Kid 170," which chronicles the artist's life from childhood to the present and features pictures of his work by graffiti photographer Henry Chalfant. He also appeared in the Graffiti Documentary 'Bomb it' - directed by Jon Reiss.

WANE



Wayne is of West Indian descent and lived in England and Grenada until he was 7 years old. In 1978, Wayne's parents brought their 2 sons to the U.S. and moved to New York City's North Bronx. Here, the elevated tracks soon caught Wayne's eye and he slowly became obsessed as he watched and admired the many great graffiti writers of the late 70's and early 80's produce masterful works of art on the subway.

In 1983, Wayne transformed from a young admirer to an active and progressive participant as he became 'Wane One' when he painted his first train. This was the beginning of a lifelong love for graffiti and a deep appreciation for the culture that surrounded it. Subway cars and train walls fast became his favorite canvases. He had an unquenchable thirst for painting pieces onto these metal surfaces which traveled vast distances across the city. With a can of spray paint and a sleight of hand, Wane transformed these giant iron horses into mobile works of art appreciated by practitioners and the general public alike. Graffiti writers around the city took notice of Wane's work and recognized his stylistic significance and contributions to the scene. Soon enough, a bond was quickly established with many serious and preeminent subway painters and style masters.

In 1988, Wane started experimenting and exploring other media and surfaces. He began producing paintings with acrylic on canvas, denim jackets, and jeans. After mastering these mediums, he then progressed to airbrushing onto t-shirts, which became popular in his neighborhood giving Wane his first taste of being an entrepreneur. Wane further honed and developed his artistic and creative skill sets as he became one of the first writers to make the transition into Graphic Design. Wane found much success as a graphic designer and has designed logos for legendary hip-hop groups and artists like Gangstarr, Jeru the Damager, and Group Home. Presently, Wane divides his time between painting, running his company Writers Bench, and collaborating on numerous projects with well-known brands such as Nike, Reebok, New Balance, and RYU to name a few. Between spending time at his Holyoke, Massachusetts studio and while still residing in the Bronx, Wane continues to travel the world blessing numerous countries and locales with his creative gifts and magnificent public works of art.

ZIMAD



Luis Zimad Lamboy was born in the South Bronx in 1965. In the late 1970's he began his career as a graffiti and street artist, which has heavily influenced his style and global brand. He attended the Fashion Institute of Technology in NYC between 1988 and 1990 where he studied textile Surface designing after being awarded a scholarship. As a self taught artist, he began to combine his skills with formal training in design to develop the unique and contemporary styles he is best known for today.

His first show was in 1984 at Fashion Moda, a gallery best known for first showcasing graffiti art in NYC. Since then, he has showed and sold his work globally including exhibitions in the United States, Russia, France, United Kingdom, Switzerland, Amsterdam, Philippines, Vietnam, Ecuador, Panama and Netherlands. His clients include many major brands such as Nike, MTV, Modelo, Corona, Red Bull, Lions Gate Films, Jacob & Co. and State Farm as well as many private clients and celebrities. He has appeared in dozens of documentaries and has been interviewed and invited to participate in shows and projects all over the world.

His influences come from Salvador Dali, Jean Michele Basquiat and, Jeff Koons. Luis Lamboy sees art as a living timeless force. He lives and breathes art and sees it in everything from architecture, to nature. His works incorporate his experiences and histories often forgotten lessons, which he hopes will educate and inspire people all over the world for generations to come.

LULU



Laura “Lulu” Reich is a curator, art dealer, collector, and former gallery owner with a focus on the personal aspect of art and collecting. She has over 15 years of experience representing creatives within the luxury market. Her inspiration is sharing artist's stories and creating meaningful connections with art lovers. She believes in the value of encouraging genuine conversations about art and life.

Lulu has spent her career within fashion, fine art galleries, auction houses, and their corporate offices in New York, Chicago, and Connecticut. She has assisted at Moniker Art Fair, Art Expo, Welling Court, POW WOW Worcester, the Bushwick Collective, and Wabash Arts Corridor. Lulu is passionate about supporting US and international contemporary, graffiti, and street artists. Recently Lulu founded her own independent art dealing and curation company Collect With Lulu, LLC.

KOZ



Silvertuna Studios is the brainchild and production arm of filmmaker and graffiti artist, Koz. Born and raised on Long Island, New York, Koz was constantly surrounded by art via his artist-parents who fully supported his artistic endeavors from the get-go. While it was comic books and the art of Michaelangelo that ignited his love for drawing, it was graffiti, the art witnessed on the street while on skating missions in Brooklyn, Queens and Manhattan, that set the bar and trajectory for his creative life. As a teenager, Koz was deeply impressed and transfixed by the scrawls of CAP, JA, PACE SWK, FIB, JEST, EASY, QUIK just to name a few. Professionally, everything changed for the better when he began obsessively filming himself and his fellow skateboarders during the early era of VHS, HI8 and Mini DV recording Days.

In his late 20's Koz went to work for the production company Vidiots Inc. in Manhattan, Koz would meet his filmmaking mentor and now Co-Owner of Silveruna Studios, Jeff Fisher, a Twelve-time Emmy Award winner. Within four years, Koz worked for over 20 different networks on more than 40 tv shows. After Vidiots Koz left to work for CBS where he was an Avid Media composer engineer, and later a photographer. His photography was showcased throughout their New York City headquarters. After a few years at CBS Koz headed to NBC to work on Talk Stoop as a camera operator and set photographer, where he was nominated for an emmy for his camera work. After NBC Koz left to start Silvertuna, his Queens based production company, he premiered two episodes of a six-part series about graffiti artists in NYC called "The Blackbook Diaries" at the Angelika Theater. Currently, Koz is still working on the remaining episodes of the series, curating shows and working closely with the likes of legendary graffiti artist EASY, Chris RWK, Al Diaz (SAMO) Skateboarders Bam Margera and Zered Bassett as well as film actress, Kathrine Narducci. His goal is to have one of his films premiere worldwide.