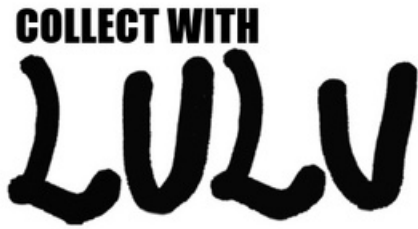


# ARTIST BIOS



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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.

# CITY KITTY



For the past 14 years NYC-based street artist City Kitty has been pasting elaborate, hand-drawn scenes of an adventurous street cat onto buildings and alleyways throughout North America and Europe. Best known for his large-scale drawings of cats and humans with extraneous facial features, City Kitty has created an alternate urban reality with a touch of double vision and a psychedelic twist. His work is featured prominently on the streets of New York, London, Barcelona and Berlin, among others.

[www.citykittystreet.org](http://www.citykittystreet.org)

# DENIAL



Daniel Joseph Bombardier (Born September 27, 1976) is a Canadian pop / mural artist whose aerosol and stencil art works critique contemporary politics, capitalism, consumerism and the human condition under the artists pseudonym and alter ego DENIAL. His artistic career began in 1999 during his involvement in the graffiti and street art movement. DENIAL' studio is based in the border city of Windsor, Ontario, Canada next to Detroit, Michigan and spends much of the year traveling, painting murals, and exhibiting throughout North America and internationally. Having done solo shows in Detroit, New York, Chicago, Houston, Austin, New York, Toronto, Melbourne, Dubai, Miami and Vancouver. DENIAL is also very active in painting large scale murals and street art which often depict bold, bright, subversive pop inspired imagery intended to stun the viewer into contemplating the deeper meaning of its content and meaning.

In 1999, Daniel adopted the moniker 'DENIAL' as a means of poking fun at advertising, politics and media messages that contemporary society is often 'in denial' about. Since then he has maintained an ongoing global street-campaign of over 500, 000 stickers, placards and murals, using the alpha-numeric characters 'D3N!@L'. Intended as a conceptual means of marketing absurdism, DENIAL also challenges traditional notions of graffiti and public art through his dynamic and often satirical visual subversions. A self-described subversive punk pop artist, DENIAL' works challenge the comfortably numb consumer masses by holding up a mirror up to the viewer using comedic artistic expression, wit and provoking imagery in a unique, unforgettable aesthetic.

In 2012 Daniel started 'Free 4 All Walls' which is the largest public art project of its kind in South West Ontario. Bringing artists from around the world to beautify and re-invigorate public walls around downtown Windsor, the government funded program has been a huge success in supporting the local community and promoting the value of street-art in contemporary society. The roster of invited artists who have painted murals include:Nycho (Austria) Bask (USA) Omen (Canada) Ben Frost (Australia) Nosego (USA) Persue (USA) Rime (USA) Above (USA) Elicser (Canada) High 5 (Canada) Nekoes (USA) Kwest (Canada) Earthcrusher (Canada) Czar Prz (USA) Anthony Lister (Australia) JUSTONE (Dubai) Deadboy (Canada) XRAY (Canada) and many more.

The now self-funded project is ongoing into 2023 as the same brand. Free For All Walls. Since its inception in 2008 DENIAL has been heavily involved with the art print giants [www.1xrun.com](http://www.1xrun.com), one of the world's biggest contemporary art print producers and promoters in the world. Having created upwards of 150 original releases of his original works with 1xRun as print and limited editions, DENIAL is the top selling artist to this day, out of 1800 artists!

In 2017 DENIAL sued Mercedes Benz alongside Jeff Soto Maxx Gramajo and James Lewis for stealing their art works and using them in online advertising. Mercedes Benz in turn countersued the four in Federal court claiming that public works of art are simply public domain and free for use even by corporations in advertisements. This lawsuit is especially important as it would essentially set a precedence and strip artists in north America of their right to their works simply for being painted in public and be deemed classified as architecture. The lawsuit was settled out of court in May of 2020



# 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.

# JKE JKE



My name is Jake Genen and I am a New York based digital artist. I utilize my traditional fine art skills to aid in the execution of my digital collages. My current work marries my love of history with my love of art and combines elements from original nineteenth century tintypes, cabinet cards and illustrations with animals. I have always thought that people and animals resemble one another in demeanor and I enjoy creating my otherworldly anthropomorphic images based on guessed personality traits. I live with my wife, Tara and our two children in Astoria, NY.

## Artist Statement:

I create multimedia digital collages combining Victorian photographs with animal anatomy. These Minotaur-like creatures evoke beautiful images that somehow seem believable. Some spectators begin to question their animal ancestry.

I use original tintypes that I find from scouring garage sales and eBay of peoples forgotten ancestors. The tintypes are unique singular artifacts that are part of material and social history as records of a brief moment past. My work serves as a visual archeology that uncovers and combines previously lost likenesses to create new ones. The past is transformed, and a new image and message emerge from my collage.

# 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.

# 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.



# MAGDA LOVE



Magda Love is an Argentinean visual artist and muralist living in United States. Her artwork is a celebration of color, nature and humanity. Her aim is to inspire others to recognize the value in shared personal experience and emotional connectivity. Magda loves to play with the ideas of Magical Realism, a contemporary twist on Latin American folk arts and literature, inviting the viewers to discover, imagine and bridge to a land of make believe . She is constantly on a quest to explore different mediums including painting, sculpture, textiles and embroidering.

Magda Love is passionate about public art and community engaged projects. She has collaborated with companies like Google, Red Bull, Johnnie Walker, and more. She regularly collaborates with educational institutions and NGOs around the globe to ensure inspiration, education and art shine in the eyes of those who need it most.

# NITE OWL



Nite Owl is an Oakland, California based artist whose expressive Owls explore colors and geometries and enter into the realm of “flatness.” A prolific artist whose signature owls jump off the canvas and engage the viewer. Be it stickers in the streets, colorful canvases in galleries or large murals painted on city walls the owl’s works transfer the artist's energy and intensity to the canvas.

Being an avid traveler has helped Nite Owl spread works through 4 continents. While based out of the San Francisco Bay Area, Nite Owl maintains an active presence in New York City and Paris. Career highlights have included painting the Berlin Wall, Tokyo, the legendary 5 Points in New York City, Kings Spray in Amsterdam and being showcased at the Meeting of Styles in San Francisco.

In a gesture meant to thumb one's nose at social media and to return to painting for the love of it as opposed to collecting likes, Nite Owl co-created the "No Likes Tour", which is a series of non-commissioned artistic maneuvers in long forgotten places and the deserted ghost towns of Nevada and California. Check the hashtag #nolikestour to experience the art.

# OSK



Osk is a Multidisciplinary artist who lives and works in New York City, Born and Raised in Bogotá, Colombia, with more than 10 Years of experience with Design, Graffiti and art in general. Being part of the rapid progress of the Graffiti Community in Bogotá, he decided to move out and learn about Graffiti/Art scene in different parts of the world, arrived to New York City in 2016, he has accomplished many murals and construction sites in collaboration with organizations and recognized artists around the Tri- State Area (including OBEY , Praxis, Lisa Project).

Also, Osk is a highly experienced Design and Development Engineer with a demonstrated history of working in the construction industry. Highly Skilled in AutoCAD, SketchUp, Inventor Professional, Revit, Graphic Design, Construction, and Drawing in general. Strong engineering professional with a Bachelor of Technology - BTech focused in Architecture, engineering and Related Services.

He has a wide knowledge in Interiors specializing in the modernization, construction, and installation of custom finishes and materials. Currently working as a Creative and Technical Director for Think Chic Interiors which is a full-service interior design firm based in Westchester, NY serving clients in Westchester, Connecticut, and NYC. Osk is an experienced muralist, Designer, Graffiti Artist, Engineer & Welder with a wide knowledge in general arts.

# PRAXIS VGZ



Praxis Vgz, a South American stencil artist, graphic designer and illustrator, started in 2009 in Bogotá – Colombia and moved to New York City in 2014.

With animal rights and music as the focal point, Praxis is an independent graphic project that develops and creates visual content through art and design that aims to inform and engage with different types of audience to create awareness about multiple issues around animal rights.

Influenced by punk rock culture, animal rights, pop culture, and street art, this project, focuses on the use of art and public space to engage not only with the common citizen but focused on the new generations, as well to invite them to use art and creativity to fight against animal abuse and as a way to campaign locally in favor of animal welfare. In past years Praxis has collaborated with different animal rights organizations, charities and cruelty free companies through art and design.

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# SOLUS



Intercontinental artist Solus found art 11 years ago, key to keeping him inspired and on the right track. He embraced his natural talent and keen eye using spray paint as his main medium, leaving his mark in Europe, America, and Asia on walls, canvas, sculpture, and various media. He has exhibited in various international solo shows in America, Canada, and Paris.

In 2017 he served as National Trailblazer (Ambassador) for Culture Ireland, representing and promoting culture in Ireland. He also extended ambassadorship to Paris. In 2018 he was nominated as one of five Irish artists to receive the Irish Central's Creativity and Arts awards, honoring him for his work in the streets of New York. His successful use of color and positive imagery evokes a sense of hope and leaves a mark that is undeniably his.

Collectors of Solus artwork include U2's Bono and Christina Aguilera. Solus commercial collaborations include Jameson, Sony, Adidas, Dublin City Council, Universal Studio, RTE, PETA.ORG, Dublin Whiskey Company, Trinity College, Today FM, Vodafone to name a few.

# STEPHANIE F GRAJALES



Stephanie F. Grajales-known as “SFGrajales”- is a contemporary artist whom specializes in pop art. Her meticulously hand painted wooden hearts with kissing figures series as well as her “balloon girl” have gained a lot of recognition within the art community.

> Stephanie earned her degree at the prestigious Johnson and Wales University and is currently a pastry chef for a luxury brand. Stephanie has incorporated her love of both pop and street art into her work to create a truly unique style. Her work has been showcased in New York, Los Angeles, Miami, Hawaii, Brazil, and Amsterdam.

She has also been featured in UP Magazine and Dessert Professional Magazine. Stephanie resides in Brooklyn and is continually growing her body of work by pushing the boundaries of her fearless medium experimentation. Stephanie F. Grajales

# 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.