

FOUR: group exhibition

BLLLA, Steph Burr, Alex Smetsky and Caitlyn St. Raymond
February 6 – March 2, 2016

Opening Reception:
Saturday February 6, 2016
5-8pm

BRONX, NY (FEBRUARY 3, 2016) – WALLWORKS NEW YORK is proud to announce our second show of 2016, a group exhibition of young emerging artists from around the world. FOUR features works from BLLLA, Steph Burr, Alex Smetsky and Caitlyn St. Raymond.

All four artists hail from different corners of the world, but all have a view of art that is some way shaped and formed through graffiti and street art techniques at the core. From there, they have allowed their art to reign free with a very unique focus on color and form, each expressed in a diverse way. While all may appear different on the surface, they are actually much more connected than at first glance.

ABOUT BLLLA

Bryan "BLLLA" Serra was born in 1987 in southern France, Toulouse. Born and raised under the sun, his heart soon met the rain and overwhelming grey skies. At four years old, in the middle of a complicated divorce, this kid started looking for ways to bring color in his tears and a shape to his heart.

Color and shape versus split and separation. The abstraction in the first lines dropped let him understand the development of these themes in his future work. He soon became progressively interested in fine arts, with an obsession for "the letter". Under the influence of the mid 1990s French graffiti scene, he began to express himself on canvas, and evolved towards paper.

After studying Literature followed by a year as a fine arts student and then marketing in college, his universe fully spawned. His recent works show and give importance to the letter—the shape of the word, then the sentence, with a particular focus on content and form.

2006 – 2008: Visual Arts Communication, PZK (Warner Music France)

2009: "all is B" solo exhibition – Carrarht concept store

2010: "teesh de la semaine" collaboration with Rose, Paris, France

2011: "Dome" exhibition – Perth, Australia

2012 – 2013: "lovers"

2014: "blllalea" solo exhibition – Chez Corezone, Toulouse, France

2015: collaboration with COLUMNZ, Los Angeles, CA, USA

2016: "FOUR" group exhibition – WALLWORKS NEW YORK, The Bronx, NY, USA

ABOUT STEPH BURR

Born in Ridgecrest, California 1988, Steph Burr grew up in a small town in NWCT. When she was 13 her mom passed away from cancer and Steph started using art as an outlet for self-healing. Ever since, art has become a compulsion and necessary part of her routine. She went on to obtain a dual BA in both Film and Studio Art from Fairfield University.

While at Fairfield, Burr created a solo exhibition titled "Wasteland" where she collected over \$2000 worth of "almost perfect" merchandise from a dumpster behind a Halloween store over the course of 4 days of business. This merchandise was transformed into a haunted house that displayed the terrifying scale of human consumption and the waste created by the demand for perfection at retail.

In April 2015, Steph was featured in a dual opening entitled "Organized Chaos" with artist John Paul O'Grodnick at Wallworks Gallery, Bronx NY. She currently resides in Torrington, CT, and works out of a studio space downtown.

ABOUT CAITLYN ST. RAYMOND

Caitlyn St. Raymond is a 25 year-old painter/illustrator currently living in her hometown of New Orleans, LA./ She has been an artist her entire life and has always been in gifted art programs, such as the prestigious NOCCA (New Orleans Center for Creative Arts). In 2008, she was accepted to and attended a 4-year program at the School of Visual Arts in New York City, where she graduated in 2012 with a BFA in illustration. She has since moved back home and has done everything from selling in several of the many monthly and weekly art markets, to working for the local popular Frenchy in his French Quarter Gallery. Currently, she works in her family owner art gallery in the Central Business District of Downtown New Orleans.

"My work has been described as cartoony and maybe sometimes a little juvenile, but it usually centers on adult themes. The human figure has always fascinated me and I like to blend and manipulate it into weird creations of my own. My work usually stays within the realm of 'cute, violent and sexy', and it very heavily character based. Some of my influences include painters like John Currin, Mark Ryden and Audrey Kawaskai, to the more comic book stylings of R. Crumb, Vaughn Bode and Junko Mizuno. I have always been profoundly interested in street art/graffiti and have been lucky enough to meet a lot of local street artists since I moved back home.

ABOUT ALEX SMETSKY

Alex Smetsky is a Brooklyn-based artist who migrated here from Russia. He is a multi-versed architect with every medium. Between classic sketches to graffiti and everything in between, he derives inspiration from masterminds of all times. However, his influence goes beyond just art in its literal sense; it comes from poets, writers and philosophers as well.

Through his art, he hopes to show his upbeat attitude and inspire people to chase freedom and the love that they have for anything that brings them happiness. After

waking up one morning at the age of 28, he realized that life shouldn't be limited to a bone-grinding hustle in hops of acquiring the most amount of monetary wealth. True bliss comes from eating, breathing and sleeping on the ideas that give you life and offer you mental and emotional sustenance. He firmly believes that if he's trying to tell people to take every chance that comes to them and to do what truly satisfies their souls. He must do the same to show everyone that it is not only possible but essential.

His pieces hope to target every person that they can, so long as the art can motivate and cultivate creativity within themselves, or even to induce self-reflection. When asked what the messages in his art were, he was quoted saying "For the most part- to be free. From your attitude, to your speech to your actions. We're free creatures. This world has cornered us to the wall and makes us believe that being free is a sin. I personally like to get uncomfortable and love doing the same to others. It shows true colors and makes you leave your comfort zone that you're shoved in all your life. Be free. Life isn't about the 9-5. It's not about your jewelry and cars. It's deeper than that—but most of us miss that. I try to contribute as much of this message through my art. To break boundaries, to just do as you want to. Nothing is 'MUST'."

ABOUT WALLWORKS NEW YORK

A new contemporary art gallery, **WALLWORKS NEW YORK** is invested in bringing exciting and interesting art back to The Bronx. The passion project of John CRASH Matos and Robert Kantor, the gallery exhibits work from both local artists and artists from all over the world, both established and emerging.