

>DEPART FOUNDATION FOR THE DISCUSSION EXHIBITION AND PRODUCTION OF ART

Rome, Italy

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PRESS RELEASE

MACRO, Museo d'Arte Contemporanea Roma
September 19 – November 1, 2009

DEPART FOUNDATION PRESENTS: NEW YORK MINUTE: 60 ARTISTS ON THE NEW YORK SCENE

New York Minute (www.nym.departfoundation.org), an exhibition organized by the DEPART Foundation in collaboration with MACRO, Museo d'Arte Contemporanea in Rome, will be on view at the MACRO FUTURE from September 19 until November 1, 2009.

This Exhibition, curated by Kathy Grayson, is the first show organized by the DEPART Foundation. It features a tightly-knit group of sixty artist on the New York scene, many living in downtown Manhattan but also including those practicing from Providence, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Portland, Virginia Beach, and even Tokyo. This extended community captures the drama, danger, speed and savvy of New York's diverse scene. The exhibition will feature large-scale installations, site-specific murals, and collaborative activities that reflect the community spirit of the show. This is the first exhibition in Europe to highlight this group, whose works are infused with the lifestyle of its members. The exhibition look and feel will be created by downtown designer Rafael de Cardenas. A series of collateral events, organized in cooperation with NERO Magazine and related to the exhibition, including concerts, film screenings, and performances will activate the exhibition.

The expression "New York Minute" refers to the speed that New Yorkers react to stimuli, with a bit of impatience, a bit of ingenuity and a lot of smarts. The sixty artists in the exhibition show a rapid and resourceful response to current cultural events and issues specific to their generation. Their work explores some of the leading tendencies in new art making in New York such as: updating action painting and abstraction with the toughness of the streets, synthesizing low pop culture into handmade, heartfelt hybrids, taking conceptualism to new and absurd ends, organizing collectives and bands and taking interdisciplinary art on tour, and bringing downtown punk attitude to assemblage, collage and sculpture. These three new tendencies are represented in the show generally as 'street punk', 'wild figuration' and 'new abstraction'.

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Artists working with collage, assemblage, performance, sculpture or photography who exemplify the 'street punk' tendency include Dash Snow, Terence Koh, Nate Lowman, Aurel Schmidt, Agathe Snow, Hanna Liden and many others. They use the dark energy of the streets to make frank, confrontational, collage, performance, music and sculpture projects. They are attracted to the danger and lawlessness of the city and make gritty artwork that reflects this spirit.

Artists working in the mode of 'wild figuration' include Chris Johanson, AVAF, Paper Rad, Takeshi Murata, Francine Spiegel and many others. They favor prismatic pigment explosions along with handmade and found objects. Using graphic and comic references along with lowbrow pop imagery, they breed new beings and radiant animals. The communal nature of this group is reflected in their frequency to organize into bands and collectives.

A third group of artists are exploring New Abstraction. Whether updating New York School abstraction with the energy of the streets, like Dan Colen, Rosson Crow or Sterling Ruby, or revitalizing outmoded conceptual approaches to abstraction with current digital-era concerns like Tauba Auerbach, Xylor Jane or Ara Peterson, the new abstract painters are not cerebrally remote, but urgent and immediate.

Highlights of a New York Minute include "Downtown Don" Aaron Bondaroff's pop up shop with all the zines, records, stickers, t-shirts and books produced by the artists in the exhibition. Tinyvices creator Tim Barber will be curating a large area of the show with contributions from his network of fresh photographers around the world. The opening will feature a performance by downtown punk band A.R.E. Weapons.

Featured Artists

Aaron Bondaroff / Agathe Snow / Alan Vega / Ara Peterson / Aurel Schmidt / AVAF / Banks Violette / Barry McGee / Ben Cho / Ben Jones / Brian Belott / Brian Chippendale / Brian Degraw / Chris Johanson / Cory Arcangel / Dan Colen / Dash Snow / Dearraindrop / Eddie Martinez / Ester Partegàs / Evan Gruzis / Francine Spiegel / Gang Gang Dance / Gardar Eide Einarsson / Hanna Liden / JD Samson / Jim Drain / Joe Bradley / Jules De Balincourt / Katherine Bernhardt / Keegan Mchargue / Kon Trubkovich / Lizzi Bougatsos / Mat Brinkman / Martha Friedman / Matt Leines / Michael Bell-Smith / Michael Cline / Mitzi Pederson / Nate Lowman / Paper Rad / Patrick Griffin / Peter Coffin / Rosson Crow / Ry Fyan / Ryan McGinley / Scott Campbell / Sterling Ruby / Steve Powers / Takeshi Murata / Tauba Auerbach / Taylor McKimens / Terence Koh / Threearfour / Tim Barber / Tomoo Gokita / Valerie Hegarty / Xylor Jane / Yuichi Yokoyama

Further information and visual material can be downloaded from the media section on www.departfoundation.org

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ABOUT THE DEPART FOUNDATION

The DEPART Foundation is a new art organization headquartered in Grottoferatta, outside of Rome. The Foundation's mission is to support contemporary art through exhibitions, educational and public programs including workshops and symposia, by an artist-in-residence program, and by making its collection of contemporary art accessible to the public in a new exhibition space. Information about the exhibition space will be made available in October 2009. The Foundation's Advisory Board includes Russell Ferguson, Professor and Chair, UCLA Department of Art, Adjunct Curator, Hammer Museum and Andrea Bellini, Art Historian, Curator, Director of Artissima, Turin. For more information, visit the Foundation's web site – www.departfoundation.org.

Artist –In–Residence Program

Starting in October 2009, two visual artists will be invited annually to participate in the program. The Foundation will provide the artists with studios, meals, travel expenses and a monthly stipend. Artists will be able to exhibit their work throughout their stay and there will be a public exhibition at the end of each year.

Symposia

The participants in the artist-in-residency program will collaborate with the Foundation to organize an annual series of symposia that what will feature an array of international intellectuals.

Public Programs

The Foundation will sponsor educational and community-oriented programs

Media Contacts

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