

GCA Gallery *NICE* and the
Wallworks gallery presents

**CITY
DWELLERS**

Public opening on Friday September 18th 2020
from 6pm to 9pm

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Press Release

CITY DWELLERS

Nocturne n°2

Exhibition from September 18th until October 31st 2020

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ABOUT THE EXHIBITION



Kan
Place Jean-Paul Fargue, 2015
Marqueur sur plaque de rue en métal

The « *City Dweller* » is the townsman, the one who articulates his life and space around the urban environment that surrounds him.

The graffiti artist is the supreme City Dweller, the one who best succeed in taking over the place of passage and life we call the street and transform it to an interchangeable and malleable canvas depending on his desires.

For that, he uses everything that the street has to offer to him: street lamp, road signs, walls, mailbox... An open-air gallery made and undone for the eyes of a population that's always on the move.

The street becomes the heart in which he draws all of his energy, and retranscribes it in canvases, sculptures, or creation which makes him pass from the « street artist » to the artist himself, democratizing an art neglected for too long.

In return, the graffiti artist gives splendor to the street by offering to all the other City Dwellers a message that unites them around the beauty of creation, but also makes them question about the society he lives in.

It's this reciprocal relationship between the street and the graffiti artist that the **City Dwellers**, an exhibition born from the collaboration between **GCA Gallery NICE** and the **Wallworks** gallery wants to highlight through urban furnitures, but also canvases that witnesses the importance of the urban environment on today's art, inside and outside the gallery.

THE ARTISTS TO DISCOVER

COLORZ

Colorz is a French self taught artist born in 1972 who forges his colorful technique on the walls and trains of Paris before turning to new substrate.

Canvas, wood, aluminium, or even plexiglass, Colorz transcribes all the energy from the streets on these new materials, echoing his first graffiti.

Between exhibitions in Paris, Jakarta, or in Sochaux, he will never give up on the street, his first love: Amsterdam, Athens, New York, Hong Kong, his authentic signature remains omnipresent, whether it's in the city or in the gallery.



DIZE

Dize started graffiti alongside with several parisian crews in 1990, at the age of 16. His authentic, modern, and cleaned designs echoes to the New York of the 70's: harmony between letters, colors, proportions are mixed with the world of comics, second testimony of the influence of the american culture on Dize's work.



Little by little, Dize expands his work, moving from trains and walls to canvases. He's exhibited in a few galleries, but will never really leave the street.

He gave himself the mission to pass on the art of graffiti to future generations: during his first visit to the Island where he's originally from, Raiatea, he painted walls among the young graffiti artists of the island. The same year, he also participated in « De l'art à l'Ourcq », an outdoor exhibition of urban arts in Paris.

FENX

Born in 1974 in Courbevoie, it was during his teenage years that Fenx discovered the street art movement and fell in love with the graffiti.

He started painted on the walls, spotlight, and urban furnitures in the streets of Ile-de-France to show his works influenced by the 80's, his childhood. Mostly repetitions of words, Fenx highlight his unique lettering with a marker.



This graphic style will follow him when he goes from street to canvas: he participated in many exhibitions in France and internationally where he will present a multitude of works without ever completely abandoning the street: in 2018 for example, he created a fresco for « Le Mur Nancy », a wall at Place Charles 3rd in Nancy where art is exhibited in the heart of the city.

GILBERT

Pigments, solvents bombs, sprays, markers, scotch, stickers: Gilbert is a plastic artist born in 1971 in Togo who creates with all the techniques that the street art offers. Freely investing public spaces and urban furnitures, he presents to us his quirky and colorful universe influenced by his european, african, and asian roots.



France, Turkey, Indonesia... Among his numerous exhibitions all around the world, Gilbert created with his collective *Douze-Douze Akrylonumerik*: a new way of transposing street art through video, music, and dance.

These lives show, presented at the Fondation Cartier in 2009 or at the Nuit Blanch of Paris in 2012, are unique experience between creation, materials, and temporality.



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KAN

Born in 1977, Kan spent his youth running the streets of the south of France to paint his name in large letters.

It's later, influenced by his childhood when he spent his time playing with images and pixels on his computer, that Kan created the « street pointillism »: graphic design built point by point with a virtual grid on which he « pixelates » images.



Portrait, Pin Up, works of art, pop culture: Kan wants to bring the art of museums and illustrate society in the street while highlighting the aestheticism of pointillism.



Although his works have seduced many galleries across France, Kan has never turned his back on the street, his favorite place, and participates in the "Parcours d'art Urbain harcourt 2018" on the Ourcq canal or even at "MUR »At 107

rue Oberkampf in Paris, an association through which urban artists exhibit themselves for a few weeks on a wall in 107 rue Oberkampf in Paris.

KENOR

Kenor is a Spanish artist born in 1976 who wants to represent through street art sound and movement. With his kaleidoscopic, geometric, and colorful productions, he depicts a fantastic and design universe where he portrays parallel world, dreams, hopes and illusions.



Kenor transforms the street into an open-air gallery by using all the spaces it offer: painting on an entire train in circulation in Kiev in Ukraine in 2016, painting on an old train at Sloterdijk metro station in Amsterdam in 2019, painting murals at the Griseras Colegio Público reflecting the energy of the children he met in this Spanish school... Kenor is a versatile artist who navigates between street work, painting on canvas, and sculpture .



MOMIES

Momies comes from the traditional graffiti scene and takes his first steps in Montpellier under the pseudonym of Pyre. Passionate about lettering, he remains faithful to it, while his style evolves towards abstraction and sophistication.

The letters, stretched and thinned to the point of becoming elusive and airy lines, bring graffiti back to its very essence: spontaneous and rapid in execution.

Momies names the structure of his letters at the heart of his work « Module » and develops this technique during his travels in Belgium, Ukraine, Bulgaria, and Portugal but also on canvas.

Between his two “Obsession” exhibitions presented in two Solo Shows in Paris at GCA Gallery and in Montpellier in 2020, Momies continues to invest other spaces by creating an abstract, sophisticated and colorful fresco at the Parisian metro Station Barbès.





NEBAY

Nebay started graffiti in 1987 at the age of 13 and never stopped. Very early, his vandal graffiti style, inspired by the New York graffiti of the 80's, construct itself around flops, blocks, and graffitis of his name.

His technique is highlight in his plastic work both outdoors, where the environment inspired him in his composition and colors, as in his studio work on canvas and paper, where he is more intimate in his pictorial research, dealing with themes such as great men and social struggles.

Recently exhibited at galleries 42B, Art Jingle, Wallworks in Paris and at the GCA Gallery in Nice in 2020, Nebay continues to invade the streets and walls of Ile-de-France



RIME

Rime is an artist born in 1979 in Brooklyn who started graffiti in the early 90's in the different New York's neighbourhoods.

Between Manhattan and Soho, his technique and style evolve, moving from "Old School" letters to colored characters and animal drawings inspired by cartoons.

In 2003, Rime decided to left America to travel across Europe for two months to creat frescoes in several countries under the pseudonym Rime or Jersey Joe. This trip was a turning point in his graffiti career: he gained recognition and decided to present his work in galleries.



Between his numerous exhibitions across the United States, in Japan, or even in Australia, he's also solicited by big brands like Adidas in 2006 or Disney in 2007.

But Rime never really leave the street: he has create various collaborative projects to teach graffiti to public schools's student in Los Angeles.

ABOUT GEOFFROY JOSSAUME DIRECTOR OF GCA GALLERY



The gallery's director, Geoffroy Jossaume, was born in 1978 in Nice.

He currently lives and works between Nice and Paris.

After training in Art History at Sotheby's Institute in London, he moved to Paris in 2000 where he worked in contemporary art galleries and several auction houses.

For nearly eight years he headed the department of contemporary and urban art at PIASA.

In this context, he organized several specialized Street Art and Graffiti sales. This is how he develops expertise in this market and his sensitivity to movement.

In 2014, he opened his first gallery in Nice and then his second in 2017 in Paris,

FROM EXPERT IN CONTEMPORARY ART TO AUCTION HOUSES TO GALLERY OWNER

Between graffiti, street art and low brow, the galleries present a group of urban, French and international artists among the most active and recognized of the moment: C215 - DOTMASTER - DZIA - ETNIK - Greg JAGER - KURAR - MACS - MALAKKAI - MOMIES - Mr JUNE - NEVERCREW - ORTICANOODLES - Otto SCHADE - PURE EVIL - RATUR - SCKARO

In April 2017, GCA Gallery opened a new space of more than 100 m² in Paris located in the François Mitterrand Library district in the 13th arrondissement. This Parisian gallery is anchored in an environment in full cultural effervescence with in particular the Street Art open-air museum project "Street Art 13", Station F and the presence of other galleries.



ABOUT CLAUDE KUNETZ, DIRECTOR OF THE GALERY WALLWORKS

Claude Kunetz was born in 1958. With a master's degree in cultural and social animation from the University of Paris 1, he created the « Wallworks » film production company for cinema d'auteur.

After filming in a psychiatric hospital in 2003, he decided to reinvest the place by creating a cultural and artistic space in the establishment with the graffiti artists Kongo, Gilbert, and Colorz. Then, in 2010, he made the Wall Street Arts exhibition in

Jakarta, Indonesia, mixing French and Indonesian graffiti artists, and created a new cultural and artistic center for people with Alzheimer's at a hospital in the Aisne. .

FROM FILM PRODUCER FOR CINEMA FROM AUTHOR TO GALLERIST

Thanks to his experiences in art and in creating cultural center, Claude Kunetz decided to open the WallWorks Gallery in Paris in 2011.

With the ambition of highlighting street art and graffiti artists from all around the world, the Wallworks gallery exhibits four or five exhibitions a year with artists such as Katre, Rime, Soni Irawan, Hendrik Czakainski, Haze, Nebay, Kongo, Colorz, Poes , or even Gilbert.

CONTACTS

Press

Thanks for sending us your interview and / or image request by email or phone
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Opening hours

Monday, tuesday, thursday, et friday: 10h30 - 12h30 / 14h00 - 18h30

Wednesday and saturday: 14h30 - 18h30

Access

TRAM 1 - Garibaldi

Parking: Port Lympia (5 minutes walk)

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