

## **BEYOND STREET ART**

*February 1, 2018 through March 7, 2018*

### **Artist Bios**

*Beyond Street Art* is the first exhibition of its kind for Greenwich, and brings together the explosive energy of five prominent urban artists whose styles, backgrounds, and color-filled creations are demonstrated through diverse expressions of imagination. Each of the artists' styles are dynamically unique, fresh and relevant to modern society, often taking a humanitarian approach to their art.

**Lady Pink** was born in Ecuador but raised in NYC during the boom of subway graffiti in the early 1980s and soon became known as the only female capable of “competing successfully with the boys.” Known as the “First Lady Of Graffiti”, Lady Pink focused her career on empowering women, using graffiti murals as acts of rebellion and expression. Today, Lady Pink continues to create new paintings on canvases that express her unique personal vision that incorporates fantasy, spiritualism, and iconic vestiges of her South American heritage. Her works have entered important collections at the Whitney Museum, the MET in New York, and the Brooklyn Museum, as well as private collections around the world. She shares her experience and passionate vision with young artists through mural workshops and teaching commitments throughout the world.

**“Swoon”**, born Caledonia Curry in New London, CT is a Brooklyn-based, Pratt educated, multimedia creator of street art, installations, and sculptural assemblages. Her work often merges art and activism with the intent of improving the world, as exemplified through her contributions in the reconstruction of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina and Haiti after the 2010 earthquake. Swoon’s intricate paper-cut portraits and cityscapes can be found affixed to walls in urban settings where art is unexpected. She sees her creations “as a way to process monumental change on a global and personal level” and her dedication to sharing her “emotional connection” to her subject invites viewers to make their own bond. Swoon’s work is collected by MOMA New York and has exhibited at many prominent museums in the US such as The Brooklyn Museum, Detroit Institute of Arts and The Cincinnati Center for Contemporary Art.

**Billy the Artist** hails from Ohio, but is entrenched in NYC’s East Village. His paintings, murals, and performances vibrate with color and vitality. His work has been characterized as “primitive pop art” that first appeared in the streets but can now be found emblazoned on multitudinous commercial enterprises worldwide - from Lamborghini to Swatch to ceramic pottery. His puzzle-like images exude positive spirit and energy. Billy said of his visually engaging work, “I believe in creating your own reality.” A glance at his work reveals his animated spirit which moves beyond creativity to support of charitable causes, as well.

**Paul Deo** was considered a child prodigy after winning a NYC art competition at age of 6, and traces his career’s most influential forces to his art experiences in both New Orleans and Harlem where he currently lives with his family since Hurricane Katrina. After earning a science degree in Information technology he worked as an art director and painter on Spike Lee’s *Malcolm X*. Throughout his career Deo has created graphic novels, mixed-media paintings, flash animation, and the huge award winning fiberglass sculpture/mural “The House of the Rising Sun.” His works reflect an imaginative spiritual connection that thrives on modern myth, and expresses his unique gifts through his humanitarian teaching commitment to students of media arts in universities, schools and shows in NY and LA and New Orleans.

**Blake Jamieson’s** encounter with the vibrant street art of Barcelona inspired him to abandon his career in digital marketing and “stop working toward someone else’s dream and start pursuing his own.” Using paint, stencils, and spray paints, he works from a barn converted into a studio north of San Francisco and specializes in celebrity commissioned works for personages like Howie Mandel, Lewis Howes, and renowned sports figures. Jamieson primarily exhibits at venues in California, but his works are in private collections worldwide.