

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: SEPTEMBER 1, 2014**



Rodrigo Branco, *Untitled* (2014)

**Gallery 102 at The George Washington University presents:**  
***LEGAL: Branco, Gen Duarte, Nick Alive, TIKKA, Vermelho***  
**October 4 – October 31, 2014**

**Opening Reception: Thursday, October 9, 6:00 – 8:00 PM**

Washington DC – Gallery 102 at The George Washington University presents *LEGAL: Branco, Gen Duarte, Nick Alive, TIKKA, Vermelho*, an intriguing exhibition featuring new works by five street artists based in São Paulo, Brazil. *LEGAL* will open at Gallery 102, 801 22<sup>nd</sup> St. NW, on Monday, October 4, and will show for four weeks until Friday, October 31. A public reception with the artists will take place on Thursday, October 9 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM.

*LEGAL* challenges visitors to think of street art as a polyvalent practice with an infinite capacity for social change and community building. A catalog with full-colored reproductions will be available in a digital format online, and for sale in print.

In addition to the exhibition at Gallery 102, the artists will participate in a series of programming events in Washington, DC and Maryland, as part of a partnership with The Arts Council of Anne Arundel County. Commissioned murals include Park Plaza in Annapolis (September 27- 28) and BWI International Airport (September 29- October 1). On October 2, a VIP reception and print signing will take place at Metropolitan in Annapolis. On October 3, the artists will lead a graffiti camp at ArtFarm Annapolis, and on October 4, the artists will lead a Graffiti Demonstration as part of the Annapolis Fringe Festival. *Please visit the exhibition Facebook page for updates on additional opportunities.*

The events in Washington, DC and Maryland are the first part of the artists' exhibition tour, which will continue onto New York City in November 2014 and Miller, Indiana in February 2015.

*"Art is not a mirror held up to reality, but a hammer with which to shape it." – Bertolt Brecht*

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## NOTES TO EDITORS

### Rodrigo Branco

Rodrigo Branco, was born in Sao Paulo and raised in the extreme south Rio de Janeiro neighborhood of Grajau. Grajau's green landscape and hillside favelas had a great influence on the development of Branco's artistic point of view, which is largely characterized by sentiment and the power of expression. His characters are created without defining borders, and are always striking for the use of strong colors and unusual characterization. Whether depicted as large-scaled murals or domestic sized wall-works, Branco's subjects maintain a power fueled by the expression of restless traces and formidable features.

*Branco has exhibited in São Paulo, Peru, London, Dortmund, Germany and Berlin, among other international cities. His various projects include Stroke Art Fair (Munich, 2013), Projecto Transitaveis/SESC Consolacao (São Paulo, 2013), Exposicao "Multiplo In-Comon" (Galeria A7MA, São Paulo, 2012), Exposicao Coectiva de gracuras (Galeria A7MA, São Paulo, 2012), and Espaço Fluxo (Belo Horizonte, 2012), Project 54 (Galeria Megusta junto a marca de Baralhos COPAG Curadoria El Cabriton, São Paulo, 2010).*

### Gen Duarte

Gen Duarte was born in the extreme north of Brazil, and moved to São Paulo as a child. The city became the scene of his artistic development. A self-taught painter and graffiti artist, Gen Duarte's first contact with the graffiti world occurred in the unhinged metropolis in 1998. As a prominent part of the new street art network of the early 2000s, Gen Duarte was recognized for possessing a very unique style. His capacity for creating an abstract and illustrative beauty was remarkable from his early days and has continued to develop into a mature and compelling signature. In each of his works, the artist uses creativity with the intention of bringing fantasy and imagination to his spectators. His characters are light and fun, with curves and details that harmonize with the physical space in question.

*Gen Duarte's many exhibitions include 1<sup>st</sup> Bienal Internacional de Graffiti de Belo Horizonte (Belo Horizonte, 2008), Reciclando Cidades e Conceitos (Brasilia, 2009), Small is Beautiful (Londres, 2009), Spray Galeria (Coletiva, 2010), Exposição Fuera de la Linea Museu Macro (Rosário, Argentina, 2011), Centro Cultural (São Paulo, 2011), and Exposição Mundo de Fantasia (São Paulo, 2012). Various projects include Cidade Revelada (Itajai SC – 2013 and a mural for the City of Itajai, Brazil). Gen Duarte has been commissioned by Agencia Hurra, Caltabiano and Oscar48 Galerie, architect David Bastos (Artefacto Beach & County), clothing brand Favela 9, and Boxing Petrorian.*

### Nick Alive

São Paulo-based street artist Nick Alive began his career in 1997, using the city walls as his canvases. His search for growth never ceased and now, his practice has expanded beyond the wall, to include canvas, paper and digital art. Street art is essential for Nick Alive, and in his eyes, the end result is always a collective effort. He is inspired by the social interactions that occur between a city's pedestrians and its artists. It is these inevitable collaborations that lead Nick Alive to call his work "a selfless act." In this way, Nick Alive is not an "artist's artist," but rather the "people's artist."

Nick Alive is particularly unique as a street artist for his choice to use oil paint, as opposed to industrial materials. The artist deliberately chooses this medium for the slow and ever-evolving process of working, which forces Nick to slow down and relax as he works. However, ink, pencil, and digital drawings form the base of most of his artworks. In the artist's words, he finds himself "within the lines of

his sketches.” It is within these lines that Nick Alive seeks to express his spirituality and to search for inner peace. The finale effects are centered patterns and androgynous characters. Because his subjects are universal, all viewers globally, may identify with the Brazilian artist’s work.

*Nick Alive’s recent exhibitions include Evento Meeting of Styles (Porto Alegre, Santa Catarina, 2014), Simpliscidade (Galeria do SESC Manuas, Amazonas, 2013), SE EU FOSSE VOCÊ FARIA ASSIM (Galeria Urban Arts, São Paulo, 2013), Exhibition with Alexandre Anjo (Galeria do Avesso, São Paulo, 2013), Metro Arte (São Paulo, 2013), Tunel Rebouças (São Paulo, 2013), Live Painting in SCHUTZ shoe store (São Paulo, 2013), and Edital SESI (São Paulo, 2013). Nick Alive was included in the 1st Bienal Internacional de Graffiti de Belo Horizonte in 2008 and has been included in several museum shows throughout Brazil. His street art works can be found in 30 Brazilian cities, and in Santiago, Chile.*

## TIKKA

One of São Paulo’s few female street artists, TIKKA began experimenting with street art in 2002 and is intrigued by the endless possibilities for interaction between a city and the daily lives of its people. Trademarks of TIKKA’s work include strong facial expressions, body movements and wild costumes, which are each painted with the intention of involving and establishing a connection with the viewer.

TIKKA’s work is intense and provokes conflicting feelings common to human nature, such as love and jealousy, innocence and hatred, joy and anger. The scenery in which her characters exist is pure fantasy, full of colors and patterns. Forgoing precise technique, she plays with light and shadow to create an inviting, dynamic atmosphere. TIKKA’s subjects do not reflect the artist, but rather the viewer’s potential for mutually existing freedom and criticality, merriment and solemnity.

*TIKKA’s many accomplishments include projects for big brand names such as Ellus, Spezzato, Credicard, Marie Claire, Morumbi Shopping Mall, and Oxford. She has also participated in many prestigious street art events including the 1st Bienal Internacional de Graffiti Fine Art. Her work has also been exhibited in the Sao Paulo (Belo Horizonte 1st Bienal Internacional de Graffiti, Quina Gallery and Espaco Colmeia), Brasilia (Expo "Recycling Concepts and Ideas" and "The Art of Kayapo Women"), Los Angeles (Carmichael Gallery), London (Edgeart), and Paris (Expo "400ml").*

## Vermelho

Vermelho acts as a demiurge, a creator of fantastic dream worlds, where like our own world, beauty can be found in the most obscure places. His characters are enchanted, sensitive and delicate. The recurring theme of the fight between good and evil is represented in dream-like settings, where the viewer must decide which forces are good and which are evil. Vermelho is a self-taught artist, who began developing his technique in 1998 on the streets of São Paulo. Today, he is one of the most influential graffiti artists in Brazil, and also works as an illustrator, sculptor and cinematographer.

*Vermelho’s recent exhibitions include special participation in Contemporary Art Fair ARTIGO (Stand of Qaz Galeria, Rio de Janeiro, 2013), Mundo de Fantasias (Qaz Galeria, São Paulo, 2013), Frageis Criaturas (Vegacy, São Paulo, 2012), End of the Year Collective (Qaz Galeria, São Paulo, 2011), Feira PARTE (Qaz Galeria, São Paulo, 2011), Beneficent Auction “Pelo” (Move Institute, São Paulo, 2011), Project “Atelier” (Quina Galeria, Belo Horizonte, 2010), Solo exhibition (Jazz nos Fundos, São Paulo, 2010), Semantica (Quina Galeria, Belo Horizonte, 2010), Livraria HQMIX (São Paulo, 2009), FIQ (Paco Municipal de Belo Horizonte, Brazil, 2009), and Inclassificavel (Galeria Miscelania, Barcelona, 2009).*

## Gallery 102

Gallery 102 at The George Washington University is the research university's student-led art gallery. As an experimental and educational platform for students working toward undergraduate and graduate degrees in fine arts, art history, and other fields, Gallery 102 provides an exploratory space for students to curate high-quality exhibitions, display artwork, and explore other creative opportunities, which enrich the GWU and greater Washington DC communities.

For more information about the current fall 2014 exhibition schedule, please contact [thegallery102@gmail.com](mailto:thegallery102@gmail.com)

Gallery 102 at The George Washington University, located in the Smith Hall of Art at 801 22<sup>nd</sup> St. NW, is open to the public Monday through Friday from 9 AM to 5 PM.

This exhibition was curated by **Roxanne Goldberg** and **Roberta Pardo**

**Roxanne Goldberg** is an art history student at The George Washington University, with a research interest in sound, socially engaged art, and art from the Islamic world. Her honors thesis focuses on the artist collective Slavs and Tatars. As Gallery 102 curator, she has produced exhibitions exploring such diverse topics as John Cage and Paleobiology. Roxanne is a curatorial intern in the Islamic and South Asian art department at the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore, MD and a contributing writer for new contemporary art magazine *Hi-Fructose*. In the past, she worked for KW Institute for Contemporary Art / 8<sup>th</sup> Berlin Biennale for Contemporary Art; Thomas Eller Studios, Berlin; Smithsonian Institution, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden; International Arts & Artists; *Bourgeon* Magazine; and ArtSee LLC. Upon graduating early in December 2014, Roxanne intends to further develop her curatorial and language skills in Berlin, before enrolling in a Ph.D. program to continue her studies in art history.

**Roberta Pardo** is chair of Exhibits at the Arts Council of Anne Arundel County, which is currently responsible for exhibitions at BWI Airport. She also serves on the Arts Council Committee for the Annapolis A&E District, which is responsible for the development of arts and culture in the Maryland district, and is a member of the Public Art ad Hoc Committee Arts Council, which is developing a project to install an art piece at the Annapolis A&E District. Roberta was born in Brazil with dual citizenship with the US, and has lived in Maryland for thirteen years. A great admirer of what the diversity of cultures can bring to the world, Roberta speaks six languages – Portuguese, Spanish, Italian, French, German, and English. She studied industrial design at FAAP (Fundacao Armando Alvez Penteado), in São Paulo, Brazil and fine arts at Art Center College of Design, in Pasadena, California.

### For Press inquiries and images, please contact:

Roxanne Goldberg, Curator // [rgold@gwmail.gwu.edu](mailto:rgold@gwmail.gwu.edu) // 480-313-7886  
Caranine Smith, Gallery 102 Director // [cbsmith@gwmail.gwu.edu](mailto:cbsmith@gwmail.gwu.edu)

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