



LEGAL:

BRANCO. GEN DUARTE.
NICK ALIVE. TIKKA. VERMELHO.

A Presentation of Brazilian Street Art

October 6 - 31, 2014
Gallery 102 at The George Washington University

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Curated by Roxanne Goldberg, Art History 2015
In collaboration with Roberta Pardo

Curator's Statement

Set to the groovy beats of go-go music, 1980s Washington, DC was colored by the funky tag of Cool "Disco" Dan. Thirty years later, the nation's capital is a very different reality; however, Washingtonians are no stranger to the story of their city's recent past. Glorified in exhibitions and documentaries, the tale of 1980s Washington, DC has been recast out of the shadows of many dark years plagued by drugs and violence, and into a light of community ties and personal aspirations, united and driven by the potentials present in artistic gestures.

As Washington, DC undergoes yet another transformation (the all too familiar process of 'gentrification'), Washingtonians have much to learn from their predecessors. A global world where neighborhood allegiances are no longer sufficient networks, Washingtonians have an opportunity and a responsibility to use urban and socially engaged art, not only to empower immediate neighbors, but also to bridge borders and create a supportive environment where all people have equal opportunities to express their world views, share their personal histories, and learn from their fellow artists who come from near and far.

- Roxanne Goldberg

Street Art is any visual art developed in a public space. Found in streets all around the world, this art form is a direct communication between the creators and the public at large. Today, street art may be considered the most powerful, current, present and valorized art movement in existence.

The strength and beauty of Street Art in Brazil is caused by the pure representation, through vivid colors and strong lines, of the optimism and perseverance found in the Brazilian people.

- Roberta Pardo

Beauty in the gray city

Take a stroll through the city of São Paulo, and you will find an urban scenery that even though is extremely chaotic, disoriented and polluted, creates an ideal place for the development of an artistic culture: street art. Considered today as a mecca of street art, São Paulo is home to a diverse group of urban artists with mature and respected backgrounds. Urban art projects that use art and energy are ubiquitous in the city, and have transformed this metropolis into an enormous open air gallery.

Street art attracts tourists and collectors from all over the world, creating a demand and multiplying the number of artists by the day. Most of these artists were influenced by the urban life around them; their art reflects their will to inspire dreams on the city walls, through paint and attitude.

- Binho Ribeiro

Binho Ribeiro is one of the pioneers of street art in Brazil and throughout Latin America. Working on the streets since 1984, he has painted and exhibited in such cities as Buenos Aires, Quito, Lima, Tokyo, Beijing, Paris, Amsterdam, Brussels, Los Angeles, and Cape Town. He has curated several exhibitions, including the 1st Bienal Internacional de Graffiti em Belo Horizonte (2008), Museu Aberto de Arte Urbana, São Paulo (2011), Momento Itália/Brasil (2012), and Graffiti Fine Art, Los Angeles (2013). As part of LEGAL, Binho Ribeiro will be collaborating with the exhibiting artists to complete a mural at BWI International Airport.



BRANCO









Rodrigo Branco, was born in Sao Paulo and raised in the extreme south Rio de Janeiro neighborhood of Grajaú. Grajaú'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), Espaço Fluxo (Belo Horizonte, 2012), and 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 1st 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 Línea 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, architect David Bastos (Artefacto Beach & County), clothing brand Favela 9, and Boxing Petrorian.

NICK ALIVE









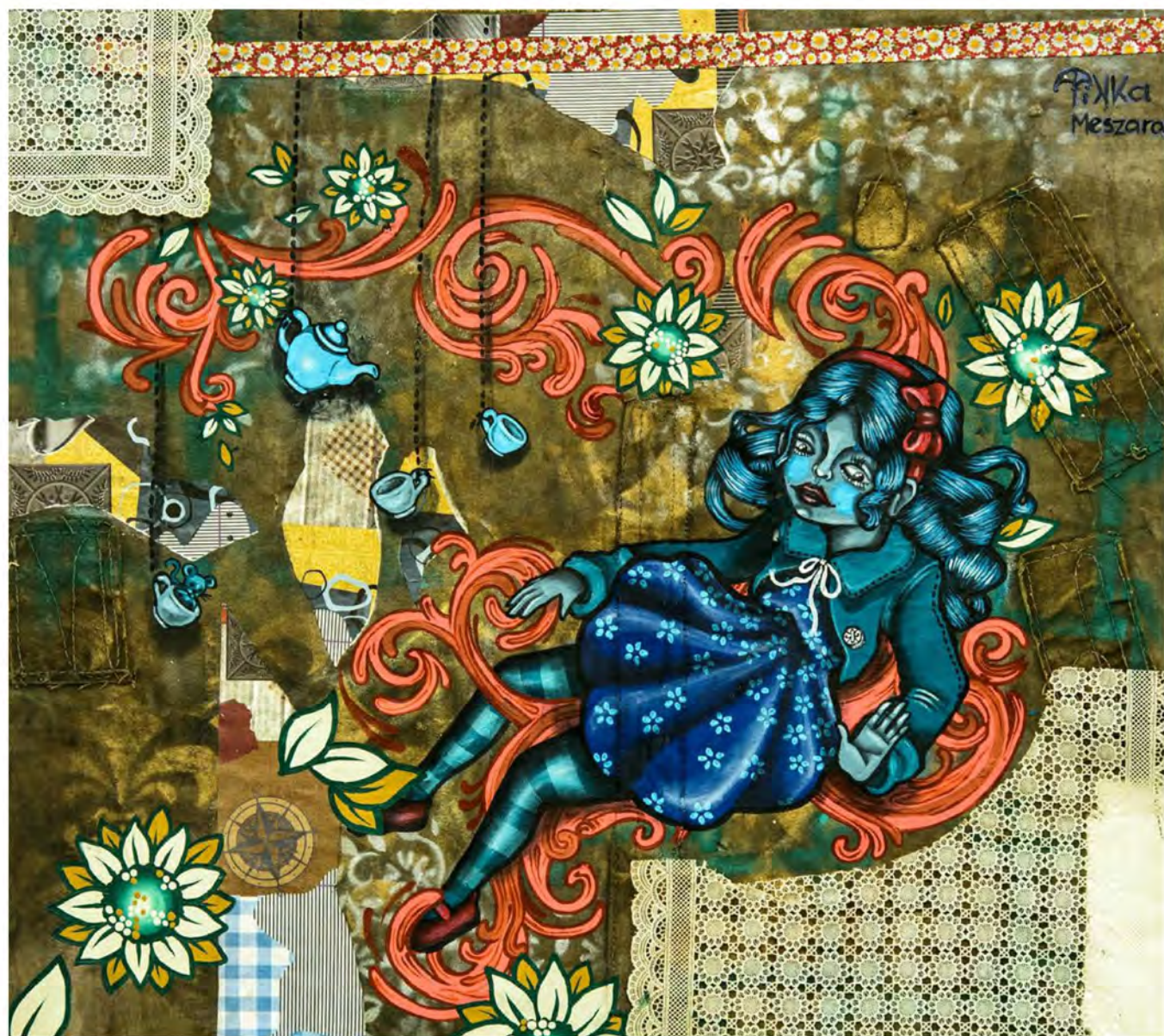
Nick Alive began his career in 1997, using the city walls as his canvas. In his eyes, street art is always a collective effort. He is inspired by the social interactions that occur between a city's pedestrians and its artists. It is these inevitable collaborations that lead Nick Alive to call his work "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 use of oil paint, as opposed to industrial materials. The artist deliberately chooses this medium for the slow and ever-evolving process of working. 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.

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), Tunel Rebouças (São Paulo, 2013), SCHUTZ shoe store live painting (São Paulo, 2013), and Edital SESI (São Paulo, 2013). Nick Alive participated 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 can be found in 30 Brazilian cities and in Santiago, Chile.

TIKKA









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 provokes conflicting feelings common to human nature, such as love and jealousy, innocence and hatred, joy and anger. Her characters exist in a fantasy world, 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 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 been exhibited in 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 is 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 present 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 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), and FIQ (Paco Municipal de Belo Horizonte, Brazil, 2009).

List of Works

Branco

Untitled

Untitled

Untitled

Untitled

Gen Duarte

A cabeça mais pesada do mundo (The heaviest head in the world)

Barrigudinho 1 (Little Round Bell 1)

Barrigudinho 2 (Little Round Bell 2)

O circulo voador (The flying circle)

Nick Alive

Untitled

Untitled

Untitled

Untitled

TIKKA

Enquanto você dormia (While you were sleeping)

Animal de estimação imaginário (Imaginary Pet)

Hora do chá (Tea Time)

Só mais uma ponte (Just one more bridge)

Vermelho

Anjos (Angels)

O tempo e a vaidade (Time and Vanity)

Princesa Olimpia e sua rã (Princess Olimpia and her frog)

A caixa de Elliot (Elliot's box)

Acknowledgments

LEGAL: Branco, Gen Duarte, Nick Alive, TIKKA, Vermelho would not have been possible without the generous support of Sue Anne Martinez, West Annapolis Artworks and Fine Framing; Binho Ribeiro, Brazil-based artist and curator; and Patricia Secco, Brazil-based writer, educator and project manager. We are grateful for your kindness.

We are most thankful to the artists who participated in this exhibiton. Thank you for sharing your art and culture with Washington, DC. We hope this is only the beginning of a fruitful relationship with the US capital.

A special thank you to Jeff Huntington for introducing us and suggesting we curate together. At its core, street art is about community building. Jeff, your friendship is invaluable to us both and we extend our greatest thanks to you for being the genesis of this collaboration.

Many thanks to Caranine Smith, Andrea Gallelli Huezo, and Emma Mauro in the Fine Arts and Art History Department office, for your endless help and administrative support. Thank you to Professor Jacks for advice in the early stages of this project. Your guidance encouraged us to make the impossible possible. We would like to extend a huge thank you to the Gallery 102 at GWU board leadership and Fine Arts and Art History faculty, for providing us the space and time to bring this project to GWU.

With gratitude,
Roxanne Goldberg and Roberta Pardo
Co-Curators

Gallery 102 at GWU

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 towards undergraduate and graduate degrees in fine arts, art history, and other fields, Gallery 102 is an exploratory space for students and faculty to curate high-quality exhibitions, display artwork, and explore other creative opportunities which enrich The George Washington University and greater Washington, DC communities.

Roxanne Goldberg

Roxanne Goldberg is an art history student at The George Washington University, with a research focus in sound, socially engaged art, and art from the Islamic world. Currently, she 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 arts magazine *Hi-Fructose*. In the past, Roxanne worked for KW Institute for Contemporary Art / 8th Berlin Biennale for Contemporary Art; Thomas Eller Studios, Berlin; Smithsonian Institution, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden; International Arts and Artists, Washington, DC; *Bourgeon* Magazine; and ArtSee LLC. Upon graduating 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

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.