‘Wonder Women’

The Queens College Art Center, in collaboration with Kupferberg Center for the Arts, Unfamous NY and Femmarchy, presents Wonder Women, a virtual visual arts exhibition in celebration of Women’s History Month. This exhibition includes works from female artists who empower other females through their different modes of self-expression, highlighting their contributions to the history of the urban art world in the 21st century. With a play on the iconic American super-heroine, ‘Wonder Women’ features a group of divine and powerful women who come from NYC + beyond.

Curated by: Unfamous NY + Femmarchy
ANJL started painting graffiti in 2002 and has developed her art in various styles, as illustrated by her many murals and portraits. She is best known for her aerosol murals and graffiti pieces that span the facades of Brooklyn buildings, as well as her canvas portraits that depict strength, spirit and perseverance. Recently relocated to Florida, she is also an accomplished martial artist in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu and an active member of the martial arts community. ANJL has painted all over the world, including Hong Kong, Spain, Portugal, Mexico, Argentina, Puerto Rico and Colombia. She enjoys beautifying spaces that were otherwise bare, with energy that highlights the vibe of the neighborhood.

@anjlnyc  www.anjl.nyc
When did you first start creating?
“As a child, as soon as I had a crayon or marker in hand, I instantly fell in love with creating. Throughout childhood and throughout high school I was always drawn to art and it pulled me closer each time I tried a new technique. In 2002 I met a female graffiti crew in Hong Kong, BNS, while studying there for a semester. That’s where I painted my first pieces and learned a ton from the crew and the other writers that ran with BNS and took me out to spots in HK. After that, I went back to finish college at University of Kansas, but knew I wanted to paint forever and traveling brought me to meet other artists in other countries. Eventually I would paint in Spain, and move to NYC in 2006 where my dreams of painting became reality. “

Do you experience any limitations in your field that you feel are there because you are a female?
“The art world, as well as the general society of current day situation, has been male dominated for a long time. Does it affect my chance of being selected for major or even small projects? Probably all the time but since I don’t know to what extent that is it’s hard to put a number on it. Does it stop me? Hell no. In fact, if anything I have become more resilient as a consequence.”

How has Covid in New York affected you and your artwork?
“Multiple projects I was slated to work on were cancelled or called off since March of 2020 when NYC first started shutdown. I was also doing graffiti workshops, which were closed for the majority of 2020 for the same reason. I have relocated to Florida in part, due to the pandemic.”

Do you have a preferred medium if so what is it and if not why not?
“Spray paint is definitely my preference, because that’s where I’ve experimented the most, from graffiti to street art and portraits. I love acrylic and oils after that for when I am working on canvases.”

What is one of your favorite projects\ Pieces that you’ve worked on?
“In 2019 I was commissioned by Sunset Park Kids to create a mural at the corner of 46th Street and 5th Avenue in Brooklyn. It is my largest mural to date, 50’ x 25’. the community wanted to express a positive image on this wall, as the neighborhood has been getting gentrified like so many other areas in recent years. So the organization decided to make their mark on this wall to show the developers and the newcomers that this is still their neighborhood. It brought me joy to create a piece that depicted the energy that they spoke to me, as well as the locals who frequent the block.”
"Queen of Soul"
Acrylic and Oil on Canvas
20" x 20" x 1 3/8" frame
Original canvas
$999
“Vigilante”
Giclee print on unstretched canvas
24” x 30”
$275
Includes shipping within US
“Portrait of the Artist as a Tortured Man"
Giclee print on unstretched canvas
16” x 20”
$175
Includes shipping within US
“Estamos Bien”
“Sumatran Tiger”
“Two Become One”
Cloth mask based on murals
$22 w/ US shipping
Laia. Barcelona, Spain. 1984. Her concern with graffiti began in 1999, when she was 14 years old. After seeing a television series of the time, she decided to take a marker and start writing her name on the street until 2000, when she began to make her first pieces from total ignorance and without any influence or company, which today has made her have a somewhat special perception of graffiti. From that day until today, 22 years later, graffiti continues to be her way of life, her day to day, thanks to which she has been able to travel, exhibit, meet good friends and participate in events in different countries. But it is not only her life, for her it is a STRUGGLE, her personal struggle to break the schemes that surround us and not to set limits of any kind.

@iamlaia       www.iamlaia.bigcartel.com
When did you start creating? What influences you to create?

In 1999 I made my first tags and drew many sketches which lead me to paint my first piece with spray paint in 2000. I'm influenced by everything I see, but above all, vintage toys, old cartoons, signs and advertisings catch my eye. Additionally, the colors and shapes inside my home provide me with models for colors and shapes throughout projects of my own.

Do you experience limitations in your field that you feel exist because you are a woman?

Sadly, women continue to have many limitations, especially when we dedicate ourselves to worlds where the majority are men. I've always behaved like them and I've done the same things, I never wanted them to say: "she can't because she's a woman". Woman can do graffiti - women can paint BIG.
“Ghost City”
Acrylic paint on canvas
50x70 cm
$500
Shipping not included
“Dokichan”
Acrylic paint, ink and spray paint on canvas
90x60 cm
$420
Shipping not included
“Smile”
Spray paint on canvas
30x30 cm
$100
Shipping not included
“Jessica”
Acrylic paint, ink and spray paint on canvas
81x100 cm
$600
Shipping not included
“Roger in Love”
Acrylic paint, ink and spray paint on canvas
50x60cm
$500
Shipping not included
“Stay High”
Acrylic and spray paint on canvas
25x20 cm
$120
Shipping not included
“Stay Happy”
Acrylic and spray paint on canvas
25x20 cm
$120
Shipping not included
“FTP”
Acrylic and spray paint on canvas
30x30 cm
$200
Shipping not included
Isabelle Ewing is a Brooklyn-based contemporary mixed media painter, muralist, and designer. Originally from Baltimore, Maryland, Ewing was diagnosed with a learning disability at an early age. She had difficulty with traditional learning and academic classes. These hardships pushed her to drawing and painting, ultimately sparking her lifelong passion in the arts.

Ewing received her BFA from Savannah College of Art and Design in 2014 and later moved to New York City. Currently in her Brooklyn studio, Ewing has mastered many mediums such as aerosol, acrylic, oil, and collage. These works take form into paintings, installations, murals, and sculptures. Today, Ewing’s work explores the human condition through expressionist techniques juxtaposed with classical figuration. Through a technical process, Ewing produces vibrant and colorful figures that communicate the idea of universal interconnectedness. Ewing’s work can be seen worldwide from New York to Miami to Berlin on public walls, galleries, and museums.

@isabelle_ewing_ www.IsabelleEwing.com
When did you first start creating / what influences you to create?

“I first started painting since I can remember, Since my childhood I have had a gravitation to the arts, I feel very fortunate that creative drive is still with me today. Personally, creating/making art is like an addiction, I have this feeling I couldn’t survive without it.”

Do you experience any limitations in your field that you feel are there because you are female.

“I don't look at them as limitations, more so challenges - being sexualized, not taken seriously or treated professionally as an artist, harassment on the street when i’m doing a public mural... the list goes on.”

How has covid affected you and your artwork?

“Covid has been an incredible perspective shift for me personally. In relation to my work, this time in solitude has helped me see a clearer vision of its purpose and the energy it translates.”
“I Am, So Let It Be”
Acrylic polymer, wax pencil and pastel on wood
10”x10”
$200
Shipping not included
Laura is an experienced illustrator, graphic designer and artist. In her spare time she creates murals to inspire the community and start conversations on controversial subjects. She is an avid illustrator and volunteer. She believes everyone is an artist, for that she teaches art workshops with different organizations.

Laura is the Co-Founder of the non-profit BxArts Factory, an organization committed to unlocking the inner artist in the Bronx community. She is also a board member for Artbridge, a non-profit that empowers emerging artists to transform urban spaces. She has exhibited in solo and group shows in the USA and Europe. She has created murals in NY, Puerto Rico and Spain.

@bigeyesworld

www.LauraAlvarez.com
When did you first start creating/what are your influences?
"I was always very creative, I loved building things and making stuff, not so much the playing part of it, but the part where you had to create something from nothing. Also for me art is part of life, like breathing I need to have that creative part active because that’s how I process the world around me. It is my coping mechanism. I studied Fine Art in Valencia, my home town, and Canterbury, UK. I always knew I wanted to study something related to art, but I also liked architecture, history, language, culture, science… I think everything that I am interested in influences me too. On the aesthetic side of my art I am influenced by masters of layers and texture like Rothko, street art and their amazing lettering, the pop art colors and the illustrations of Eduard Gorey."

Any limitations for being a woman?
"I don’t think so, I always believe if someone else can do it I am sure I can too, so I didn’t limit myself in that sense. I am also a very hard headed person, so even if it kills me I’ll try over and over and over again until I achieve my goal, professionally speaking."

How has Covid affected your artwork?
"I was working on a solo show for over a year that opened the week before the lockdown started and that really messed up my 5 year plan. It was only up for a night and I wasn’t able to invite the galleries and curators I had in mind. Two months later I lost my studio in the middle of the pandemic and I had to move all my paintings and stuff into a friend’s room until I was accepted as part of the Chashama Space to Connect program, where I got a free studio space in exchange for art classes for the community. Covid has changed many things, and also my artwork. When the civil unrest started after the killing of George Floyd, I was working on a genetic series centered in how difficult it is creating human lives, but my work took a turn reflecting on society and how humans interact depending on the genes they were given at birth. My work changes and is a reflection of the world I live in; it is an interpretation of the events happening around me and how they affect the people I love."

Do you have a favorite project?
"Woman Being is an exploration on how I’ve used art as a self-therapy through my life, that will culminate in an art exhibition composed by large acrylic paintings that represent different types of women, different stages of their lives, different decisions they make and how society interacts with them. Those women are represented by a uterus in the shape of a heart, connected to the ovaries through the fallopian tubes. Breasts as fountains giving away milky flowers and swirls, walls of XX and XY representing our heritage, what we pass down our children. Through the exhibition “Woman Being” I try to open a dialog about what the role of a woman is for society and for ourselves. Being a mother or not to be, having reproductive rights or let someone else decide about your body and your own life, about your future. Being the center of your universe or a complement for a man. Covering your breasts while you breastfeed or showing them while tanning on the beach. Decisions you have to make because we are born with a specific gender and that automatically gives us a role in society we didn’t ask for."
“Fountain of Life”
Mixed media on canvas
74”x48”
$600
Shipping not included
“Fountain of Life 2”
Mixed media on canvas
74” x 48”
$600
Shipping not included
“Genetics”
Mixed media on canvas
48”x74”
$1200
Shipping not included
“Mother”
Mixed media on canvas
48” x 74”
$600
Shipping not included
“We Are The Roots”
Mixed media on canvas
48”x74”
$600
Shipping not included
“La Culpa”
Mixed media on canvas
48”x74”
$600
Shipping not included
Vero is a native Houston Texan but has now resided in E Harlem, NYC since 2015. After honorably serving in the US military, Vero came to New York City for the electricity of the city and soon found herself stepping into the creative community. Starting with visual art mediums such as oil, ink, and acrylic painting, portrait sketching, and sculpture, Vero has now been able to take advantage of the times and begin a fruitful career in artistic production, documentary film, and corporate art. These breathtaking roads have given Vero participation in exhibitions, art direction, set design, graphic design, documentary film, and multi-platform editing. You can find her works on her social media, personal website, portfolio, and streaming services.

YouTube: youtube.com/channel/UC2nbN35c4-H2Xt8Nq3mbMYg

@verowang_ www.vero.nyc
When did you first start creating? What influences you to create?
I first began creating as a child, frivolously painting, drawing, and building with legos, but then fell off track while trying to live by societal norms. After honorably serving in the Navy, I began to take my creativity more seriously, as it would become a form of expression. Dealing with military-connected PTSD would have been difficult to handle without my imaginative originality. From there my career took off. What influenced me to create was simply living in NYC; I felt it the moment I came. I found a community that would accept me, my history, and my character. I have a dear friend to thank for showing me that letting go and putting out whatever it was that I had to give, would be more than enough to be well received.

Do you experience any limitations in your field that you feel are there because you are a female?
I believe the military culture did me some good when it comes to performing as a woman in society. What I mean by that is I feel extremely androgynous. I have the body of a woman, yes, but I have the ambition of a successful and experienced individual. I have the body of a woman, but the work ethic of a creative, passionate, and progressive person. I have the body of a woman, but the endurance of a tolerant contributing member of the society I chose to be apart of. That being said, I have no limitations. I can turn off a victim mindset immediately, and although I have experienced being a victim, I refuse to let being a woman be the reason why I have any limitations. Any constraints I have are only because I am a human being, and not because I am a woman. It begins within.

How has Covid in New York affected you and your artwork?
Living and working in New York City during a global pandemic hasn’t always been a cup of tea. I had to learn to harmonize with a changing economy and society. I began with documentary film and photography, using modern and traditional mediums and collaboration, which kept me eager to learn more. Today, I work alongside talented artists, photographers, entrepreneurs to help establish myself as a collaborative director of my own media production company, By Vero, LLC. I knew nothing of cameras, editing software, audio, and gear, but I had the time to sit and learn during my filming and production of "Perspectives." A documentary series about the life of New Yorkers during the COVID 19 lockdown, launched in Aug 2020 on Youtube.

Do you have a preferred medium if so what is it and if not why not?
If you asked me a year ago, I’d say yes, visual art that utilized my hands was my preferred medium. Paint and pencils, flowers and wire, and that was it! I needed to use my hands to keep my mind busy and out of deep dark places. Today, however, I’d say no. I have expanded my practice, collaborated with amazing talents, and have been apart of virtual exhibitions, film sets, and photography shoots. I have worked with entrepreneurs, minority people, and communities, and have even begun working on a global scale. If I had stuck to solely painting and sculpture, would have been detrimental to my creative momentum and growth.

What is one of your favorite projects\ Pieces that you’ve worked on?
Thus far, my favorite project has to be "Perspectives." It was the documentary film I began producing on a whim, starting March 2020. It was a scary time for the city, and as the economy shut down and we shut our doors to the world, I saw the times as an opportunity to create something I've never done before. I had never used a camera, I didn’t know what ISO or aperture was. I couldn’t use Adobe Premiere or Final Cut Pro to save my life. I didn’t understand lighting, audio, or cinematography! I had to learn as I went along. I look back at this documentary piece now knowing that I've grown so much. I am proud of myself for starting, finishing, and learning from that experience. I am proud to be apart of history. What I found out about the documentary film process is that I learned to actively listen. I am so thankful.
“Agony”
Acrylic on canvas
24”x36”
$500
Shipping not included
“Frida Bowie”
Acrylic on canvas
30”x40”
$1500
Shipping not included
“Greta Pope Crown”
Handmade, steel crown
$1000
Shipping not included
“Sounds Good”
Acrylic on canvas
24"x36"
$1,000
Shipping not included
“Kid Castillo”
Digital print
$100
Shipping not included
“The Reader”
Acrylic on canvas
30"x40"
$500
Shipping not included
“South America”
Handmade, copper crown
$1000
Shipping not included
People know her as MY or Myizm. Born & raised in Queens, New York. Art has always been a part of Myizm’s life but living in New York she has had full experience of the urban life. This is the city which exposed art to her, from colorful city lights, to billboards on the highways and tall skyscrapers. My’s curiosity expanded as the years went on, from doodling on paper to traveling on trains with painted graffiti. Exploring the diversity in the culture and the street art world became MY’s dedication. Skilled in drawing animation, illustration, paint on canvas, spray painting murals, photography digital & film, Photoshop, writing and typography, her growth expands more every time as she in a eager to learn. Myizm enjoys the usage of multiple colors as well as having her artwork communicate a message through each piece she creates.

@_myizm

www.unfamousny.com/My
When did you first start creating?

As early as she can remember, creating art became My’s passion and being a part of the art movement allows MY to express freely. Myizm communicates to her audience through the art itself. The craft of speaking through art & being able to archive the presence of today’s modern world.

Do you experience any limitations in your field that you feel are there because you are a female?

As a female artist some of the limitations would be when art is being created by a woman is sometimes unfortunately seen less valuable compare to male artist. Art should always be valued art no matter who creates it.

How has Covid in New York affected you and your artwork?

Since the pandemic Myizm has been trying to collaborate with more male artist, learn more different skills and techniques and expanding the growth of her art. Her favorite pieces are usually the ones showing the human anatomy and aiming to show as much detail and realism as possible. She aims for her art to send a message, bring peace & love through the vision of art. Myizm’s appreciation for art only keeps growing.
“Old Midnight”
Digital Print
$100
Shipping not included
“Untitled”
Digital Print
$100
Shipping not included
“Untitled”
Digital Print
$100
Shipping not included
“Untitled”
Digital Print
$100
Shipping not included
Lexi Bella is a New York City painter, muralist, and street artist. She started creating large scale spray murals in NYC in 2011, but began to gain attention in 2014 when she was chosen by a competitive jury process to receive a National Endowment for the Arts Grant and produce her Lower East Side Heroines Project through Fourth Arts Block (FABnyc) for Lower East Side History Month. Her other mural work can be found in all 5 boroughs of New York City especially at Bushwick’s famous Bushwick Collective Mural Project. Bella’s walls can also be found in the US in Los Angeles, Miami, Newark, Philadelphia, Detroit, Denver, San Antonio, Worcester Mass, Washington D.C. and Puerto Rico and internationally in Paris, France; Lausanne, Switzerland; Rome, Italy; Vezprem, Hungary and Bristol, UK. Her most recent international event was painting a wall live and being a guest speaker in Rome Italy for the art and fashion festival KickFest in Oct 2019.
When did you first start creating? What influences you to create?
“I started when I was a baby- my grandmother always painted and put my crib in her art room and I notoriously got into the paints in the middle of the night (they stopped putting my crib in the art room after that lol) I got an art scholarship after high school in Jersey and my dad worked for Krylon so I used to steal cans and go tagging in Philly while going to college for my BFA. I went to graduate school for a Masters in Fine Art at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Art & would do live painting at bars and clubs at night. When I moved to NYC in 2006 I just started doing my thing, meeting people, and embraced creating huge spray pieces aka the beginning of Street Art in 2008-2010”

Do you experience any limitations in your field that you feel are there because you are a female?
“Yes obviously we live in the USA where u aren’t valued as a female in any industry and it’s even worse in the non-values world of art- you have to work 3-10xs as hard for recognition- ESPECIALLY if you are a sexy mom and not just a 20 something young lady”

How has Covid in New York affected you and your artwork?
“I’ve been pregnant and raising an infant this whole time so it actually worked out for me to have a year with less traveling to festivals and painting walls lol”

Do you have a preferred medium if so what is it and if not why not?
“Spray paint on brick or oil paint on linen”

What is one of your favorite projects/Pieces that you’ve worked on?
“Anything at Bushwick collective or First Street Green project because they always let me paint r and express what I’m feeling passionate about politically in a safe open place”

For artwork inquires please directly contact the artist via Instagram – @lexibellart
BX ARTS FACTORY

All commission from artwork sold will be donated to The BxArts Factory

The BXArts Factory endeavors to become a preeminent Arts Institution in the Bronx, committed to supporting local artists and art projects focused on making art accessible to communities in the Bronx and using art to address social and economic inequities in the Bronx. BxArts Factory is a grassroots, 501c3, non-profit organization that connects Bronx-based artist and community, in experiences, events and opportunities for connection, community development and healing. We assist affiliated artists to engage and advance the Arts in communities throughout the borough via a diverse set of arts-oriented programming and services. Through collaborations with local artists and community based organizations, we offer dynamic arts programming that incorporates education and showcase a variety of art genres. The BxArts Factory provides unique and engaging experiences to advance the Arts and cultural education in the Bronx. BxArts Factory is a project visualized by Laura Alvarez (local artist), Twahira Khan (Community Activist), Alexis Mendoza (founder of Alexis Mendoza Curatorial Projects) and Yolanda L. Rodriguez (Community Organizer and Teacher) in 2014. These four Bronxites bring forth knowledge and experiences that have secured the success of this development. BxArts Factory also include the talents of local Bronx artists and community members who join our Advisory Committee and Volunteer Staff every year. With this purpose we plan and sponsor regular art exhibitions at venues in the Bronx, organize programs and networking events for artists, develop emerging artists through workshops and educational programs, collaborate with other organizations and local businesses to strengthen ties to the community and increase community engagement with art through workshops, street fairs, and other events.

@bxartsfactory