



BXNYCreative presents

The Art of TATS CRU

An Exhibition and Block Party

Celebrating 37 Years of TATS CRU

June 3 – July 15, 2017

Opening Reception
Saturday, June 3, 2-6pm

Trolley Night
Wednesday, June 7, 6-8pm

Artist Talk with
Hector Nazario aka NICER,
Sotero Ortiz aka BG183,
Wilfredo Feliciano aka BIO,
moderated by
Street Art NYC's Lois Stavsky
Thursday, June 22, 6pm

BronxArtSpace
305 E 140 St, 1A
Bronx, NY 10454

Gallery Hours
Wednesday - Friday 12-6:30pm
Saturday 12-5pm

For more information email
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www.bronxartspace.com

No discussion of Bronx art would be complete without mention of [TATS CRU](#). Their work can be found in nearly all areas in the borough. It exemplifies the street art culture that rose up from the roots of the graffiti movement. It is both familiar and ever changing to any Bronx resident.

Beyond the Bronx, the work of TATS CRU reaches all 5 boroughs of New York City, many states in the USA, and as far away as China. "TATS CRU is the story of graffiti and street art. From subway trains to commissioned murals to worldwide street art festivals, the masterful TATS CRU represents the evolution of graffiti to the global phenomenon it is today," states Lois Stavsky, editor of the wildly popular blog [Street Art NYC](#). "Stylish and striking, their artwork – individually and collectively – continues to seduce viewers as it fuses elements of graffiti, illustration, graphic design and fine art."

The Art of TATS CRU will show a representation of past projects through photographs and videos produced by Miguel Teck Arteaga. There will be works on canvas by NICER, BIO, and BG183, and a new mural collaboration reproduced as a poster to commemorate the exhibition. "We are looking at a unique rise to art world success, it's inspirational in that it illustrates that every artist doesn't need to follow the standard, art school, gallery system, connection-based path," says co-curator Eileen Walsh.

In an interview with Arlene Alda for her book *Just Kids from the Bronx*, published in 2015, NICER explained, "A lot of people see graffiti as a crime, but considering where we come from and what we were around? A lot of friends are sitting in jail

right now, doing thirty to life.” “We were doing graffiti and although it was a crime we didn’t see it as a crime, and it kind of kept us away from what was going on,” adds Bio.

Now adults, Sotero Ortiz aka “BG183,” Wilfredo Feliciano aka “BIO,” and Hector Nazario aka “NICER,” receive special invitations to show their artwork around the globe. Their story is one of overcoming adversity, banding together, and creating an art career in an entirely new way.

The exhibition begins on Saturday, June 3rd at 2pm, and BronxArtSpace will be open for the public to view the artwork and meet TATS CRU. At that time we will also have a neighborhood celebration outside the gallery on East 140th Street between 3rd Avenue and Alexander Avenue. “TATS CRU is best known for their work painting murals, so while we are presenting an exhibition inside the gallery, we also want to pay homage to the street art culture they represent. We’re celebrating 37 years of friendship, creativity and mutual respect; it’s an inspirational story, and we want to bring the celebration into the street,” explains co-curator Laura James.

The Block Party will feature homegrown, Bronx entertainment. [DJ Pusha](#) will keep the party going, and there will be dance performances by BBoy & Emcee [Chief69](#), and Hip-Hop legend Rokafella’s [Full Circle Souljahs](#) dance troupe. There will be live music performances by up and coming Bronx MINDY artists Static Vision, and alternative music group The Nobodies, and a presentation by spoken word artist and rapper Safiel Vonay. The event is sponsored by neighborhood businesses [JCAL Development Group](#), [iD Studio Theater](#), [Zaro’s Bakery](#), [La Grata](#), Filtered Coffee, and [Bronx Native](#). We are also happy to have the support of [Port Morris Distillery](#) and [The Bronx Brewery](#). [The Bronx Children’s Museum](#) will host creative activities for children and families, and will have their Museum on the Go Bus parked on the street outside the gallery. The event is free of charge and all are welcome.

There will be an Artist Talk moderated by Street Art NYC’s Lois Stavsky on June 22nd, beginning at 6pm, where we will also premiere "The Jardin Orange Project," a short documentary that features some of the world’s most renowned streets artists, including TATS CRU, as they come together to paint massive murals in the city of Shen Zhen, China.

BronxArtSpace is a non-profit gallery that promotes the innovative ideas of underrepresented and emerging artists and curators. Started in 2008 by Linda Cunningham and Mitsu Hadeishi, BronxArtSpace is dedicated to exhibiting the highest quality artwork from the Bronx and around the world. Our mission is to foster dialogue around contemporary local, national and global issues while advancing local arts education and opportunities.

The gallery is a sponsored project of Fractured Atlas, a non-profit arts service organization, and is generously supported by private donors and public funds from NYC Department of Cultural Affairs in Partnership with City Council, the New York State Council on the Arts, and the New Yankee Stadium Community Benefits Fund.



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