

*re·sil·iency*

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*The ability to withstand and overcome hardship.*

The third installment of Art of the Ave was carefully curated for Lower Manhattan with the theme of resiliency in mind. In this newest exhibition, we look at resiliency through various lenses, contexts, and mediums. To one artist, resiliency struck an inspirational chord as they channel humanity's resilience regarding the pandemic, while another looks at resiliency in the context of generational change and adaptation. Many artists related resiliency to some type of trauma, and multiple artists created works inspired by New York City's resiliency over these past 20 years since the tragedy of 9/11. In his artist statement, Adrian Hashimi states "New York City itself is the symbol of resiliency. The people, the skyscrapers, the neighborhoods have gone through countless challenges and it is still vibrant and proud." With a variety of media presented, each location conveys a sub-theme of resiliency through their expressed narratives.

The resilience of America's populace in the recent socio-political movements, from Black Lives Matter to #StopAsianHate, inspired artists. Deb Fong comments that she felt "newly empowered to speak out and support fellow community members." Photographer Ari Espay also touches on these sentiments, noting that "the streets were alive with an energy, no one was going home until there were changes. The resilience of the individuals fed the group and in turn, that group fed the individuals."

This group exhibition showcases how resilience works on a spectrum from the individual to the communal. Though our artists come from various backgrounds and experiences, their resilience is a common and human thread that pieces their narratives together.

*We resist being forgotten as a nation, our culture, our past, our customs, our languages, what we once were, what we stopped being, what we have forgotten. Our inner struggle in countless battles through time... Through my work I try to close all these gaps and unite in a symbolist language the same resilience that makes us as human as life itself. - Artist Nicolas Albarracín Garzón*

Cohesively, *Resiliency`* is an exhibition highlighting a salient theme of communal strength as the world works towards restoration.

Art on the Ave is a public arts initiative dedicated to community regeneration and the elevation of local New York artists. We put the work of selected artists in vacant storefronts in highly visible locations to share new perspectives, and amplify underrepresented and emerging voices. With an open call conducted by Art on the Ave, and in collaboration with the Downtown Alliance, we selected from 130 artists to create a publicly accessible show.