



Street/Studio
June 20 – August 1

Irvine Contemporary is pleased to announce the exhibition and street installation, ***Street/Studio***. Preview day and view of installations in progress, Friday, June 19. Opening reception and block party: Saturday, June 20, 6-11 PM.

Street/Studio will present works by artists who use the street and urban space as extensions of their studios, and who bring the street and urban sites into their studio practice.

Artists:

Shepard Fairey (LA), SWOON (NYC), Gaia (Brooklyn), Imminent Disaster (Brooklyn), Oliver Vernon (Brooklyn), James Marshall (Dalek) (NY and Raleigh, NC), EVOL (Berlin), PISA73 (Berlin)

Irvine Contemporary wishes to thank Wilde Gallery (Berlin), Galerie LJ (Paris), Ad Hoc Art (Brooklyn), and Black Rat Press (London) for their assistance and collaboration for this exhibition.

Exhibition Program and Events

June 17-20:

On-site wall murals and installations in progress: alley and rear of the gallery at 14th and P Streets.

June 19:

Public Program: Katzen Arts Center, American University Museum, 7:00 PM

Panel discussion on the impact of street art in the contemporary artworld with curators and artists. Panelists include Pedro Alonzo (Independent Curator, and Curator of the Shepard Fairey Retrospective at the Boston Institute of Contemporary Art), Anne Goodyear (Assistant Curator, Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery), and artists Oliver Vernon, EVOL, Pisa73, and Gaia. Moderator: Martin Irvine, Director, Irvine Contemporary.

June 20:

Opening Reception and Alley Block Party, 6:00-11:00 PM

Music by DJs Iona Rozeal Brown and Jahsonic

Join us for an opening reception with the artists and block party in the alley behind the Irvine Contemporary gallery, 14th and P Streets, NW, Washington, DC. New wall murals and installations by the artists will be on view.

Street/Studio: Curatorial Statement

Conceived as a continuous installation of interior and exterior works, ***Street/Studio*** will include both the gallery interior space and the exterior walls and alleys behind Irvine Contemporary. This continuous installation will create a unified view of works created as works for a gallery art space as well as exterior public street murals that work with the location of the neighborhood and the urban environment of Washington, DC.

Many artists today consider the urban space a source and a site for new artworks equal to art history and the canonized works of art institutions. The generation of artists going through art schools now has never known a world without the influence of street art and the global urban art movement. Warhol and Basquiat are art history; the styles and genres of street art are now part of the story.

For many working artists today, making new art is not only about appropriating "art history," but about dealing with the history of every mark, sign, and image left in the vast, global, encyclopedic memory machine of the city. Even more, the urban environment of mass public spaces, historic and aging built environments, and the walls and surfaces of the streets are seen as an extended art site, a counter-studio, a canvas of practice, a zone for intervention to be worked out and worked with, and then brought back into studio art making. The street and studio continually intersect and presuppose each other.

The hybrid work of artists associated with the "street art" movement also has strong ties with site-specific work, performance art, and the larger movement toward "post-studio" art practices since the 1980s. Combining the strategies of "post-studio" works on the street with studio art making is now a normative practice for many artists, and is not an art form requiring special explanations, exceptions, or taming for the sanctioned institutions of the art world.

Street/Studio features the work of artists who have developed their work in this evolving environment, where boundaries, walls, and physical spaces aren't limits but variations for interpreting place, location, and space, activities that artists have always negotiated for making enduring statements.

--Martin Irvine

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Artists in the Exhibition

EVOL (Berlin)

Evol and Pisa73 have worked as a street art collective, CT'INK, since the mid-90s.

Evol has developed a highly detailed cut stencil and spray paint technique applied to found cardboard and other street materials. He works with images of urban architecture and has done large-scale installations. Evol and Pisa73 are participating in *Street/Studio* with the collaboration of Wilde Gallery, Berlin.

(Image: "Ariel," stencil and spray paint on found cardboard.)



PISA73

Pisa73 has developed highly-detailed stencil and spray paint compositions from found imagery, executed both on the street and in finished works. His compositions often juxtapose pop, erotic, religious, and machine imagery.

(Image: "Besta + Burs," 2008. Stencil and spray paint on found cardboard.)



Gaia (Brooklyn and Baltimore)

Gaia works with linocut prints and painted images applied to paper and then mounted as paste ups on the street or on panels for finished works. He has developed a body of imagery fusing animal and human forms. Gaia is also a student at the Maryland Institute College of Art, and has a studio in Brooklyn. He exhibits with Ad Hoc Gallery, Brooklyn.

(Image: Linocut on paper on found plywood, street installation.)



Imminent Disaster (Brooklyn)

Imminent works with mixed printing techniques and intricately hand-cut paper images. She has done many street murals around New York as well as gallery installation with mixed materials, hand printing, painting, and hand-cut paper. She exhibits with Ad Hoc Gallery, Brooklyn.

(Image: Persephone and Hades, 2009, hand-cut paper on found fabric, 6 x 3 ft.)



Shepard Fairey (LA)

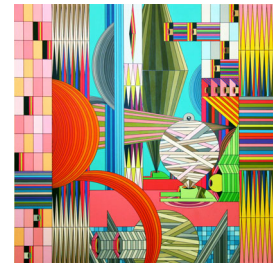
Shepard Fairey is known for his iconic and bold graphics and paintings using a mixture of hand-collaged and hand-stenciled compositions and screen printing. His first museum Retrospective show, curated by Pedro Alonzo, is now at the Boston Institute of Contemporary. Shepard Fairey recently exhibited with Irvine Contemporary in *Regime Change Starts at Home* in Oct.-Nov. 2008.

(Image: "Obey Propaganda Printing Press," hand stencil on collaged paper, 2008. Series of 4 images, hand finished multiple.)



James Marshall (Dalek) (Brooklyn and Raleigh, NC)

James Marshall (Dalek) lived and worked for many years in Brooklyn, and he developed his well-known "Space Monkey" characters while doing street art and graffiti during the year he graduated from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (1995). Taking up his street art name "Dalek," he began exhibiting his work in galleries on both coasts of the US, and then worked in the studio of Takashi Murakami as an assistant in 2001-2002. He has had recent solo exhibitions in Los Angeles, New York, Paris, and with Irvine Contemporary.



Swoon (NY)

Swoon is a well-known street artist who works in wood block prints on paper, then pasted up on buildings or on large panels for interior installations. She studied painting at the Pratt Institute, and began doing her street work around 1999. Her work has been exhibited at the Museum of Modern Art, PS 1, and she has done large scale installations with Deitch Projects. This summer, she undertook a floating raft art project in Europe, the "Swimming Cities of Serenissima," which will finished in Venice at the Biennale.

(Image: "Strong," woodblock print and acrylic on mylar, approx. 6 ft.)



Oliver Vernon (Brooklyn)

Oliver Vernon studied at the Parsons School of Design, and has developed a highly original fusion of abstract painting, street and graffiti references, graphics, and calligraphic gestures. He has also done live paintings and large scale installations. Irvine gallery artist Oliver Vernon lives and works in Brooklyn, NY.

(Image: "Path," 2008. Ink and gouache on raw canvas.)



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