

# ALLOUCHE GALLERY



Featuring works by Ana Barriga, André Saraiva, CHITO, Diego, Jonathan Edelhuber, Stickymonger and UFO907

Opening Thursday, October 13 at Allouche Gallery, 77 Mercer Street, from 6-9 PM

**Exhibition statement:** Keith Estiler

On October 13, Allouche Gallery in New York will present a new group exhibition entitled *Spray Painterly 2* curated by the acclaimed Brooklyn-based artist Stickymonger. The first iteration, *Spray Painterly*, took place in 2021 and was launched to challenge the perception of spray paint artworks as just merely graffiti, and instead, showcase how masterful methods involved with using the medium can rival conventional materials that are often found in fine contemporary art. For this second edition, Stickymonger has gathered a fresh coterie of talented artists that have utilized spray paint in distinct ways across various works. Participating artists include André Saraiva, Ana Barriga CHITO, Diego, Jonathan Edelhuber, Stickymonger and UFO907. Altogether, the ongoing *Spray Painterly* series by

Stickymonger and Allouche Gallery celebrates the rich history of graffiti, spray paint as an elevated medium and international masters of the craft.

Ana Barriga currently lives and works in London. The Spanish artist's practice features heavily-layered paintings that blend surrealism and realism elements. Cracked porcelain dolls, giggling cherubs and playful demons are just a few subjects found in her fun environments that are often contrasted with spray paint motifs. The artist attempts to strike the balance between reason and emotion in her works while encouraging viewers to explore the intricate narratives that emerge in her paintings that are often imbued with humor and irony. Ana has been featured in a number of galleries including Birimbao Gallery in Seville, the Andalusian Center for Contemporary Art in Seville, the Kristin Hjeldeger Gallery in London as well as Padre Gallery in New York. She has also participated in fairs including ARCO, Estampa, MACO and Art Busan.

André Saraiva is the internationally renowned French-Portuguese artist who was active in the early Parisian graffiti movement alongside INVADER and ZEVS. He is most known for his iconic, cartoonish *Mr.A* character that features a round-headed figure with a circle and cross for eyes and long limbs. The subject was first seen on the outskirts of Paris as the artist tagged his name and character on the neighborhood's walls. It then transferred onto his canvas paintings with the artist creating new dynamic compositions with the character. André has navigated gallery shows across the globe including Underdogs Gallery in Lisbon, Danysz Gallery in Paris, S16 Gallery in Montreal, among many others.

CHITO is the Seattle-born, Mexico-based artist who has built his own signature style using spray paint and airbrush mediums. The artist's instantly recognizable airbrushed dog illustrations is often featured in his work to erase the stigma of the graffiti scenes he grew up in. The artist collaborated with the legendary streetwear brand Supreme back in 2018 and hasn't slowed down on fashion collaborations ever since. He's worked with Stone Island, Arc'teryx, and Givenchy, using these labels' garments as canvases for his set of spray characters. CHITO's work was recently

spotlighted in a collaborative exhibition, *Always Change, Never Change*, at OMNI in Central London with fellow artist friend Wu Yué. The show featured CHITO's spray-painted canvases of his mascot from his 2017 *Distance Pups* series, and free-standing iron *CHITO Pup* sculpture.

DIEGO is one of Tokyo's most recognized graffiti artists. With a painting practice spanning over 10 years, the artist creates intricate compositions that shed light on subjects inspired by the streets of Japan: plastic bottles, stray rats, drunk civilians on the street and shaking buildings. He's known for his manga-abstract style that merges elements from abstraction with distorted cartoon characters. His works are also filled with graffiti spray and ironic collaging. In 2018, Takashi Murakami organized a solo exhibition for him at Hidari Zingaro in Japan. His graffiti works were even spotlighted in Art Basel Hong Kong, Frieze New York, and the Kumamoto Art Museum.

Arkansas native Jonathan Edelhuber recalls canonical art historical references through distinct stylizations across his playful paintings. Jonathan's compositions often recount the modernist motifs of Picasso and Matisse, but are imbued with a pop sensibility that is akin to the expressive gestures and expressions of characters and scenes found in comics and cartoons such as the *Pink Panther*. The artist works across paintings, drawings and sculptures that feature a variety of scratchily-illustrated muses including nudes, skulls and statues. He has exhibited in Los Angeles, London, Berlin, New York and Nashville, Tennessee where he currently lives and runs his painting and sculpting practice.

Stickymonger's contemporary art practice is a harbinger of surrealist worlds where slender female figures run amok. The New York-based artist sustains a heightened focus on spray paint medium, using personally-developed techniques to slip her cast of stoic characters into various uniforms and atmospheres that recall her own real life experiences. In 2019, Stickymonger was enlisted by Takashi Murakami's Hidaro Zingaro Gallery in Tokyo to host the artist's solo presentation with the gallery entitled "On a Clear Day." The following year, the artist installed her first-ever towering sculpture of a polka-dotted female subject embracing a

gentle-looking monster for a solo exhibition called “LONESOME PLANET” in Dubai’s Four You Gallery. In 2021, she was featured in Allouche Gallery’s pop-up group exhibition “4 in LA” with the late iconic street artist Bast where she showed monochromatic aerosol paintings that explored notions of a “bright future.” Later that year, Stickmonger helmed the role of a curator for the first “Spray Painterly ” group exhibition with Allouche Gallery. Stickymonger was the spotlight of a solo exhibition under Woaw Gallery for the first-ever CAN Art Fair in Ibiza. The artist presented a new body of paintings that punctuated the tension between “hot” and “cold” motifs. More recently, Stickymonger is preparing to launch a solo exhibition in Madrid’s VILLAZAN Gallery called “It Was Very Good Year, Kind Of” which features a new range of works that is perhaps her most personal and conceptual ones yet.

Brooklyn-based artist UFO907 found himself attracted to the subcultural world of graffiti and vandalism after leaving art school disillusioned. He traded paint brushes for spray cans and viewed the back lots and streets of New York City as his studio and gallery. UFO907's street work assisted in honing his style and artistic development. His work stems from a fine art background utilizing unconventional painting techniques and highly expressive line work. UFO907's character-based graffiti and playful imagery has helped to propel his work from the streets to the mainstream gallery world. His transition to studio work still boasts a connection to his graffiti roots encompassing the use of spray paint and markers through his UFO iconography. UFO907's work exhibits a passion and deep understanding of artistic materials and limitless methods of application. UFO907 has navigated numerous solo shows both stateside and across the globe including LA’s Gallery Lorin, Japan’s Hidari Zingaro from Kaikaiki Gallery, Bangkok’s Chins Gallery at Siam Discovery, and is currently working with Allouche Gallery in New York.

## **About Allouche Gallery**

Established in 2014, Allouche Gallery is home to an international roster of some of the world's most recognized and culturally significant contemporary visual artists. Through its highly curated exhibition program, the gallery has garnered a reputation for highlighting artists – whose work directly challenges preconceived notions of contemporary visual culture – and affirming their place in 21st Century art. Home to a select group of both established and rising artists across a variety of disciplines, Allouche Gallery represents the work of Felix R. Cid, Ron English, Nick Georgiou, Paul Insect, Rafa Macarron, Reinoud Oudshoorn, Michael Reeder, Malik Roberts, Stickymonger, Swoon, Hannah Yata, and UFO907. Founded by Eric Allouche, Allouche Gallery is one of New York's premiere commercial art galleries and the preeminent exhibitor of contemporary art.

For more information about the upcoming show at Allouche Gallery, please visit

[www.allouchegallery.com](http://www.allouchegallery.com)

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