

## FRENCH CONNECTION **INVASION**

New work by JonOne, Nasty, Rero, Speedy Graphito and Tilt

Saturday, May 12th - Sunday, June 24th, 2012

Opening reception with live performance: Saturday, May 12th, from 7-10pm

Fabien Castanier Gallery is proud to present the first exhibition in Los Angeles dedicated to the work of France's leading street artists today. **FRENCH INVASION** features brand new work by: **JonOne, Nasty, Rero, Speedy Graphito** and **Tilt**. The exhibition will present an extensive range of work by these artists including paintings, installations, silkscreens and sculpture. **Speedy Graphito, JonOne** and **Tilt** will be present at the Opening Reception on May 12th, spraying a collaborative mural live throughout the evening.

Paris has always been an important source of creative inspiration for artists across the globe, giving rise to some of the most important art movements in history. Though born in NYC, graffiti made its way across the pond, becoming firmly rooted in the neighborhoods of France. Whereas art produced on the streets was previously relegated to neighborhood walls and the metro, today it can be seen in galleries and museums. Street art in France has become one of the most considerable art movements of this century.



*Rero, 2011*

FRENCH INVASION highlights the differences in media, context, audiences and issues that these artists maintain both on the street and in the art market. Common to all these artists is their investment in the streets of Paris during the 2000's but also their evolution in galleries in France and abroad. Contemporary urban art is now the movement of today and tomorrow.

There will be extensive media coverage and sponsorship for FRENCH INVASION including the French Consulate of Los Angeles and TV5 Monde.

For more information, please contact the gallery: [contact@castaniergallery.com](mailto:contact@castaniergallery.com)

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GALLERY HOURS TUESDAYS-SATURDAYS 11-7PM, SUNDAYS 11-5PM. CLOSED MONDAYS.

## JONONE

John “**JonOne**” Perello was born in 1963 in New York to parents from the Dominican Republic. Growing up in Harlem, his introduction to street art began at an early age, when he would see graffiti and tags on subway cars and city walls. Adopting these modes of expression, JonOne used the energy he felt from the city to find freedom in painting his urban landscape. While he has evolved from his early tagging days, his art continues to be inspired by the “Urban Jungle” from his youth.

*“When you walk around, you see the names everywhere. Instead of reading newspapers like everybody else, I’d read graffiti on the streets every morning. I was curious about who was responsible and wanted to do it myself.”*

JonOne presents us with paintings that defy the “rules” of graffiti. With a tremendous sense of movement and color, his compositions combine freestyle, hand-painted aesthetics with a sense of repetition akin to textile patterns. His work has often been compared to that of abstract expressionist Jackson Pollock and French artist Jean Dubuffet. By layering precise strokes and vibrant color, he creates a uniquely balanced yet dynamic visual experience.

JonOne lives and works in Paris.



### Recent Exhibitions

2011

The City Breathes, Galerie Rabouan Moussion, Paris, France  
Words and Dreams, Where Technology Meets Dreams and Vice Versa, 18Gallery Shanghai, Bund18, 18 Zhongshan East Road (E1), 4F, Shanghai, China

2010

Abstractions, Galerie Magda Danysz, Paris, France  
Retrospective 20 ans/ 20 years, Speerstra Gallery, Bursins, Switzerland  
Carved in Stone, Galerie Brugier, Rigail, Paris, France-SOLO

2009

Don Gallery, Milan, Italy- SOLO  
18 Gallery, Shanghai, China- SOLO  
Galerie Magda Danysz, Paris, France- SOLO  
Whole in the Wall, Helenbeck Gallery, NYC, New York  
Graffitigalleriet, Copenhagen, Denmark- SOLO  
Tag au Grand Palais Show, Paris, France  
Propeace, Maison Folle, Lille, France  
Arte Fiera, Galerie Magda Danysz, Bologna, Italy

2008

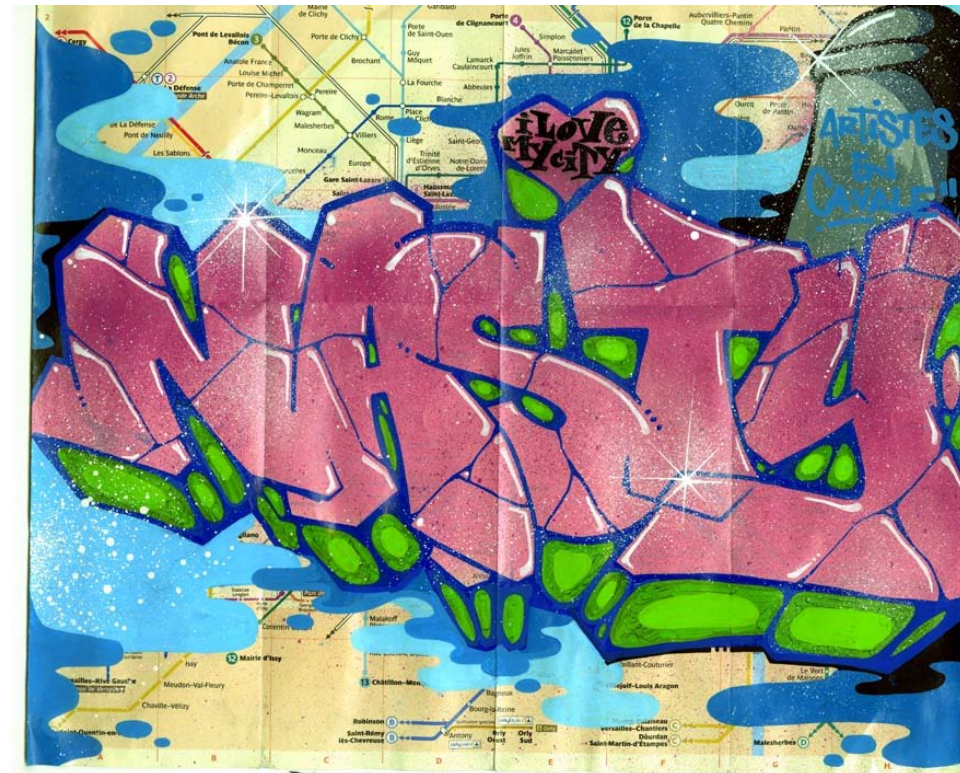
Whole in the Wall American Graffiti, Galleries Helenbeck, Paris & Nice, France

# NASTY

Alexandre Hildebrand, aka **NASTY**, discovered graffiti in the 1980's, during the cultural influx of American street art and hip hop into France. He drew stylistic inspiration from NYC graffiti and by artists such as Seen and Bando. By the end of the 1980s, Nasty had distinguished himself as a prolific subway painter in Paris with his use of bright colors in wildstyle and old school block letters. For his exhibitions, he brings the inspiration of the subway into the gallery, creating unique art objects that retain the essence of his origins as a subway graffiti artist. He often transplants tiles from the metro walls into the exhibition space.

When he is not spraying Europe, Nasty works by day as a Copywriter at Publicis, one of the largest advertising agencies in the world.

Nasty lives and works in Paris.



## Recent Exhibitions

2011

Galerie Celal, Paris, France

Subway Maps, Galerie Mathgoth, Paris, France

2010

Art Graffiti, Galerie La Boheme, Deauville, France

The Cream of the Crime, Galerie Bailly Contemporain, Paris, France

2009

Tag au Grand Palais, Paris, France

Galerie Bailly, Paris, France

2008

Tagger N'est Pas Jouer, Galerie Bailly, Paris, France

2007

Nasty at Montana Shop & Gallery, Montpellier, Paris- SOLO

2000

Nasty & Slice, Galerie Magda Danyzs, Paris, France

## RERO

Alexis Rero, or simply "**RERO**", was born in 1983. For the past 3 years, Rero has established his work through his innovative approach to street art. Though introduced to the street through graffiti, working for a time under the name Aurer, he eventually felt limited by a spray can and began exploring imagery through the use of typography.

With his distinctive visual style, Rero often inhabits disused and dilapidated spaces to explore the concept of representation and negation. He is most noted for words and phrases with a stark black line crossing them out. Rero's site-specific works enter the gallery space as installations that maintain his sense of destruction. He centers his artistic philosophy on the acronym WYSIWYG: *What you see is what you get*. Through this idea, he developed his own concept of "negation of the image," presenting minimalist statements that combat our modern overdose on images.

Rero lives and works in Paris.



### Recent Exhibitions

2012

Backslash Gallery, Paris, France- SOLO

2011

Le Musée en Herbe, Paris, France- SOLO

Slick, Esplanade du Palais de Tokyo et du Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, Paris, France

40 Ans de Graffiti, organisée par la Galerie Mathgoth, Nancy, France

Sauvons la Jarry, Vincennes, France

Indoor/Outdoor , Kommst du rein, kannst du rausgucken, Able & Baker Gallery, Cologne, Germany

Art on Paper, Lebenson Gallery, Paris, France

Degage, Galerie Itinérance, Paris, France

Error 404 (lien manquant), Backslash Gallery- SOLO

2010

COPY MY RIGHT... Le plagiat est nécessaire, le progrès l'implique..., Confluences, Paris, France- SOLO

2009

IMAGE NOT AVAILABLE, L'Hybride, Lille, France

Vous être bien urbain, ARTYDANDY, Paris, France

Rerospektive : IMAGE NEGATION, Antje Øklesund, Berlin, Germany

## SPEEDY GRAPHITO

Olivier Rizzo, aka **SPEEDY GRAPHITO**, was born in Paris in 1961. He is one of the pioneers of the French Street art movement alongside others like Jérôme Mesnager and Miss Tic. By imposing a powerful, innovative style in the early 80's, Speedy left his mark on the memory of a generation. He hasn't stopped evolving, always in step with the times, by inventing pictorial languages and codes that are iconoclastic and satirical of society.

Though his work has evolved considerably over the past few decades, he has become known and revered for his exploration of commercialism and references to pop culture images and icons. His influence on new generations of artists and the current cultural landscape is unparalleled. His works are found in private and public collections throughout the world.

Speedy Graphito lives and works in Paris.



### Recent Exhibitions

2011

FreeWay, Fabien Castanier Gallery, Los Angeles - SOLO  
Speedy Goes to Miami, Arts for a Better World Art Fair, Miami Art  
Basel Week, Miami, Florida- SOLO  
Opera Gallery, London, England- SOLO  
Back2Venus, New Square Gallery, Lille, France- SOLO  
News works, Artop, Lille, France - SOLO  
Exit, Galerie australe, La Réunion, France- SOLO  
Inaugural Exhibition, Fabien Castanier Gallery, Los Angeles, CA  
Graffiti, Opera Gallery, Paris, France  
Urban Activity, Espace Culturel Jean Cocteau, Les Lilas, France  
Fondation Clément, Mix Art, Martinique, France  
Atrium, Mix Art, Martinique, France  
News works, Lille Art Fair, Galerie Brugier Rigail, Lille, France

2010

What did you expect?, Galerie Brugier Rigail, Paris, France- SOLO  
Mondovision, Artop, Lille, France- SOLO  
News works, Lille Art Fair, Galerie Brugier Rigail, Lille, France  
News works, St'art, Galerie Brugier Rigail, Strasbourg, France

2009

Prime time, Art Partner Galerie, Bruxelles, Belgium- SOLO  
News works, Lille Art Fair, Galerie Brugier Rigail, Lille, France

## TILT

Recognized internationally as a traditional graffiti artist, Tilt began his practice as a youngster on the streets and train cars of Toulouse, France. Developing his love for graffiti in the 1980s as a rebellious youth, Tilt perfected his artistic practice to reflect his growing love of this mode of expression. A self-declared “graffiti fetishist,” Tilt has travelled the globe to spread his artistic vision. His pieces, on walls and in exhibits, can be seen in the U.S., Hong Kong, Japan, Mexico, Thailand, Australia, New Zealand, Laos, Taiwan, China, Canada, Philippines, Indonesia, Maldivians and throughout Europe.

Tilt recalls both primitive lettering and more complicated 3D, wildstyle, characters with an emphasis on strong colors and high impact shapes. The majority of his paintings focus on the stylization of his name, rendered in “throw-up” bubble letters. Designed for fast execution, “throw-ups” allow graffiti artists to quickly and efficiently lay down their art on the urban landscape. Most interested in conveying the action of graffiti throw-ups and tagging, Tilt’s style retains this classic hip-hop graffiti ideology.

Tilt lives and works in Toulouse.



### Recent Exhibitions

2012

Off the Wall, Galerie Wallworks, Paris, France

2011

Street Art, Espace Croix Baragnon, Toulouse, France

A.B.C., Montana Gallery, Montpellier, France- SOLO

Thrilla Manila, Secret Fresh Gallery, Manila, Philippines

Off the Wall, Artspace@Helutrans, Singapore

ArtYou, Ackermannshof, Basel, Switzerland

Europa Graffiti, Pavillion Carre de Baudouin, Paris, France

Infamous, The Space, Hong-Kong, Hong-Kong

Graffiti Art, Art Monaco '12, Monaco, France

Bad Painting, Galerie 208, Paris, France

UrbanArt- Graffiti 21, Völklinger Hütte, Saarbrücken, Germany

2010

My Love Letters, Celal Gallery, Paris, France- SOLO

Tribute to Dare, K31 gallery, Lahr, Germany

Faux Jumeaux (with Mist), Speerstra Gallery, Bursins, Switzerland

Street Art, Espace Croix Baragnon, Toulouse, France

Encounters, AE Studios LIC, Long Island City, NY

2009

Artotale, Leuphana Urban Art Project, Luneberg, Germany

Roots and Buds, GHP Galerie, Toulouse, France

The Generations, 2nd Floor Gallery, New York City, NY

