

# HIONAS GALLERY

PRESS RELEASE

## YEAR ONE

### A Commemorative Exhibition Featuring New Work From All Twelve Artists In Hionas Gallery's First Year

July 11 – August 11, 2012

Opening reception: Wednesday July 11, 6-9 pm



(June 20, 2012) – Hionas Gallery officially opened in June 2011 at 89 Franklin Street in TriBeCa. Owners Peter and Maria Hionas established the gallery to invite contemporary and emerging artists, working in all variety of media, to participate in monthly solo exhibitions to showcase their latest work and artistic vision. “We have been avid collectors of contemporary art since 1991,” says Peter Hionas. “It’s a modest storefront we have here, but also really spacious and versatile. I see us as operating in the tradition of the old Betty Parsons Gallery in midtown, or the original White Cube in St. James’s; small spaces that just show great art.”

For the culmination of its first year of operation, Hionas Gallery is incredibly pleased to present ***Year One***, a blockbuster group exhibition like no other, showcasing twelve new works, one by each of the invited artists to have held solo shows at the gallery since its opening. The artist roster is comprised of **John Belardo, Loretta Mae Hirsch, Kaves, Kiseok Kim, Tun Ping Wang, Melanie Vote, Warwick Saint, Chris Wyllie, Charles Lutz, Jessica Stoller, Burton Machen, and Karlos Cárcamo.**

The **opening reception** for *Year One* will take place on Wednesday, **July 11**, from 6:00 to 9:00 pm. We welcome one and all to come out, don your summer’s best, and celebrate Hionas Gallery as it eagerly anticipates year number two.

### **The Artists:**

**John Belardo's** (b.1971) recent sculptural and drawing work finds inspiration in the classical human figure, a la Da Vinci's Vitruvian Man, which he renders in three-dimensional, geometric constructions, made from steel, aluminum and other metals. Belardo received his MFA in 1997 from the New York Academy of Art.

**Loretta Mae Hirsch** (b.1979) recalls the tragedy, irony and romanticism of the southern gothic aesthetic in her paintings and drawings, depicting macabre fairy-tale like scenes and self-portraits with stunning personal symbology and psychological depth. Hirsch was born in Oklahoma, and received her MFA in 2010 from the New York Academy of Art.

**Kaves** (b.1969) is a true renaissance man, going from tagging subway cars at age 10 to becoming a music promoter, hip-hop star, tattoo artist, graphic designer and graffiti muralist, with his portraits and cityscapes now gaining a whole new level of international attention. Kaves owns and operates Brooklyn Made Tattoo in Bay Ridge, the neighborhood where he was born and raised.

**Kiseok Kim** (b.1973) combines fantastic portraiture with a penchant for the ideal, creating airbrushed close-ups of female faces culled entirely from his imagination. The results are both gorgeous and subtly haunting. Kim was born in Busan, Korea, and earned his MFA in 2009 from the Pratt Institute.

**Tun Ping Wang** (b.1984) possesses what can only be called a startling gift for detail. His oversized pastel portraits are as precise as they are expressive, uncovering a beauty in the madness and confusion that his subjects embody. Wang was born in Taipei, Taiwan, and earned his MFA in 2011 from the New York Academy of Art.

**Melanie Vote** (b.1973) applies an unparalleled mind's eye to her works of plein air painting, plaster sculpture and other media, in which she recreates landscapes of her childhood and renders them through a post-apocalyptic lens. Vote was born in Iowa, and earned her MFA in 1998 from the New York Academy of Art.

**Warwick Saint** (b.1972) is one of the world's most celebrated and sought-after fashion photographers. His recent portfolio of tattooed, semi-nude women provides striking portraits of subjects who are works of art in their own right. Saint was born in South Africa, and earned his BA from the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg.

**Chris Wyllie's** (b.1967) near voyeuristic and figurative presentation of his subjects recalls a range of influences, including 60s-era Pop, kitsch pin-up-girl designs of the 30s and 40s, Japanese manga, and comic book art, all painted on the most unlikely of found objects. Wyllie splits his time between Newport, RI, and New York City.

**Charles Lutz** (b.1982) brings appropriation art to a whole new level with his Pop- and Conceptualist inspired works, which explore everything from the satirical imagery of a Warhol to the visceral brushwork of a Franz Kline. Lutz was born in Pittsburgh, PA, and earned his BFA in 2004 from the Pratt Institute.

**Jessica Stoller** (b.1981) uses clay as a vehicle to explore issues of idealized beauty, vanity and the subjugation of the female body, with porcelain as her primary media, a material inextricably linked to desire, secrecy and commodification. Stoller was born in Michigan, and earned her MFA in 2006 from the Cranbrook Academy of Art.

**Burton Machen** (b.1970) is a street artist, photographer and documentarian all in one. His *Urban Evolution* project solicits all manner of provocative and often stunning responses from would-be graffitiists, who unknowingly contribute to the artist's urban anthropological survey. Machen was born in Ashville, Alabama, and splits his time between Los Angeles and New York.

**Karlos Cárcamo** (b.1967) brings together the unlikely elements of hard edge painting, Arte Povera, graffiti tags and hip-hop culture, turning him into a painter and sculptor with a DJ's instincts for mixing and mashing. Cárcamo was born in San Salvador, and earned his MFA in 2000 from Hunter College.

Visit [www.hionasgallery.com/past\\_exhibitions.html](http://www.hionasgallery.com/past_exhibitions.html) for more detailed information on all the artists, and to access previous exhibition press releases.

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