

HEATHER GREY GALLERY AT HOOPER HOUSE
CARRY ON TRADITION ***WALTER CRUZ***

For his forthcoming exhibition with Heather Grey Gallery at Hooper House, Walter Cruz has created a selection of mixed media works with his signature textures and rope.

Titled "Carry on Tradition," the collection explores Cruz's experiences in a Dominican household, music and cultural crossovers within the context of growing up in New York City. Encompassing a wide range of cultural expressions, The show floats through references from Hip-hop music to Salsa dancing, from the traditional Dominican Diablos Cojuelos to the Kifwebe of the Democratic Republic of Congo and beyond. This amalgamation of artifacts from multiple eras and contexts highlights the intricacies of the African diaspora and the deeper connections between generations. The show aims to foster critical discourse on traditions that inherit families and individuals alike.

For this exhibition, Cruz wanted to use new materials and histories in his ongoing textural explorations. Each artwork in "Carry on Tradition" uses familiar objects as starting points to expand conversations about shared histories. The combinations invite viewers to review our pasts in order to make sense of our present circumstances.



Jerome Ave, 2024
Spray paint, restroom sign,
concrete on wood panel
48"x 48"



Utilizing Concrete and the color-coded system of "protective graffiti" Cruz embeds encrypted messages of empowerment and knowledge.



We In There, 2024

*metal door, sticker, post cards,
mailer, Yankees baseball cap,
Carnival souvenir
36''x48''*



The piece focus mainly on what are the things we let in and out of our lives as we navigate our interests and passionate pursuits.



Who's Mans Is This?, 2024

Various, shopping cart, statue of liberty figurine, car boot, mailbox number, cotton, concrete on wooden platform.



This is a venture into what Cruz calls "NYC Surrealism" to explore questions like what does it look like when the city gets to its lowest points?

Now You See Me, 2024
spray paint, street sign,
concrete on wood panel
35"x 35"





Utilizing Concrete and the color-coded system of "protective graffiti" Cruz embeds encrypted messages of empowerment and knowledge.

For Los Minas' Sake, 2024
8mm photo paper,
glass, police barricade
50"x 65"





Los Minas' Sake explores photography as sculpture. The premise being to bring together Cruz's Dominican and African ancestry through his lived experiences in New York City.



Elementary Blocks, 2024

*various, New York Times
microfilm*

rolls, baby sneaker, milk carton



In Cruz's experience growing up in The Bronx, it was customary to gift sneakers to a friend or family member's newborn. The sculpture abstractly brings together elements of birth and NYC culture.



Immortal Technique, 2023
*acrylic, pumice stone,
repurposed cotton shirts,
book cover on wood panel
48"x 48"*



Inspired by the first musical concert Cruz attended as a teen where he learned about the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

We Got This, 2024
Spray paint, concrete
on wood panel
30"x 30"





Utilizing Concrete and the color-coded system of "protective graffiti" Cruz embeds encrypted messages of empowerment and knowledge.



Unc, 2024

Concrete, metal wire backing

16" x 20'

Cruz's late uncle Ali, was a cigar enthusiast and a father-figure to the artist. This piece references classic tin cigar advertisements.



Walter O Woods 3



5996 and Glyphs, 2024
spray paint, concrete

The mask referenced for the sculptures are Congolese masks used for protective rituals. Combining the protective mark making with an object used for similar purposes creates a third object aimed at speaking on humans' considerations around protecting both each other and the built environment.





Commandments, 2024
USD, dice, toy car, concrete,
spray paint, wood
24"x24"



The process of creating this body of work sharpened Cruz's memory association. It reminded the artist that two things can be in true at once.

For example, there can be children playing on sidewalks alongside their neighbors taking part in friendly betting.





Ain't No Coincidences, 2024
stop sign, concrete, coffee mug
Varying dimension

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architecture
is not
neutral

It truly isn't...

AZ, 2024

Spray paint, sandal, soil, flag
marker, clay, lottery ticket,
concrete, wood
12" x 48",



The floor pieces Cruz creates are vignettes that speak to and highlight the narratives sprinkled across the streets of New York City.



If You Don't Look, Does It Exist?, 2024
Parking sign, wood beam
Varying dimension



NO PARKING
8am - 6pm
Except Sunday



Dept of Transportation

PS-396



Thursday
Midnight - 3am



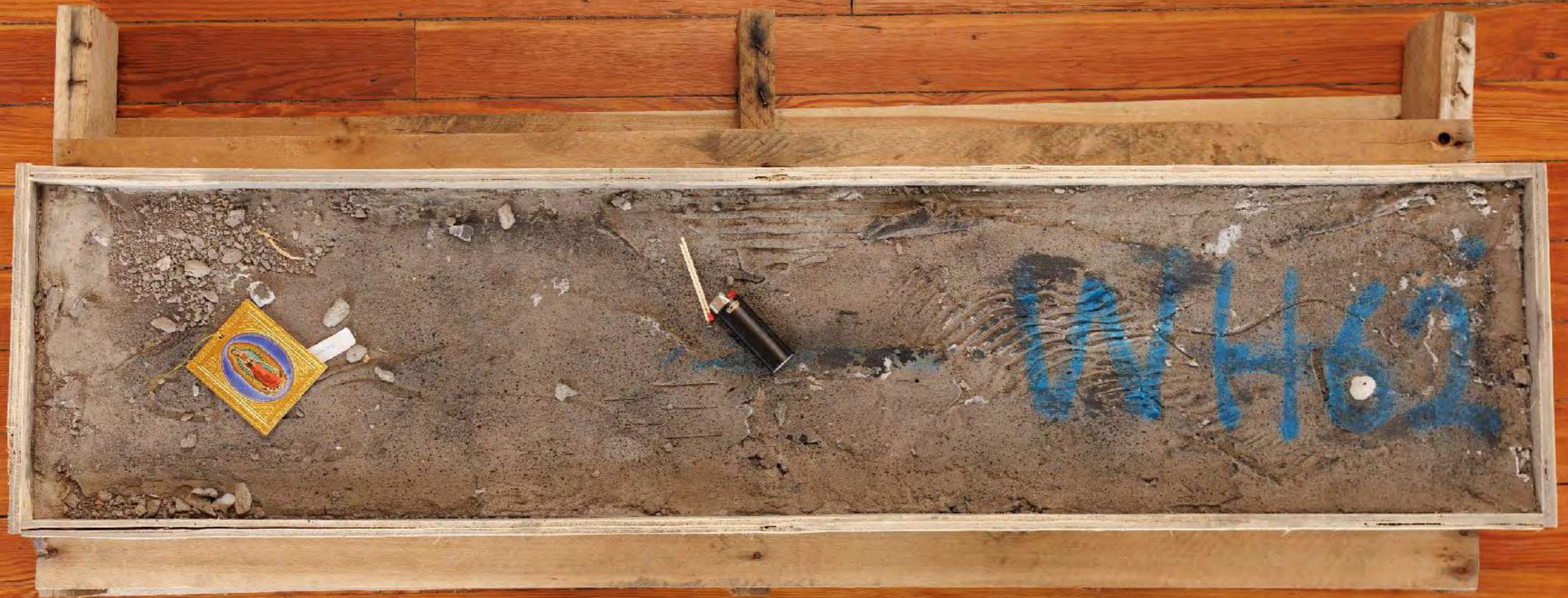
Dept of Transportation

PS-177B

An injection of humor on a topic that is often a point of frustration for drivers in New York City.

**"Sometimes the Streets Are
The Oceans We Cross", 2024**

Spray paint, baby Jesus tag,
match sticks, lighter, wax candle,
spray paint,
concrete, wood
12" x 48"





welcome change.

One of the traditions in Cruz's family is his grandmother providing family members with protective saint charms for their travels and homes.

Walter Cruz

Born: 1989, New York, New York

Education:

2022 MFA, Maryland Institute College of Art

2011 BA, Hobart & William Smith Colleges

2010 Semester Abroad, Scuola Leonardo Da Vinci

Solo Exhibitions:

2024 Heather Grey Gallery at Hooper House, Carry On Tradition, Baltimore, MD

2024 The Last Resort Artist Retreat, Friendly Reminders, Baltimore, MD

2023 Swivel Gallery, The Secrets To The Stars Are Buried In Our Blood

2022 NADA New York with Swivel Gallery, From Your Lips, To God's Ears, New York, New York

2018 NURTUREart, Walter Cruz: Leader in Me, New York, New York

Group Exhibitions:

2024 The Bronx Museum, Bronx Calling: The Sixth AIM Biennial, The Bronx, NY Personal Geographies, El Kilometro Gallery, San Juan, Puerto Rico

2022 Band of Vices Gallery, Rooted in Voyage, Los Angeles, California
South Street Seaport, Inside / Out, New York, New York Fred Lazarus Gallery, One Wall,
Two Wall, Floor, Baltimore, Maryland Anna Zorina Gallery, The Privilege of Getting Together, New York, New York

2020 REGULARNORMAL, The Privilege Of Getting Together, New York, New York
Baltimore City Hall, B2020, Baltimore, Maryland Rosenberg Gallery at Goucher College, Anatomy of Living Color, Baltimore, Maryland
Waller Gallery, Catch>Release>Activate, Baltimore, Maryland The Creative Alliance, On The Verge, Baltimore, Maryland

2019 Electropositivity Space, 100 Works, Brooklyn, New York
Maryland Institute College of Art, Fall Exhibition, Baltimore, Maryland

2018 Columbia University, Brave Spaces: Where You, Me and We Meet, New York, New York
The Laundromat Project, In Case of Emergency, The Bronx, New York The Edgar Allan
Poe Center, Silhouettes, Bronx, New York Center For Political Graphics, To Protect &
Serve? Five Decades of Posters Protesting Police Violence, Los Angeles, California

- 2018 St. Louis University, Liberation Based Healing, St. Louis, Missouri
 Columbia University, Coping Through Art, New York, New York
 Longwood Gallery, Swing Forward While Swaying Back, New York, New York
 The Moore Building, RAW/LAB, BCC, Senses, Miami, Florida ARTS East New York, Negritude, New York, New York
- 2017 The Moore Building, RAW Art Basel 2017, Miami, Florida
 BronxArtSpace, State Property, New York, New York Whitney Biennial
- 2017 Whitney Museum of American Art, Debtfair, a project of Occupy Museums, New York, New York
 NURTUREart, Voices Need Heroes, New York, New York
- 2016 Hangku Gallery, TOAST Artwalk, Osaka Japan
 BronxArtSpace, SpeakOut, New York, New York
 Andrew Freedman Home, Bronx Voyeurs, New York, New York

Awards and Residences:

- 2023 Bronx Museum AIM Fellowship The Bronx Recognizes Its Own award
- 2021 House of Sedulo Residency,
- 2019 Leslie King Hammond Fellowship
- 2018 Leslie King Hammond Fellowship
 Artist as Citizen Fellow at The Juilliard School
- 2017 NURTUREart Residency Kelly St. Studio Residency,
- 2016 Create Change Fellow of The Laundromat Project

Press:

- 2024 Gural, Natasha. "Emerging Artists Dismantle Longstanding Systems of Power in Bronx Museum Biennial." *Forbes*, *Forbes Magazine*, 1 Feb. 2024,
 Nayyar, Rhea, and Rhea Nayyar. "Bronx Calling Is All About Knowledge and Agency." *Hyperallergic*, 21 Feb. 2024,
 Sayej, Nadja. "This Year'S Bronx Biennial Showcases the Struggles of Urban Life." *Observer*, 11 Mar. 2024
 "Bronx Museum of Arts Showcases the Work of Emerging Artists in 'Bronx Calling' Exhibit." *News 12 - Brooklyn*
- 2022 Benzine, Vittoria. "Eight Bold Booths at NADA's NYC Comeback." *Widewalls*. 9 May
 Pellerin, Emily R. "Politics Take Center Stage at New Art Dealers Alliance in New York." *Cultured*. 6 May
- 2017 Gubartino, P.J. "Nurture Art." *Brooklyn Rail*. April
 Gates, Syreeta. "The Bronx Breeds Greatness W. Walter Cruz." *Everybody Eats* podcast by Stay Hungry. November
 Walker, Kedrick "Artist, Activist." *R.Legacy Magazine*. January
 Alexander, Erika. "Walter Cruz." *Reparations Podcast*. March