



'ANNA! and Duster'

March 1st, 2024 – April 20th, 2024

Opening March 1st, 2024, 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

The IW Gallery is excited to announce, *'ANNA! and Duster,'* a thoughtful provocative exhibition showcasing two contemporary artists. *'ANNA! and Duster,'* a retrospective of urban art, celebrates the creative partnership of the two artists. The IW Gallery invited Christine DeFazio, writer for UP Magazine of Street Art, to realize the Gallery's vision for this exhibition.

Duster began tagging in 1977 and is an early "wild style" writer. He was featured with SEEN, also of UA (United Artists), in Charlie Ahearn's legendary hip-hop film "Wild Style" (1983). Alongside SEEN, he mastered the art of tattooing, translating street art style into tattoos. Street artist, ANNA! chronicles her life through original and archival references. ANNA! has shown her work in many exhibitions including the Bowery Wall, various group shows at 17 Frost Gallery, a yearlong residency at pizza parlor/art gallery Bruno Pizza on 13th Street in Manhattan, and a pop-up selling one-of-a-kind graffiti clothing at Scrap

Yard NYC. Duster recently returned from Los Angeles and continues to traverse the underground network of trains with ANNA! The duo notably painted the Bowery Wall on several occasions.

ANNA! represents the upcoming female generation of graffiti writers. She is fascinated by the sometimes-erie world of the underground and enjoys crafting art from her niche life experiences. These same themes are evident in ANNA!'s canvases, where she delves into fine art elements, incorporating fairy tale symbolism and feminine commentary. Duster and ANNA!'s partnership is distinctive as many graffiti artists are hesitant to collaborate with those more skilled or with emerging female talents, fearing backlash. However, Duster, supports women in all artistic fields. He questions why male counterparts in the graffiti industry overlook opportunities to work with women.

The contrast between their careers and the similarities in their adventurous (and sometimes audacious) ventures may startle people, but that is their unique appeal. Though two minds may think alike, two generations certainly think differently. Their contrasting backgrounds (ANNA! born in 1993 and Duster in the 1960s) and shared experiences in the same city fuel their shared compulsion for graffiti. Despite not fitting into conventional society, they believe they are destined for recognition in the world of fine art. 'Duster and ANNA!' view their graffiti as social commentary, reflecting the essence of the neighborhood rather than a societal blemish. They strive to make street graffiti an accessible and conversational viewing experience to all creative enthusiasts. ANNA! and Duster have delved into art history, and they recognize graffiti as an art movement, perhaps one of the most thrilling of all time.

IN OCTOBER 2021, VIDA SABBAGHI FOUNDED THE IW GALLERY, INSPIRED BY CREATIVE OPPORTUNITIES PROMOTING EQUALITY'S 'AN INCLUSIVE WORLD PROJECT.' IT OPERATES AS A PARTNERSHIP GALLERY WORKING WITH LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR CREATIVES AROUND THE WORLD.
