Thwack

John CRASH Matos



Date : 2002
Lithograph
20 x 20 in.
Edition of 98
Pencil signed and numbered

Artist bio

John Matos, also known as CRASH, is a graffiti artist from New York City. Crash was raised in the Bronx, New York. At the age of 13, he began following the older teens from his neighborhood to the train yards and began spraying and tagging.
Taking the name “CRASH” after he accidentally crashed the computer in his school, his name began appearing on trains circulating all throughout New York City. First noticed through his murals on subway cars and dilapidated buildings, he is now regarded as a pioneer of the Graffiti art movement.
In 1980, Crash curated the now iconic exhibition:”Graffiti Art Success for America” at Fashion MODA, launching the graffiti movement that has remained very active through today.
Crash has been involved in several art projects throught the years. In 1995, Crash was commissioned by British American Tobacco to create a commission for Lucky Strike brand cigarette, joining fellow artist Keith Haring, to create a special work for this company and their collection. In 1996, Crash painted an Eric Clapton Signature Stratocaster and gave it to the artist as a gift. In total Crash has created 5 guitars for Clapton. In 2010, he was asked by Sanrio to create a series of paintings to be shown at Art Basel, Miami Beach, featuring Hello Kitty and other characters from Sanrio’s catalogue.
CRASH has been part of numerous museum and gallery shows around the world focusing on Graffiti and Street Art, and has works in many permanent museum collections. Visually iconic, he has partnered with many companies for projects including Absolut Vodka, Fender Guitars, Sanrio, SoBella Handbags, Levi’s, and many more. He continues to work and show both locally and internationally.