



MARTINEZ GALLERY

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DYSTOPIAN FUTURE

Artist:

SAWE

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NEW YORK - Continuing with our interest in introducing different international approaches to graffiti, and expanding on these diverse genres of writing, which are heavily influenced by the environment in which they are produced, Martinez Gallery is proud to present the works of Barcelona graffiti artist SAWE.

SAWE's works are the result, on the one hand, of a particular curiosity for the confluence of genres, and, on the other, of his exposure, not only to city life but also to its rich culture and diverse artistic production. He has been engaged with graffiti culture, and he practices what we could characterize as straightforward graffiti. Yet he has also studied and been trained more formally in illustration. He has made animations and collages, and has been seduced by those artists who have shown freedom and spontaneity in their works. He has an interest in the way artists transcend their own limits. Coming from Barcelona—a city recognized for its strong and internationally renowned illustrators and artists—SAWE combines all these techniques, media, and influences into a hybrid style of his own, a style that frequently highlights and acknowledges the compositions and colors of the Catalan illustrators from the 40s and 50s.

“I think that I am interested in different styles and ways of creating and making art,” SAWE tells us. “I don't feel I should limit these different ways of approaching graffiti or art making. I consider myself a graffiti artist, I do tags and bombing, but that's not all I do. I'm interested in the freedom of the artists of Art Brut, like Dubuffet, and I am also drawn towards certain Outsider artists, like the Baroque and labyrinthine compositions of Wölfli. However, I don't think I am completely able yet to go back to that moment of freedom, of returning to childhood, of having the spontaneity and improvisation these artists had.”

The murals he is presenting at Martinez Gallery, nevertheless, introduce us to the world of his rich imagination, to a fantasy world that is not afraid to explore beyond the limits of genres and influences, of ideas and speculations. Sometimes spontaneous and sometimes under control, SAWE's Dystopian Future is not so much a frightening and undesirable world as it is a collection of imaginary scenarios reflecting the human banality and stupidity of a possible future society. But this world, as his work, is just an opportunity, an excuse that allows him to explore beyond those limits he likes to transgress: from graffiti to illustration, from animation to painting, from mural to Art, from concept to action. This is not so much a balancing act as it is an act of growth, of continued trust in his vast imagination.

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