



MARTINEZ GALLERY

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## THE SICKNESS

Curated by Garie  
Ecclesiaste

### Artists:

MKUE  
PEAR  
SAKE  
SNOEMAN  
FONSE  
MANR  
FARIO  
CINIK  
+

MAY 30 THROUGH  
AUGUST 2016

NEW YORK - Martinez Gallery is pleased to present *The Sickness*, an exhibition that introduces the works and ideas of celebrated graffiti writer MKUE for the first time in a gallery, along with a group of followers and crews who are influenced by his style and ideas. The show does not attempt to adapt their work to the usual environment and guidelines of the gallery. On the contrary, it seeks to facilitate and recreate the ways, means, and conditions that graffiti writers encounter on the street, transforming the gallery space into an interior alternative that does not cater to the particular interests or demands of commercial galleries. Thus, the exhibition should be understood as an extension of the works these graffiti writers have been creating all along in the streets. It does not represent a change of direction or a departure from their practices, intentions, or manner of work.

The eight graffiti writers whom Martinez Gallery brings together in this new exhibition-project — MKUE, PEAR, SAKE, SNOEMAN, FONSE, MANR, FARIO, and CINIK — come from various places and backgrounds: Boston and New York City, Los Angeles and Montreal, Detroit and Toronto. All of them, however, coalesce around the towering figure of MKUE, an elusive yet legendary and influential character, whose work has attracted the attention of graffiti writers and street culture in pre-eminent graffiti scenes, such as New York, Los Angeles, and Tokyo. All of these graffiti writers have an obsessive approach towards their practice and a shared conviction that graffiti is an essential part of their lives, that the city has to be more than billboards and ads for corporations, and that graffiti is part of the pulse of the city. Although the gallery is located within the premises of a clinic for youth that addresses issues related to drug addiction, obesity, domestic violence, and other health matters, *The Sickness* of the title does not relate or refer to any of these troubles or obstacles. Rather, it expresses the creative, relentless idea, thought, and occupation that obsession that defines and feeds graffiti writers' minds.

The exhibition opens May 28. We are expecting you!