

New York- It's been 39 years since graffiti culture first began appearing on the streets and subways of the city of New York, ushering in a new brand of art that would change the urban landscape – and also inciting a slew of negative associations. Those poised against graffiti's survival, invoking alleged threats such as urban decay, instituted legal sanctions to prevent graffiti's proliferation. Four decades later, however, the work is still here. Martinez Gallery is proud to bring together the new and the old in ROAD SHOW, a new exhibition featuring the work of the leading practitioners of graffiti in a unique, mobile context.

for immediate release **MARTINEZ GALLERY**

# road show exhibition

december 1 - january 31

november 21, 7:00 – 9:00 pm: exhibition reception + book launch  
Barnes & Noble (inside/street), 4 Astor Place, New York, New York 10003, [www.allcity.info](http://www.allcity.info)

After Party with DJ Rich Medina at APT. 419 West 13th Street, New York, NY 10013 – 9:00 pm

This singular show brings the work of local graffiti artists back to the streets, focusing attention on the neglected and impermanent role that the form has been relegated to by contemporary artistic culture. The exhibition preview is timed to coincide with the release of the book GRAFFITI NYC, and the participating artists, and their works, are drawn from its pages. ROAD SHOW will include photographs by AKS, BRUZ, MICHAEL CHAN, COGO 144, COST, DSENSE, JAKE DOBKIN, FLINT GENNARI, HUGO, KEZ 5, PHIL MANSFIELD, NATO, RATE, ROBIN X, TOD SEELIE, SET, and SKUF. These photographs highlight over 200 prolific artists whose work has been redefining the NYC landscape in the 21st Century. The artists' work will be projected inside, as well as reproduced on the surface of, an expanded space extending from a U-Haul trailer. This icon of mobility will be the host to an equally iconic and mobile art form. From its launch in the east Village, ROAD SHOW will become a traveling exhibition, and will make appearances – both scheduled and impromptu – throughout New York City and around the country.

The U-Haul is not simply practical; it represents the ubiquitous urban sight that is easily passed over. ROAD SHOW converts this common vehicle into a site for resistance; a direct comment on the role graffiti has been assigned in the present day. Graffiti has been mishandled through a deliberate process of prohibition and exploitation. It has been quickly adapted for commercial aims and decorative purposes, then even more quickly, it is discarded. As an artifact, it is the most ephemeral of all contemporary art forms: surviving only long enough to be documented before it is buffed, painted over and forgotten.

Graffiti, one of the strongest assertions of individual identity in the art world, has been reduced to a freak show. The graffiti art that does survive tends to be the most sensationalized and, ironically, least true to the form. The graffiti that is presented to the public through officially sanctioned channels bares the most voyeuristic stripe. ROAD SHOW arrives as a kind of itinerant circus, serving to highlight and draw attention to that iniquity.

A direct confrontation to this imbalance is offered by ROAD SHOW, where all the art is illegal art. It was originally placed without consent into the public sphere, and now it returns to the space again. This work defies the socially "acceptable" forms of representation and exhibition, preferring a milieu that is at street level, a kind of urban midway. By putting this exhibition of prohibited, felonious artwork on wheels, ROAD SHOW strikes a sharp and unmistakable echo of perhaps the most potent symbol of the graffiti culture – the graffiti-coated subway. Art was once delivered throughout the boroughs; like the IRT and the BMT of old, ROAD SHOW will bring the mountain to Mohammed.

ROAD SHOW will be open to the public for two months, but its appearances will be as unpredictable as the art it contains – graffiti can and will appear wherever the road is paved.

Exhibition Hours and Location: ROAD SHOW will have its preview reception November 21 and open from December 1 to January 31, 6:00PM - 10:00PM, Fri & Sat. For future location updates, visit [www.martinezgallery.com](http://www.martinezgallery.com) or write [staff@martinezgallery.com](mailto:staff@martinezgallery.com) 24 hrs in advance.