



Faces in the Mirror by Blek le Rat & Transitions by ABOVE

Opening Reception: May 1st, 2010, from 7-11 pm.

Show runs through: June 5th, 2010, and is open to the public.

White Walls is proud to present a joint show: *Faces in the Mirror* by Blek le Rat and *Transitions* by ABOVE. This exhibition brings together the original pioneer stencil artist and his younger counterpart utilizing stencils to create public art around the world. Please join us for the opening reception on Saturday, May 1st 2010, from 7-11 pm.

This homage to stencil art marks Blek le Rat's first show in San Francisco as well as the debut indoor exhibition of ABOVE. The meeting of these two artists is a passing of the torch from the original stencil artist to a younger generation of urban artists following in his legacy. Blek le Rat first pioneered stencils in the early 80s as a bold, attention grabbing form of street art that was never before seen. ABOVE is the prominent stencil artist of the new generation, drawing on Blek's methods to project a social message into the urban environment.

Blek le Rat resides outside of Paris, the very city he claimed 30 years ago as a platform for social commentary. He was the first of his time to employ stencils and spray paint for fast, high contrast images on city walls. *Faces in the Mirror* is a collection of Blek's iconic imagery (beggars, sheep, rats, and Michelangelo's David with an AK-47) combined with never before seen images such as Mona Lisa. These forms open conversation about consciousness, social relation, mass media, and commodity fetishism. Known as the godfather of stencil graffiti art, Blek le Rat has been the great inspiration for artists worldwide including Banksy, Shepard Fairey, Space Invader, WK Interact, and ABOVE.

ABOVE has devoted the past 8 years to creating street art around the world, refusing every opportunity to show his work indoors. It is only because of Blek le Rat's strong desire to show alongside him that ABOVE finally conceded to his premier indoor exhibition. *Transitions* is based on three themes from his outdoor works: sign language arrow mobiles, wordplay murals, and colorful figurative stencils. The overarching sentiment is one of optimism, honor, overcoming struggle, and a desire to rise above.

Please join us for the opening reception of *Faces in the Mirror* by Blek le Rat and *Transitions* by ABOVE on Saturday, May 1st, 2010, from 7-11pm. The exhibit will be on view through June 5th, 2010, and is open to the public.