

Carlos Aquilino @ Broadway Gallery

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by Sophie Hill at postcardwall.

Carlos Aquilino is one of the two shows proceeding Underground on BROADWAY at Broadway Gallery.NYC.



Spanish artist Aquilino had his first exhibition in 1975 and has been exhibiting all over the world since, in painting, sculpture and drawing. His work has always bordered on the metaphysical and this latest display is no exception. The exhibition is made up of jam-packed compositions of swirling surrealism. Dense, these drawings have no beginning, end or border, and work best hung that way, in packs of six or more that encompass the viewer as they peer into them. Indeed, Aquilino tells me if he had the time he would have liked to cover the entire wall with them.



A short loveable man, brown from Madrid and sick of New York's version of heat (humidity), we talk of his frustration with people constantly trying to pinpoint exactly what he is trying to "say" in these drawings. He explains, in a mixture of Spanish and English, that there is no theme, no specific subject but these are erupting thoughts and feelings articulated across a page. There is no plan and, as hard as it is to believe, there is no initial pencilling in of design; Aquilino goes straight to paper with pen. This spontaneity, a growth that cannot be planned, is obvious as thoughts are

drawn in images and made to somersault across the page. Faces, often in profile, grow out of buildings, grow out of cars, grow out of colour, while words, in both English and Spanish, dance among them forming sentiments that tie themselves to what you will.



As well as the drawings, pinned to the wall on paper, Aquilino has a more installation interpretation of his style: drawing larger-scale on huge rectangles of plastic. These hang overlapping one another; we are doubly intrigued as we are pulled into entwining worlds layered translucently on top of one another. Plastic also allows an added movement and texture, as well as an encouragement of the pop-art element of Aquilino's work. There is something inherently Spanish, cultural, about the approach to Aquilino's designs, found in the colour, and the determination of freedom of articulation. This is telling about how far the thoughts and emotions of Aquilino himself have gone into these pieces. Fascinating, there are no exact words for Aquilino's drawings, and nor should there be.



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