

For immediate release

## *Following My Path*

**Cope2**

18 March – 18 April 2021



**Cope2, *Life is Tough*, 2020, mixed media on canvas, 120 by 147 cm. Courtesy to Cope2 and JPS Art Gallery.**

JPS Art Gallery is delighted to present, *Following My Path*, a solo exhibition of new paintings by celebrated street art legend, Cope2, on view at the gallery's Hong Kong location in LANDMARK. The show is a series that encapsulates the development of Cope2's artistic journey – from the streets of the Bronx in New York City to international galleries.

A self-taught artist, Cope2 is best known for tagging his name on the New York subway carriages and creating large scale murals on the streets of New York. The presented canvases feature his signature bubble letter and tags, bringing the distinctive sense of rupture and street energy onto his canvases works. The exhibition is a celebration of the artist's over 35 years of experience in painting graffiti and his contribution to bringing street art into the mainstream art world as well as different culture outlets.

To complete the narrative of the exhibition, the gallery would also transform into the street of New York. By installing a typical street lamp post and a bench of the city, these final touches draw parallel to the public arts of the artists and his galleries canvas works. The artist's canvas works for galleries are made with the intention to be hung indoors while retaining his unique throw-ups, signature motifs and most importantly, the rebellious spirit that is found in street art. The installations also enliven discussions in the presentation of street art in institutional settings, creating simulating dialogues between the nature of the art and exhibition methods.

Showing in tandem with the exhibition is the *Time Travel* exhibition on view at BELOWGROUND on the basement floor of LANDMARK ATRIUM. This collaboration project features the works of raising local artists, Afa Annfa, Chino Lam, and Cope2. The exhibition is a salutation to street culture and its legacy. Inspired by the concept of the 1980 cinematic classics *Somewhere in Time*, the exhibition set the scene for mediation for the audience, allowing them to travel back in time. The modern subway doors act as the portal of time that brings the audience back to the late 1980s, a golden age of graffiti and street art in New York City, a time when Cope2 and his crew were bombing the streets and the subways of the city with their distinctive tags and graffiti. The two exhibitions are showing in tandem to complement the narratives of each show while showcasing the versatility of the artist's oeuvre.

## **About Cope2**

One of New York City's most prolific graffiti artists, Cope2 is a self-taught celebrated legend who has been contributing over 35 years to graffiti and street-art culture.

He began tagging his name in South Bronx since 1978, his distinctive and authentically raw style made him an ambassador of the New York City graffiti productions in the 1980s and 90s. He is best known for his large murals and paintings on the city's subways lines. From the 2000s, Cope2 has turned his sights to the gallery setting, bringing his raw energy into abstract expressionist style masterpieces, intertwined with his trademark bubble letters and tags on canvases. Today, Cope2 continues to make waves in crossing between the art world, mainstream and street culture.

Born 1968 as Fernando Carlo, Jr. in New York City, Cope2 began his career as a street artist with his cousin's influence. In 1982, he was active in the street scene as the founding member of artist group Kids Destroyer, later known as Kings Destroyer. The work of Cope2 has also been featured in various pop culture outlets, including the formative 1983 graffiti documentary, *Style Wars*, his tags are also included in the *Grand Theft Auto IV* video games and feature films like *Shrek the Third*. He has also worked with numerous international brands for product design collaborations, including Adidas, Converse, Time Life and Footlocker to name but a few.

## **About JPS Art Gallery**

Established in 2014 in Hong Kong, JPS Art Gallery is an independent contemporary art gallery presenting works of emerging and established artists from around the world.

The gallery is founded with a passionate spirit that dedicates to the new digital age and the exploration of the world of fine art and pop culture. We aim to create an innovative environment for a new generation of artists and collectors, fostering a creative space for all. We focus on fun and playful works of the era that spans across different mediums and disciplines, showcasing a discerning selection of works that embody the aesthetics of today.

We are committed to supporting the culture and art scene both in Hong Kong and Japan, creating a vibrant local art community. The gallery regularly presents works of emerging artists in our gallery spaces in Hong Kong and Tokyo as well as international art fairs, giving them a platform to gain global exposure, supporting young artists to launch their careers. JPS has also been an active contributor to society and the local art scene by sponsoring various charity events and auctions.

## **Location**

Shops 218 - 219, 2/F, Landmark Atrium, 15 Queen's Road Central, Central, Hong Kong

## **For all media inquiries, please contact**

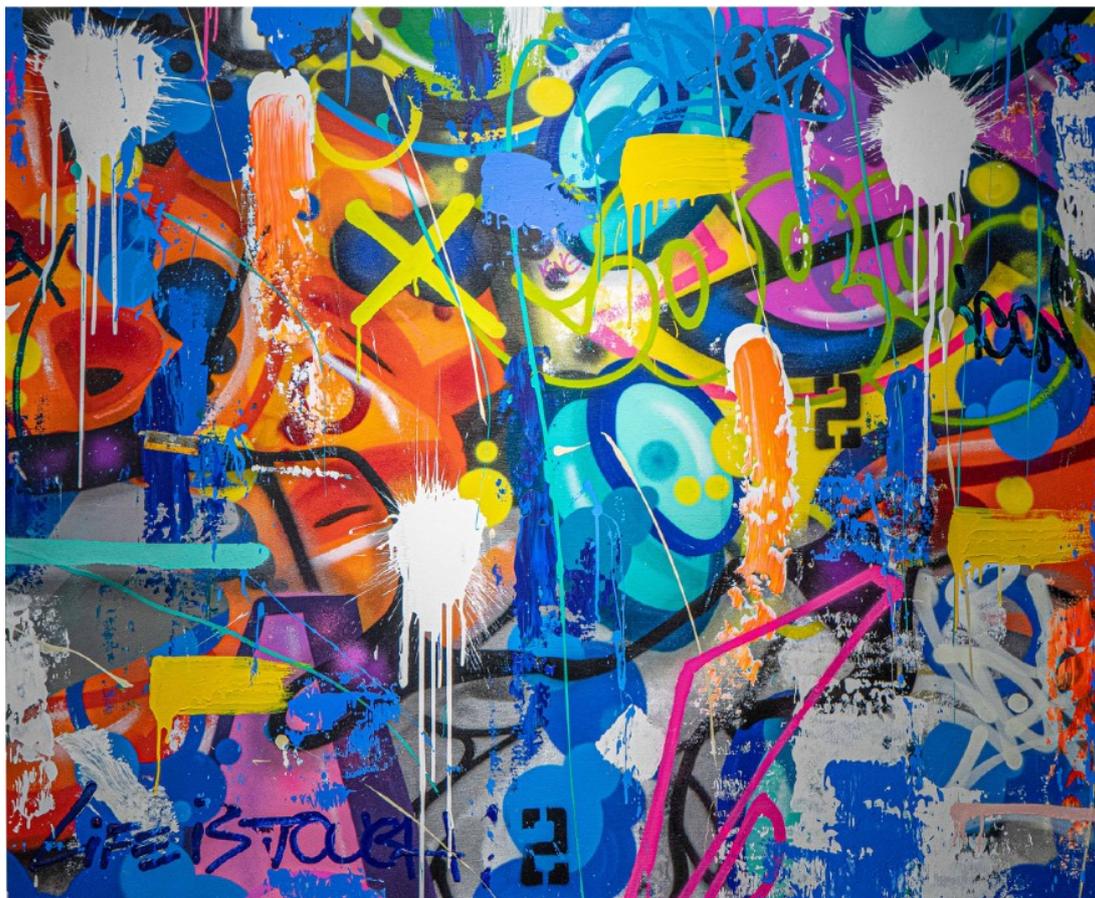
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即時發佈

## 「逆行」

### Cope2

2021年3月18日至4月18日



Cope2, 《Life is Tough》, 2020年作, 混合媒體於畫布, 120 x 147 釐米。圖片由藝術家和JPS畫廊提供。

JPS畫廊於香港置地廣場的藝術空間欣然呈獻紐約街頭藝術傳奇Cope2 的全新作品展「逆行」，是次展覽見證了Cope2 從紐約布朗克斯走到今日國際畫廊舞台的藝術歷程。

Cope2 年少時自學塗鴉壁畫，自此便常常用噴漆在紐約地鐵車廂簽名，亦會在街頭創作壁畫，就這樣Cope2 的名字漸漸備受關注。是次展覽的作品，他將街頭塗鴉風格創作在畫布上，這些畫都有著他一貫標誌性的泡泡字體（throw up）和簽名（tag），為畫布注入野性和活力。展覽旨在向在塗鴉界縱橫超過三十五年的Cope2 致敬，肯定他把街頭藝術帶入主流藝術世界的成就。

為了營造出紐約街頭的氣氛，畫廊架起了經典老街燈，放置木長椅，讓觀眾宛如置身 Cope2 的塗鴉現場。藝術家一反街頭藝術以牆壁作為媒介的傳統，製作出以畫布作為載體並加入泡泡字體和簽名的元素，將塗鴉藝術從街頭帶到美術館，把街頭藝術的反叛精神帶上主流藝術舞台。是次展覽希望令觀眾對街頭藝術有新的體會，Cope2 將塗鴉轉化為一系列風格獨樹一幟的表達語言，打破了街頭藝術和藝術空間的界限，印證著街頭藝術也可以成為一種被認可的藝術形式。

與此同時，置地廣場地庫BELOWGROUND也有Cope2 與兩位本地藝術家林輝（Chino Lam）和 李思汝（Afa Annfa）的聯展「逆時車站」。是次展覽旨在歌頌街頭藝術及其影響往後藝術發展的重要性。靈感來自1980年的經典電影《時光倒流七十年》，營造環境，渲染氣氛，以冥想回到舊時。觀眾只要穿過現代的地鐵車門，踏進車廂，便可時光倒流四十年，回到那個街頭藝術發展蓬勃的美國八十年代末，體驗當年被Cope2 和他的團員以狂野塗鴉稱霸的紐約地下鐵車站和車廂。這個聯展和Cope2 的個人展同時展出，遙相呼應，大家可以多角度欣賞Cope2 豐富多樣的創造力。

## 關於Cope2

Cope2 是現今紐約最多產量的街頭塗鴉藝術家之一，這三十多年來在紐約街頭留下大量他的筆觸。

自一九七八年起，Cope2 在塗鴉文化發源地南布朗士的牆壁和鐵閘等地方簽名（tag）、寫泡泡字體（throw up）和繪畫（piece），他的作品風格率性狂野，使他成為八十、九十年代紐約街頭塗鴉鮮明的代表。他曾在紐約地下鐵路繪畫大型壁畫和塗鴉，成為他最為人熟悉的作品之一。自二零零零年起，Cope2 由街頭轉戰畫廊，把他塗鴉作品中具有標誌性的泡泡字體和簽名由牆壁轉移到畫布上，超越了塗鴉原本以牆壁為載體的語境，為藝術世界、主流文化和街頭文化帶來衝擊。

Cope2 生於一九六八年紐約，原名為 Fernando Carlo, Jr.。他在表親Chris的薰陶下開始創作塗鴉，其後在一九八二年成立畫家組織Kids Destroyer，亦即後來的Kings Destroyer。Cope2 的作品在潮流文化中占有一席之地，曾被探討美國嘻哈文化的紀錄片《Style Wars》收錄，亦在電子遊戲《Grand Theft Auto IV》和電影《Shrek the Third》中出現。不少國際時尚品牌例如 Adidas、Converse、Time Life和Footlocker等也曾與Cope2 聯乘出品設計。

## 關於JPS畫廊

JPS畫廊始創於二零一四年，主打當代藝術，先後在香港和東京開設畫廊，代理來自世界各地的新晉及知名藝術家。

畫廊旗下的藝術家大玩流行文化，從現代生活文化符號取材，以不同媒介創作出獨特的當代藝術品，趣緻玩味，呈現當代美學。本畫廊不但為新一代藝術家提供自由的創作空間，亦為收藏家提供別樹一幟的藝術品，更為香港藝術品市場帶來緊貼時代潮流的作品。

我們矢志於推動香港和日本的文化與藝術界發展，為本地建立充滿活力的藝術社區。我們會定期為藝術家於香港和東京兩地的畫廊設置展覽，亦會安排他們的作品於國際藝術節展出，讓新晉藝術家得以於國際舞台上嶄露頭角，同時維持知名藝術家在全球藝術市場的熱度。除了貢獻本地藝術界，畫廊亦熱心公益，積極參與和贊助各項慈善和義賣活動以回饋社會。

## 地點

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媒體查詢及導覽，請聯絡

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