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Last Chance to See the "Haute Hip-Hop" Exhibition at projects + gallery

A closing party and panel discussion celebrate the exhibit and hip-hop's influence on culture, art, and fashion.

By Helene Sayad
March 25, 2016 1:33 PM

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY SUZY GORMAN, COURTESY OF PROJECTS + GALLERY

Artist Jermaine Clark in front of his work "Fall Hard, Land Softly"

For culture aficionados who haven't yet seen projects + gallery's "Haute Hip-Hop"—celebrating the music genre and its influence on culture, art, and fashion—there's still time to experience it this weekend.

Upon entering projects + gallery, you instantly recognize the artists: Tupac, the Beastie Boys, Notorious B.I.G., Wu Tang Clan, Lauryn Hill... The images remind visitors of the genre's history and emotion, as well as its role in shaping the cultural scene. There are also works from Jermaine Clark, Joe Conzo, Dolce and Gabbana, Fantich & Young, Jonathan Mannion, Charlie Le Mindu, Marilyn Minter, Moschino, Toyin Ojih Odutola, Fahamu Pecou, Hank Willis Thomas, Mickalene Thomas, Valentino, and Kehinde Wiley. The result is a joyful blend of music, fashion, and art.

See also: "Art Couture: Susan Barrett and Dorte Probstein to Open projects + gallery"

For gallery co-founder Susan Barrett, the exhibit was years in the making. More than a decade ago, when she was director of the Chess Club and World Hall of Fame, Barrett read an article about the Hip-Hop Chess Federation, whose founder, Adisa Banjoko, she later met. "He taught me everything I know about hip-hop," she says.

"It's an art form that has transcended and transformed every global culture," Barrett says. "It's a universal language: What we are going through now has influenced business, communication, social media, art, and fashion. I want to give it its proper due."

As she points out, you can see street fashion's influence on couture everywhere, from Kanye West's designs to designers like Riccardo Tisci for Givenchy, John Galliano for Maison Martin Margiela, Rick Owens, and Raf Simons. Then there's the art, from a Jean-Michel Basquiat painting to recent works by Mickalene Thomas and Kehinde Wiley.

projects + gallery will host a closing party tonight from 5 to 8 p.m. Then, beginning tomorrow at 3 p.m., a panel will discuss hip-hop's influence. Panelists include Barrett; Paint St. Louis, S.L.U.M. Fest, and Beats 4 Eats co-founder John Harrington; and musicians James "Biko" Gates (a.k.a. Nappy DJ Needles) and April Fulstone (a.k.a. DJ Agile 1). Adrienne Davis, a longtime art collector and Washington University law professor/vice provost, will serve as the moderator.



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projects + gallery is located at 4733 McPherson in the Central West End.

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