

BNS | 2017-2018
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## BNS

Mariano, known by his tag BNS, is a Buenos Aires-born, Brooklyn-based street artist. He pulls Pop cultural images into a frenzied burst of color and dry humor, from bespoke-suited Stormtroopers to a tatted-out Audrey Hepburn. He combines aerosol paint, acrylic, silkscreen, ink and photography into his non-stationary work. His work appears in locations throughout the U.S., Spain, Australia, Russia and Argentina. In 2017 his work was shown with Avant Gallery at the international SCOPE art fair in Basel, Switzerland, NY and Miami editions, as well as Art Miami and Art NY art fairs.


Vida Loca (Kate Moss) | 2018
36X36X2 | Mixed media on wood panel finished in resin.


## El Amor Es Ciego (Liz Taylor) | 2018

36X36X2 | Mixed media on wood panel finished in resin.


Amor Eterno (Audrey Hepburn) | 2018
36X36X2 | Mixed media on wood panel finished in resin.


Coyoacan (Frida Kahlo) | 2018
36X36X2 | Mixed media on wood panel finished in resin.


## Lost Angeles (Yellow) | 2018

29X29X2 | Deconstructed mixed media, paper and cardboard on wood panel over concrete block.



## Lost Angeles (set of 4) | 2018

29X29X2 (each) | Deconstructed mixed media, paper and cardboard on wood panel over concrete block.




## Menace To Society | 2018

29X41X2 | Deconstructed mixed media, fabric, cardboard on wood panel over concrete block.




## El Amor Es Ciego | 2018

29X29X2 | Deconstructed mixed media, cardboard on wood panel over concrete block.






Bubble Gum Diptych II | 2018


## Rebel Rebel | 2018

## 30X40X2 | Mixed media and concrete on wood panel finished in resin.

British artist David Bowie, born David Robert Hayward-Jones, got the Bowie eponym from James Bowie (a 19th-century American pioneer, who played a prominent role in the Texas revolution) and the Bowie knife -the eye tattoo- that the latter used as a means of defending himself in a fight that gave him a reputation of the most dangerous man among the opposition. However, the name was probably the only thing that the artist "borrowed": he was very innovative throughout his whole life that he never really followed any trend, rather created those trends himself. BNS underlines that fact with the "Rebel rebel" tattoo ,which is also the name of a famous Bowie's song as well as this piece, and "No masters" under his eye. The other tattoos that we can see are "Brixton" which stands for his hometown and a spider web on his cheek tattoo that represents the song "Spiders from Mars".




## Lost Angeles (left) | 2018

30X40X2 | Mixed media and concrete on wood panel finished in resin.

## El Amor Es Ciego (top left) | 2018

30X40X2 | Mixed media and concrete on wood panel finished in resin.

## Vida Loca (top right) | 2018

30X40X2 | Mixed media and concrete on wood panel finished in resin.

## Summer Audrey (bottom left) | 2018

 30X40X2 | Mixed media and concrete on wood panel finished in resin.$1 / 2$

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## Crak Is Wack | 2018

30X40X2 | Mixed media and concrete on wood panel finished in resin.

In this portrait of artist Keith Haring the tattoo over his eyebrows "Crack is wack" is a reference to the famous mural he did in the 80 s that has not only become one of his most famous works but also gave name to the playground where it is still located. The jawline tattoo "Kutztown, PA" stands for the town where the artist was raised. It was then when his is interest in art first appeared: spending his time with the family as a child he often watched his father, an amateur cartoonist, drawing. Haring's early influences included Walt Disney cartoons, Dr. Seuss, Charles Schulz, and the Looney Tunes characters in The Bugs Bunny Show. The snake tattooed on his cheek is one of his famous snakes.


## El Amor Es Ciego | 2017

24X36X2 | Mixed media on wood panel finished in resin.

Elizabeth Taylor was married 8 times in her life, that's why "El Amor es Ciego" (which translates to English as "Love is blind") is tattooed on her eyelids. On her neck we can see the Eye of Horus image (an ancient Egyptian symbol of protection, royal power and good health) which is a reference to her role of Cleopatra in the 1963 film directed by J.L. Mankiewicz. That film turned out to be the most expensive film produced up to that point, and Taylor was paid a record-breaking $\$ 1$ million for her leading part in it. Since Taylor happened to star during the Golden Age of Hollywood, the tattoo on her chest reads "Golden Age", and this piece makes part of BNS's series of Golden Age Portraits. The logo of LA, where the actress lived, can be seen as a tattoo under her right eye. The snake tattoo on her chest represents protection and healing, since she struggled with health problems for most of her life and died of poor health.


# All Day Breakfast | 2017 <br> 24X36X2 | Mixed media on wood panel finished in resin. 

Recognized as a film and fashion icon, Hepburn was active during the Golden Age of Hollywood, hence the neck tattoo. Her outfit, a blazer in golden animal print, matches that of Liz Taylor in BNS's work "El Amor es Ciego"; both of the pieces are part of BNS's series Golden Age Portrait. Under her eye there is a heart tattoo that makes a statement for all the love she gave working for UNICEF and helping some of the poorest communities in the world. BNS's Audrey is rocking a red bandana and a nose ring, looking like a modern version of a pin up with a punk rock twist. A queen of hearts silkscreen that can be seen in one of the finishing layers of the piece alludes to Audrey Hepburn's reputation as one of the most favorite actresses of all times.
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Stop Wars | 2016 24X36X2 | Mixed media on wood panel finished in resin.

This piece is a mix of the super famous image of The Beatles' album "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" and the iconic characters from Star Wars.


## Menace to Society | 2018

24X36X2 | Mixed media on wood panel finished in resin.

Frida's neck tattoo coincides with the name of the piece, "Menace to Society", which, according to BNS, is the artist's role in society: to question the established norms and rules (just like Frida Kahlo often did, dressing up as a man, for instance). The tattoo over her left eyebrow reads "Coyoacan" which is Frida Kahlo's hometown. Under that same eye there is a number 10 tattoo. In BNS's culture number 10 is often used as an allusion to "Diego" (Diego Maradona); in this case number 10 stands for Diego Rivera. Overall, the piece has a number of references to Mexican culture: Frida's chest bears an image of the Virgin of Guadalupe, a very traditional figure for the Mexican people, a praying skeleton silkscreen refers to the Day of the Dead (El día de los muertos), there are also vintage certified Mexican banknotes in the background. Other paper money seen in the background of the piece are authentic Russian Banknotes, which together with pieces of handcrafted paper from the USSR, are a hint to the link that Frida and Diego had with the communist ideology. The silkscreen figure of a wounded person is an image that BNS borrowed from an ancient 1800 wood carving, it makes reference to all the physical suffering Frida went through during her life.


## G.O.A.T. | 2017 <br> 40X60X2 | Mixed media on wood panel finished in resin.

Muhammad Ali is also known as the G.O.A.T. (Greatest Of All Times), hence the inscription on his knuckles and an anatomy drawing of a goat's skull silk screened in black as one of the layers of the piece. Proclaiming himself as "the greatest", the boxer referred not only to his skills in the ring, but also to his love for speeches. His famous quotes such as "Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee", "You traded heaven for hell, baby" can be seen as tattoos on his body (the first one as an actual butterfly with a sting, the other one, originally addressed to his wife upon their break-up, as a phrase tattooed all over his chest). Among his other tattoos, a spider web on his shoulder represents the trap he found himself in when convicted of violating selective service laws: at that time he got his boxing license revoked and his passport had been taken away, so he could not make a living by boxing neither in nor outside the United States. Silk screened flowers in white ink stand for peace and are included for the same reason - Ali's fighting against the war. His torso says Louisville, his hometown; his left forearm features Malcolm X, whom he followed closely; and his eyebrow reads "Thrilla" reminding the viewer of the third and last fight against Joe Frazier in Manila.


## Rebel Rebel | 2018

24X36X2 | Mixed media on wood panel finished in resin.

British artist David Bowie, born David Robert Hayward-Jones, got the Bowie eponym from James Bowie (a 19th-century American pioneer, who played a prominent role in the Texas revolution) and the Bowie knife -the eye tattoo- that the latter used as a means of defending himself in a fight that gave him a reputation of the most dangerous man among the opposition. However, the name was probably the only thing that the artist "borrowed": he was very innovative throughout his whole life that he never really followed any trend, rather created those trends himself. BNS underlines that fact with the "Rebel rebel" tattoo ,which is also the name of a famous Bowie's song as well as this piece, and "No masters" under his eye. The other tattoos that we can see are "Brixton" which stands for his hometown, a spider web cheek tattoo that represents the song "Spiders from Mars" and "1963" that was the year when David Bowie finally decided to dedicate himself entirely to the art.


## 27 | 2017 <br> 36X48X2 | Mixed media on wood panel finished in resin.


#### Abstract

The title of this piece as well as the number on Amy Winehouse's shirt are an allusion to the infamous 27 Club, which, unfortunately, the musician now joined, together with other talented people dead at 27 such as Jim Morrison, Kurt Cobain, Jimmy Hendrix, Janis Joplin, etc. BNS sees Amy with locks of hair that remind of an octopus, a deep sea creature, often described as highly intelligent and mysterious. Amy's music to him is also very deep, clever and mysterious. The tattooed letters over her eyebrow read "Frank" referring to Frank Sinatra's influence and the name of one of Winehouse's records. Her eyes are dripping black paint as a reference to her song and album of the same name, "Back to Black". As Winehouse herself explained, it appeared after a break up with her then-boyfriend, when he went back to what was comfortable for him - his previous girlfriend, and Amy went back to what was comfortable for her - the black hole of alcohol and drug abuse.





## Suit Up Triology | 2016

24X36X2 (each) | Mixed media on plexi finished in resin.

This is a triptych consisting of three individual panels that work both as a set and individually. Darth Vader, Boba Fett and a Storm Trooper got their dress code on point. In the background of each of these pieces there are actual newsprints from NY | THE SUN edition of 1909 advertising suits and other gentlemen's outfits from that time. There are also some layers that run through the three pieces connecting them, such as the image of the pyramid with the all seeing eye.



## 1\% | 2018

24X36X2 | Mixed media on wood panel finished in resin.
BNS' Bruce Wayne (Adam West) has tatted a $1 \%$ under his left eye, which is also the name of the piece; his forever love "Selina" on his chin and Gotham over his eyebrow.

## K | 2018

24X36X2 | Mixed media on wood panel finished in resin.
Superman dressed in a classic BNS' tracksuit rocks his lover's name ("Louise") tatted over his eyebrow and the letter "K" -for Kripton planetright under the same eye. Also "1938" on his neck, which is the year when the first Superman comics came out.


## Bad Hair Day | 2017

24X36X2 | Mixed media on wood panel finished in resin.

BNS's Frida Kahlo with Medusa hair symbolizes pain and ways of dealing with it, since Frida felt a lot of physical pain throughout her life and the snakes are used as a symbol of healing and protection in many cultures. Apart from physical pain, Frida dealt with a lot of drama, being constantly misunderstood when pushing social and gender boundaries (that's why she is carrying a cigarette behind her ear, not a very typical thing to do for a woman back then) or her toxic relationship with Diego Rivera, hence the tattoos "Love Kills" and "Mi Vida Loca" (which translates to English as "My crazy life"), which is a common Mexican prison tattoo. Among other references to Mexican culture there are some skeleton silkscreens that represent "El Dia de los Muertos" (The Day of the Dead). In the background of the work there are authentic Russian Banknotes and handcrafted paper from the USSR, giving a hint about the link that Frida and Diego had with the communist ideology.


## Too Cool for School | 2017

24X36X2 | Mixed media on wood panel finished in resin.

BNS's Albert Einstein is too cool for school, his tattoos serve as proof. The right side of his forehead has a barcode tattoo with the inscription $\mathrm{E}=\mathrm{MC}$. The tattoo over his eyebrow reads "Mileva" and is dedicated to his first wife and mother of his two sons. The world "Relativity" on his chin alludes to his famous theory and lifelong studies. He is also rocking a star of David earring that represents his religious beliefs which made him move out of Europe to the United States. The pin on the strap of his messenger bag says "Science Bitch", that's a famous quote from one of the leading characters of the popular TV series "Breaking Bad". The background of the piece features authentic Mark banknotes from the last century.


24X36X2 | Mixed media on wood panel finished in resin.
Bill Gates, Bill Murray and Bill Clinton juxtaposed with the 1980's sensational hip-hop trio, RUN DMC next to a "Post No Bills" sign.


## Who the Cap Fit | 2017

36X48X2 | Mixed media on wood panel finished in resin.

The red letters on the bottom of the piece read SAMO, which was a collaboration between AI Diaz and Jean Michel Basquiat, an informal graffiti duo who wrote enigmatic epigrams in the cultural hotbed of the Lower East Side of Manhattan during the late 1970s where the hip-hop, punk and street art movements had coalesced. Ten years later Basquiat's work was shown in galleries and museums all over the world. His Brooklyn snapback can be seen as some kind of a crown as by many he is considered a king in a the NYC street art scene.The silk screened image of the Greek god Hercules fighting snakes applied as one of the finishing layers of the piece is a reference to Basquiat's poetry, Greece being the hometown of very influential pieces of poetry such as lliad and Odyssey, for example.



## The Man in Flowers | 2016

24X24X2 | Mixed media on wood panel finished in resin.

Jonny Cash is known as the man in black for always wearing black outfits. This colorful and romantic image of Cash has a tattoo that says "June Carter" near his hairline as well as another one saying "C/S" on his chick (C/S is a chicano term commonly used on the west coast in the 50 's to sign off graffiti, which, among other things, means "with safety").

Hardcore PA | 2016
24X36X2 | Mixed media on wood panel finished in resin.
Rocky Balboa wearing The Ramones t-shirt and a HCxPA jacket, representing Philly hardcore scene, and a BNS snapback. Under the eye it reads "Adrian" and his neck has flower tattoos, as for his sensitive side, and also a Gypsy Woman's face for good fortune and safe journey in his fights. The background has fragments of Philadelphia's newsprint from 1911 as well as lokta paper (traditional handmade paper from Tibet and Nepal).


## Poison Heart | 2017

24X36X2 | Mixed media on wood panel finished in resin.

This is an evolved version of "All Day Breakfast", the same pin up / punk rocker Audrey but this time in a leather jacket and some new tattoos. Over the eyebrow it says "Poison Heart" which is a song by the Ramones. Dee Dee Ramone wrote it and it was given to the band in exchange for bailing Dee Dee out of jail. Poison Heart is also the name of the piece. In the neck it says "Golden Age" the Hollywood period when she was active. There is the outline of a Rose on her cheek, meaning Beauty and innocence. She has a toothpick and a nose ring which is a Modern twist to the classic Audrey. The background has fragments of lokta paper (traditional handmade paper from Tibet and Nepal) as well as vintage banknotes and US stamps from the 1930's.


## Crazy Love | 2017

## 24X36X2 | Mixed media on wood panel finished in resin.

Brigitte Bardot's chest reads "Crazy Love". Many people were crazy in love with her during the 50 's and 60 's, she is an Iconic French sex symbol and a muse as well. The tattoo over her eyebrow says "Nicolas", the name of her only son. The one under the eye says B.B. as she was widely referred to by her initials. The background features different types of lokta papers and SAVE THE WILD LIFE stamps from around 1930s, since Bardot is a passionate animal rights activist.



## Making Friends | 2016

24X24X2 | Mixed media on wood panel finished in resin.

Two Star Wars characters hanging out and having a smoke. Storm trooper has a face tattoo that says "Lowbrow" and Darth Vader has one over his eye that says "Empire". The piece is done over a newsprint from 1909.

Freewheelin' | 2017 24X36X2 | Mixed media on wood panel finished in resin.

Bob Dylan is rocking an adidas tracksuit, a nose ring and a neck tattoo that reads "Freewheelin"', which is the name of the piece as well as one of his most influential records. The date 1963 which is tattooed under his eye is the release year of "Freewheelin". The world "Desire" which is seen as a tattoo over his eyebrow stands for the name of one of his best albums, that opens with "Hurricane". Vintage banknotes and lokta paper are used for the background.


## Smile | 2017

24X36X2 | Mixed media on wood panel finished in resin.

This is a modern twist on the classic Da Vinci's 'La Gioconda', where Mona Lisa is heavily tattooed and wears a bandana over her face, almost like a vandal. The entire mystery of her smile is represented by the tattoo over her left eyebrow. The research by a professor of Harvard University completed in 2003 said that Mona Lisa's smile disappears when observed with direct vision. Because of the way the human eye processes visual information, it is less suited to pick up shadows directly; however, peripheral vision can pick up shadows well. The phrase "Stay Gold" tattooed over la Gioconda's chest is a popular quote in the tattoo world; it's meaning is to remain innocent and unique throughout time, something that Mona Lisa surely did. The Eye of Providence seen on her hand represents the eye of God watching over Humanity, this symbol is often associated with conspiracy theories about Freemasonry. The background contains lokta paper and original vintage Italian liras. One of the top layers of the piece features a pyramid that appears on the one dollar bill with the all seeing eye silkscreened in white.


## Jailbird Jagger | 2016

24X36X2 | Mixed media on wood panel finished in resin.

Portrait of Mick Jagger covered in prison tattoos includes the name "Angie" above his upper lip, spider web on his chin, "Exile" over his left eyebrow (for "Exile on Main Street" album that was primarily recorded in a rented villa in Nellcôte, France while the band lived abroad as tax exiles). BNS's Mick Jagger also steals one of his face tattoos from Iron Mike. The background is composed of lokta paper and vintage bank notes.



## King | 2016

24X24X2 | Mixed media on wood panel finished in resin.

Elvis Presley is all tatted up drinking a PBR and showing off his gold tooth. He's also rocking an ear stretching plug and a soul patch.

From Brooklyn With Love | 2017 24X36X2 | Mixed media on wood panel finished in resin.

BNS's interpretation of Sean Connery starring as James Bond in "From Russia With Love": the character is wearing a bunch of actual Russian prison tattoos and the name "Tatiana" over his eyebrow. His shoulder states "007". The background contains handcrafted paper from the USSR, an original 1909 newsprint as well as vintage Russian banknotes. A Russian church silkscreened in black ink can be seen as one of the finishing layers of the piece.


## God Save Dali I 2017

24X36X2 | Mixed media on wood panel finished in resin.

In BNS' punk rock version of Salvador Dali he is rocking a Mohawk and a leather jacket. His wife, muse and life-long partner Gala is with him, as usual, only this time - as a tattoo over his eyebrow. In the background a silkscreened image of a skull made out of female bodies can be seen. It is known as part of "In Voluptas Mors" or Voluptuos Death, a portrait photo-shoot of Dali by American photographer Phillipe Halsman. Among other silkscreened images seen in the background there are sketches of a woman with drawers coming out of her body, an allusion to Dali's work. The title of this piece, "God Save Dali", is a parody of Sex Pistols' song "God Save the Queen".



## Batgbie \& Robin-boy | 2018

24X24X2 | Mixed media on wood panel finished in resin.

Begbie (Robert Carlyle) and Renton aka Rent Boy (Ewan McGregor) from Trainspotting are seen as a dynamic duo Batgbie and Robin Boy. The background of the piece has the colors of the original poster (black, white, gray and orange). There are horses silkscreened in black in the background which represent heroin.

Use Your Illusion | 2017 24X36X2 | Mixed media on wood panel finished in resin.

Leonel Messi under a heavy influence of "Guns N' Roses". He has "Argentina" tattooed under his left eye and "Antonella", the name of the mother of his children, on his neck. He's rocking an Argentina T-shirt under his leather jacket. The background features vintage newsprints form 1909 and original banknotes.



## Fuck It All | 2017

24X36X2 | Mixed media on wood panel finished in resin.
This is a colorful yet dark version of a Marilyn Monroe portrait. The phrase tattooed on her chin reads "Fuck it All", the tattoo over her eye says "Lost Angels". There are fragments of vintage newsprints and a stamp used by JF Kenedy collaged in the background.

Marilyn Stardust | 2016 24X36X2 | Mixed media on wood panel finished in resin.

The rock and roll version of Iconic Marilyn Monroe. With a contemporary hair style and Ziggy Stardust (reference to David Bowie) make up, she's rocking a T-shirt of "The Velvet Underground" with Warhol's original design (yellow banana). The background features lokta paper, vintage newsprint and banknotes.


## Prince St. | 2017

24X36X2 | Mixed media on wood panel finished in resin.

Prince is wearing a purple RUN DMC style outfit. The tattoo on his eyebrow reads "Minneapolis" which is the city is where he was from. The three tears under his right eye are a hint at his album "Purple Rain". His neck has a big "1978" tattoo, which was the year his first record came out. He also has a barbed wire tattoo on his forehead, which symbolizes him being special as he was not always understood. The letters $N$ and $R$ in yellow circles on the jacket stand for NYC subways lines that take one to Prince street station, hence the title of the piece.



## Dreamer | 2017

24X24X2 | Mixed media on wood panel finished in resin.

An average Sigmund Freud on an Aprit, 20th wearing his hair to the side and a heart tattoo on his neck that reads "MOM". The word "Dreamer" tattooed over his right eye is to honor his lifelong work on the interpretation of dreams. The background features red lokta paper.

This is Not Kate Moss | 2016 24X36X2 | Mixed media on wood panel finished in resin.

This is not Kate Moss, it is a representation of Kate Moss - Magritte would say. With a couple of face tattoos, like "Johnny" on the left eye, and a dagger, representing betrayal, on the other eye, BNS's Kate Moss is wearing a "This is not Kate Moss" T-shirt. Vintage newsprint and lokta paper can be seen in the background.


## Amor Eterno | 2018

## 24X36X2 | Mixed media on wood panel finished in resin.

"Amor eterno", Spanish for "infinite love", hence the tattoo over her eye and the name of the art piece.Fragile and delicate, just like a rose tattooed on her cheek, this woman has managed to get to the top of the list of the most loved actresses of the Golden Age of Hollywood (see the neck tattoo). On her chest it reads Ixelles, a tribute to her hometown in Belgium The number " 22 " tattooed under her eye is BNS' lucky number.


## Rebel Heart | 2017

24X36X2 | Mixed media on wood panel finished in resin.

This portrait of young Madonna demonstrates her relationship with NYC through her tattoos: for instance, "1977" on her arm is the year when she moved to NYC. The "I LOVE NY" T-shirt the singer is wearing, pays homage to the city where her career was launched. She also has a Madonna, Virgin Mary, tattoo on her left arm. Over her eyebrow the words "Rebel Heart" can be seen, that is the name of Madonna's single as well as the title of this piece. Madonna is wearing a flower crown since blooming flowers are a symbol of youth and innocence.



## Supreme Empire | 2017

This is a version of Darth Vader wearing a classic Supreme T-shirt, Adidas track suit and a couple tattoos: "empire" over his left eye, "Star Wars" on his knuckles and a Star Wars ship on his left hand.


Troo-pac | 2017
24X36X2 | Mixed media on wood panel finished in resin.

Tupac's tattoos are replaced with Star Wars related ones, such as Darth Vader portrait, "Stormy" instead of "Tupac" and Storm trooper original weapon for the Ak47 that Tupac had on his chest.

## May the Paint Be With You | 2016

24X36X2 | Mixed media on wood panel finished in resin.
BNS's version of Master Yoda reminds of a NYC Graffiti writer: Yoda is rocking a Yankees cap and a fat gold chain. Background features several fragments of NY | The Sun News paper.





## Love Trooper (Top Left) |

## Dunk Away (Top Right) | Rep

 Forrest, Rep (Bottom Left)24X36X2 (each )| Mixed media on wood.

## Untitled NYC I (Top)

48X70x2 | Mixed media on canvas mounted on wood panel,



El Biggie | 2015 48X76X2 | Mixed media on canvas mounted on wood panel
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