

HOOD RICH

NICER solo exhibition

January 20 – February 28, 2018

Opening Reception:

January 20, 2018

5-8pm

BRONX, NEW YORK (JANUARY 17, 2018) – WALLWORKS NEW YORK is proud to announce our first exhibition of the new year, a solo show entitled *HOOD RICH* from Hector NICER Nazario.

The show chronicles the life of the artist and his experience as the first born child in New York City, from parents that migrated from Puerto Rico looking for the American Dream in the South Bronx. Vibrant, colorful canvases portray food coupons and stamps with characters influenced by his childhood and neighborhood. When asked about the significance of the work in this show, the artist explained:

They came for the American Dream. But what they found was a city full of racism, anger and struggle. There was a glimmer of hope. The city offered a system that was designed to help families through tough times, the glimmer of hope came in the form of printed paper, bound and incased between two hard covers to form a booklet. These booklets were a form of currency for many families during hard times, they helped low income families eat and become a part of an economy that shaped a city that was under distress in all its depth in the 70s and 80s.

So NICER proudly celebrated this era of his life by creating these paintings with the images of what it meant to be on public assistance, when it wasn't looked down upon and it was to some, "the norm". A time when having those "food stamps" meant you were "HOOD RICH".

ABOUT NICER:

Hector NICER Nazario was born and raised in the South Bronx. Throughout the 1980's as a teenager, he was drawn to the colorful Graffiti in his neighborhood and on the subway walls and trains. He went on to become one of the founding members of the famous "TAT Crew"—his first official introduction into the art world.

After the great Graffiti era of the 1970s and 1980s drew to a close, Nicer and two other members of TAT Crew went onto creating the first Graffiti Company, TATS CRU, INC. Since its creation in 1996, TATS CRU has sought to show the world that Graffiti is a viable art form.

Known in powerful circles and incredibly recognized in the subculture world, Nicer is one of the most talented artists to come out of the Graffiti era who continues to make work that is both viable and important.