

## **NEW YORK / SCANDINAVIA**

RUBIN

May 21 – June 29, 2016

Opening Reception

Saturday May 21, 2016

**BRONX, NY (MAY 18, 2016)** – WALLWORKS NEW YORK is proud to announce our next exhibition, *NEW YORK / SCANDINAVIA*, featuring new works and a site-specific installation by Swedish-born, Brooklyn-based artist Rubín.

Tony “Rubín” Sjöman’s geometrical murals have become a staple in New York City and beyond, and his studio works are impressive extensions to the artist’s street works. *NEW YORK / SCANDINAVIA* is Rubín’s first solo show in New York and correlates with the release of the first comprehensive book about his art with the same title.

*NEW YORK / SCANDINAVIA* showcases Rubín’s wood panel paintings, silkscreen prints and originals on paper, all bound together by the centerpiece; the artist’s signature “Rubín’s cube” installation. As the title conveys, the theme of the show deals with contrasts: the Swedish-born artist used to spend his childhood summers in the wilderness of Lapland and draws inspiration from the clash of the hectic metropolis he now calls home and the calm of his native Scandinavia.

While Rubín’s abstract and geometrical pieces are rooted in traditional graffiti, they break the rules of the craft with their muted color palette and Scandinavian-ly clean lines. Rubín’s art is about beauty and grief, alienation, struggle, balance, energy, the cityscape versus wilderness and the notion of class.

### **ABOUT RUBIN**

Tony Rubín Sjöman (born in Gothenburg in 1975) is one of Scandinavia’s leading contemporary graffiti and street artists. He has been based in Brooklyn since 2009 and has put his mark on concrete and brick all over the world, from Scandinavia to Thailand to Miami Art Basel. His work has been shown in *Vice Magazine*, *Juxtapoz*, *Filter* and several leading street art magazines and he has worked on designs for Nike and Common, to name a few.

Rubín grew up in a Finnish immigrant home in a blue-collar housing project in Gothenburg, Sweden. Surrounded by grey concrete and tram tunnels, the walls whispered his name. As a nine-year-old kid he dreamed of some day painting with the kids in the Bronx. He grabbed a spray can and set out on a journey that has lasted for thirty years and landed him in the borough of his childhood dreams.

Rubín lives with his wife and son in Brooklyn, New York, and spends the summer months in a cottage in the forests of Tornedalen, Lapland.