

Will Aballe Art Projects | WAAP
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waapart.com Tues-Sat 11-5



Historical Context and Location

Before having an art gallery of his own, Aballe had been collecting different works of art that he claimed to be “obsessed with”. However, at the same time he also wanted to showcase these works of art in order to do the artist justice by presenting them properly and in front of the right people. Therefore, in 2013 Aballe started the WAAP gallery in his apartment unit in the Mount-Pleasant area, where he displayed the artworks he had collected from various artists. However, as the space was quite limited, Aballe had to relocate his gallery to Francis and Clark. Despite the moving, in August 2016, Aballe decided to move the gallery again to WAAP’s current location, which is on E. Hastings and Heatley. The current location is accessible through the back of the Fazakas Gallery, allowing it to share and create a space of dialogue between Contemporary and Native art.

Mandates and Context within Community

As a commercial art gallery, the WAAP gallery functions as a mediator between the artist(s) and audiences / art-collectors. However, through offering many young artists their first solo show, the gallery promotes young emerging local and international artists in hopes of giving the public a different perspective on Contemporary art, as it often showcases experimental work as well. On the other hand, this also shows that the gallery values artistic integrity to the artist’s vision over “sell-ability” or profitability.

Structure and Funding

The WAAP gallery is owned and run by Wil Aballe. Besides Aballe, the gallery has one other employee, who oversees the graphic designs of WAAP. Through Aballe’s day job as an engineer and revenue from art sales, as well as various grants, which allow him to personally fund the gallery. Therefore, Aballe acts as a gallerist, art dealer, as well as curator for the exhibitions that take place at WAAP. However, as WAAP also hosts several “off-site projects” as the art demand, Aballe would then also act as a “guest-curator” for these “off-site projects”, such as Lumiere 2017, for example.

Events

The WAAP gallery exhibits solo exhibitions and group exhibitions in the gallery space, in this space WAAP tends to hold “in conversation talks”, where the emerging exhibition artist engages in dialogue with a more established artist whose practice relates to theirs, in order to guide the artist towards a successful future. On the other hand, WAAP also participates in art fairs where they exhibit works by selected artists, such as Art Toronto, Art Cologne, etc. At the same time, WAAP also manages to guest curate shows, which are mostly shown at non-profit galleries and institutions. Furthermore, WAAP has published several archives of their collected works.

Artists

WAAP is currently representing nine artists, including Nicolas Sasson, Kim Kennedy Austin, Scott Billings, Vanessa Brown, Patrick Cruz, Maegan Hill-Carroll, Ryan Quast, Evan Siebens, and Patryk Statsieczek.

