

# Finok

## Tropical Miscegenation

Private View: Thursday 24th November 6-9pm

Exhibition runs: 25th November – 23rd December 2016



“Years ago, while travelling through my home country of Brazil, I could see and observe the existing cultural diversity here. I really looked at people’s characteristics and facial features to examine what a “racial mixture” might be. I researched my own background and discovered I have Japanese and Spanish descent. The foundations of Brazil and its culture are made up of small portions of the entire world. The Brazilian way of life and society make this explicit; you see the miscegenation through the music, the beliefs, the culture and the gastronomy.

I then began connecting a number of events from past to present situations: multiculturalism, slavery and cannibalism. The main character trait in Brazilian culture is miscegenation, reflected in everything we do. In many situations the present mimics the past, which will end up repeating itself in the future but in a different way. The colonial slaves no longer exist yet slavery still exists in the contemporary. Nowadays in Brazil we do not eat human flesh, as some indigenous tribes did in the past to give them their enemy’s qualities, but in contemporary society there are other cannibalistic ways that take advantage of the enemy’s skills.

“Tropical Miscegenation” presents all of this; miscegenation in its purest form.”

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**About Finok**

Raphael Sagarra (b.1985), a.k.a. Finok, is one of Brazil's rising young artists. Having spent his childhood and adolescence in the neighbourhood of Cambuci in São Paulo, he joined the South American street art world in 2004 under the guise of Finok, an alias created by a friend.

Brazil's diverse blend of cultures and heritage is central to Finok's work. Inspired by cartoons and South American folk culture, his hallmarks include faces with large eyes painted in shades of green. Curious, Finok has always kept his watchful eye on striking elements found in the metropolis: signs, typography paintings, buildings, traffic and people. Among his favoured techniques is the use of latex, roller and spray paint.

Following the need to paint new walls and integrate different cultures has led Finok to working extensively outside Brazil. Finok has painted in countries including Guyana, Spain, France, Italy, Switzerland, Belgium, Holland, Germany, India and Nepal. For the 2016 Atmosphere Biennale in Moscow, Finok prepared an installation of a number of sculpture-masks, each representing a different social or ethnic group of Russia and arranged according to the religious affiliation.



For further press information or to request images for press please contact Julia or Jill at Purple:  
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**About Lazarides**

Lazarides is one of the foremost galleries in contemporary art, directed by Steve Lazarides and representing over 40 artists from across the world.

Lazarides works with a motley mix of artists, each with their own story to tell, who refuse to be categorised and who share Steve's grit and resolve for showmanship. From spray painting to taxidermy, electrical installations to wall pastings, Lazarides' artists and their shows are renowned for their defiant staging and contemporary art world rule-breaking.

The gallery has represented a number of long-standing artists since their artistic in-fancies, including 3D, Jonathan Yeo, JR and Vhils, while equally nurturing young and undiscovered talent traced from Brazil, Israel, France, China, the USA and the UK.

Lazarides Rathbone in Fitzrovia is Lazarides' flagship gallery and is set in a four storey Georgian townhouse. Recent shows have included JR: Crossing, 2015, Oliver Jeffers: Measuring Land and Sea, 2015, and Zevs: The Big Oil Splash, 2016. To mark its tenth anniversary in 2016, the gallery presented large-scale group show Still Here: A Decade of Lazarides, featuring work from over 30 artists including Banksy, Jonathan Yeo, JR, Nina Pandolfo and Miaz Brothers.

Lazarides is widely recognised for its dramatic off site, off kilter events and theatrical group shows in major cities like New York, Los Angeles, and in London's Old Vic Tunnels.

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