



AVENUE DES ARTS

Contemporary Art Gallery

Avenue des Arts
807 S Los Angeles St
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Opening
Opening Saturday, August 14th
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm



Matt Gondek, *Deconstructed Mouse* (2021), Bronze Sculptures with Patina Finish
10.5 in tall | 26.67 cm tall

RATS

MATT GONDEK

Opening Saturday, August 14th
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Saturday, August 14th - Saturday, September 11th, 2021

Avenue des Arts in collaboration with MakersPlace is pleased to present RATS, a solo exhibition by deconstructive pop artist Matt Gondek. This is the first exhibition in which Gondek has based all of the artwork on one central character in a variety of ways. There will be paintings, an ink drawing, sculptures, prints, NFTs, and a mural. This new exhibit is especially exciting because it will include a collection of digital NFT work that will be shown alongside physical, tangible work. Additionally, it contains the largest painting that Gondek has ever created and the greatest amount of 1 of 1 unique sculptures that he has ever included in a show.

RATS has been in the making on and off for the past three years. The term “rats” is used to express annoyance or frustration, and Gondek uses the exclamation, “rats,” to describe the mood of the pandemic and the sudden cancellation of so many important events and exhibitions. RATS takes this frustration as inspiration and then leaves it in the past. “It's just a big fun colorful show that I think we need after being indoors for the last year and a half”, Gondek says.



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Annoyance caused by our socially distanced lifestyles and hope for the future are simultaneously conveyed in this exhibition, especially with its incorporation of very large works, bright colors, and innovative digital content. Furthermore, it is a show that everyone can relate to, from the common daily frustrations of the worldwide pandemic to the optimism of looking towards the future in hopes of a more “normal” lifestyle. The inclusion of NFT digital art might also hint at a common awareness in technological advance and an irreversible change in our culture following COVID-19. RATS is definitely a show you won’t want to miss.



Photo taken by @lukeyphotography



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NFT

With the growing presence of blockchain technology, NFTs have taken the world by storm and Gondek is no stranger to the space and community. Having released numerous sold-out NFT collections since 2020, Gondek will once again integrate his digital artwork to release a limited number of truly unique NFTs in partnership with MakersPlace.

NFT drop Friday, August 13th 3:30 pm PST on MakersPlace

More information can be found via <https://makersplace.com/gondekdraws/drops/rats/>

About MakersPlace

MakersPlace is the premier marketplace for rare digital art. Launched in early 2018 by a team of early Pinterest leaders, Yash Nelapati, Ryoma Ito, and Dannie Chu, MakersPlace is considered one of the rare digital art movement's earliest enablers, paving the way for the immense growth we are seeing within the space. Their mission is simple: enable a vibrant future of creativity by empowering the digital creators of the world.



Deconstructed Mouse 2021 by Matt Gondek via MakersPlace



Deconstructed Mouse (Wood) 2021 by Matt Gondek via MakersPlace

Please join us in celebrating this awesome exhibition featuring Gondek's largest painting ever and the greatest number of sculptures he's ever included in a show. The opening reception will be held Saturday, August 14th from 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM, and the show will remain open until Saturday, September 11th.



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MATT GONDEK, B. 1982, PITTSBURGH, PA

Matt Gondek is a renowned Deconstructed Pop Artist based in Los Angeles. Gondek's paintings and sculptures have become highly sought after, with a growing number of sold-out exhibitions around the world that include Los Angeles, New York, Paris and Hong Kong. The Deconstructed Pop Art paintings, normally done in hyper bright acrylic paint on canvas, showcase various cartoon and comic book characters often exploding, melting or falling apart. Gondek has been covered numerous times by publications such as Hypebeast, Complex, to gracing the cover of 'Urban Contemporary Art Guide' 2019 by Graffiti Art.

Drawn to the clean lines, bright colors and accessibility of comic books, cartoons and video games, Matt's skill lies in his ability to replicate the clean graphic style of digital illustration in his paintings. A self-taught artist, Matt's credo is "Figure it out as you go along."