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FAILE: A RIOT OF EXISTENCE at [CONTAINER]

SANTA FE, NM – [July 12, 2024] – **November 15, 2024 – February 9, 2025.**

Opening reception from 5-7 PM on Friday, November 15th

FAILE, an artistic collaboration based in Brooklyn and led by Patrick McNeil and Patrick Miller, has strategically planned to open their latest exhibition directly after the 2024 presidential election. The duo, who met in junior high school, have been creating art together ever since. Their moniker, FAILE, is an anagram of their first project, "A Life." The upcoming exhibition in Santa Fe is sure to captivate the audience with its playful and upbeat vibe, creating a sense of anticipation and excitement.

Since 2008, a significant part of FAILE's work has been inspired by traditional craft movements, especially quilt making and woodworking. The artists found that quilt-making closely aligned with their collage process. They took disparate elements of type and imagery, each with its own history, and weaved them together to create new narratives and icons. Similar to historic quilts that repurposed discarded fabrics into something functional and beautiful, FAILE transforms cultural scraps of time into cohesive works of art.

Their work continued to evolve as they began using discarded wooden boxes and plywood near their Brooklyn studio, expanding their practice from working on the streets when they started as FAILE in 1999. This shift led them to explore the tradition of wooden puzzles from the late 1800s and deepen their appreciation of quilt making, especially the quilts of Gee's Bend. These influences solidified the connection between their street work—urban grids of posters and advertisements—and the process of assembling their wood paintings and collages, finding beauty and meaning in fragmented pieces.

FAILE, established in 1999, is known for its 25-year multimedia practice that explores duality through appropriation, collage, and a mix of media. Their work incorporates mass culture-driven iconography into various materials and techniques, including wooden boxes, canvas, prints, sculptures, and immersive installations. FAILE blurs the boundaries between fine art and street art, using found and remixed visual imagery to create a playful and satirical sensibility, disrupting the comfort zone of contemporary art.

FAILE originated in the street art movement, where they gained recognition alongside other notable artists such as Banksy and Swoon. Their work features bold, graphic imagery and a strong desire to engage with public spaces, making it accessible and resonant with a broad audience. FAILE has evolved through collaborations and individual projects, blending their street art roots with gallery exhibitions and large-scale public works. This includes installations in Mongolia and other international locations to ensure that their art is inclusive and appreciated by all.

FAILE's diverse projects challenge traditional ideas about street art and gallery/museum art. They have installed interactive prayer wheels in Times Square, created immersive nightclub experiences in Detroit and Chelsea, crafted neo-spiritual arcades in Brooklyn, and imagined post-archeological structures in Strasbourg and Lisbon. Like many street artists, FAILE focuses on art-making rather than indirect political statements or slogans. Their unique approach to blending street art with gallery/museum art embodies subtle and direct messaging, often with an air of ambiguity, inspiring and intriguing the audience.

FAILE's recent exhibitions critique consumerism and integrate religious media, architecture, advertising, and site-specific/archival research. Their upcoming exhibition, "FAILE: A Riot of Existence," at [CONTAINER] in Santa Fe, showcases a captivating mix of art forms, celebrating the duo's unique talent for combining playful curiosity with social commentary.

FAILE's fascination with transformation and form is central to its fabric works, which explore the tension between preserving fragments of the past and weaving them into new stories. Like layers of posters, beauty ads, and event flyers that cling to the structures of New York, these works form a dynamic tapestry of time.

Last year, we invited FAILE to visit the [CONTAINER] in preparation for their exhibition. While in Santa Fe, FAILE drove through the desert back to Arizona, where the artists spent much of their childhood. This experience inspired a sense of expansiveness and possibility, and the sky, clouds, and shifting landscape sparked an idea that shaped the show's structure. Writing in a journal entry: "Clouds racing under saturated skies reveal visceral moments shaped by winds and weather, like waves on the horizon. Each moment rides the razor's edge of time, slicing the past from the present, blazing into the future in a riot of existence." These fleeting moments—like catching lightning in a bottle—became a vivid patchwork of memories, raising the question: *Will I be remembered?* In weaving together these sacred moments, FAILE reflects on and gives form to how we capture and cherish the riot of existence.

In *A Riot of Existence*, eight towering quilted fabric columns, traditionally symbols of strength and permanence, are transformed into dynamic, colorful structures reflecting life's fluid, ever-changing nature. Each column, composed of myriad fabrics and patterns, represents a unique fragment of existence, celebrating the complexity of our experiences, memory, and

form. The juxtaposition of rigid classical forms with textured, flowing fabric illustrates the tension and harmony inherent in the riot of existence. Together, these moments create a structure that is both robust and intricately beautiful.

Join us for an opening reception at [CONTAINER] from 5 to 7 p.m. on Friday, November 15th, 2024. [CONTAINER] can be found in the Baca Railyard at 1226 Flagman Way, Santa Fe.

ABOUT CONTAINER

Acquisition-funded art institution meets private collection, [CONTAINER] introduces an innovative vision for art exhibitions. Introduced by veteran art historians Tonya Turner Carroll and Michael Carroll, [CONTAINER] brings touring museum exhibitions to the artistic heartland of Santa Fe, New Mexico, offering collectors an opportunity to purchase artworks by sought-after artists directly from its institutional exhibitions. [CONTAINER] invites curators to stay in its dedicated residence, and loans institutions artworks and entire exhibitions free of loan charges. Since its inception in late 2022, [CONTAINER] has loaned exhibitions to museums across the United States, Europe, and Asia. Our Swoon exhibition was expanded to become a mid-career retrospective at the Taubman Museum of Art, before traveling to the Amarillo Museum of Art, and SAC Gallery in Bangkok, Thailand. Our Nadya Tolokonnikova exhibition continued to Dallas Contemporary, the OK Linz Museum in Austria, and the Indiana State University Museum, in various formats.

For interviews, media queries, image requests, and image credit information please contact: Brian Bixby or Jeffery Kuiper, at info@turnercarrollgallery.com or ring us at 505-986-9800.

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