

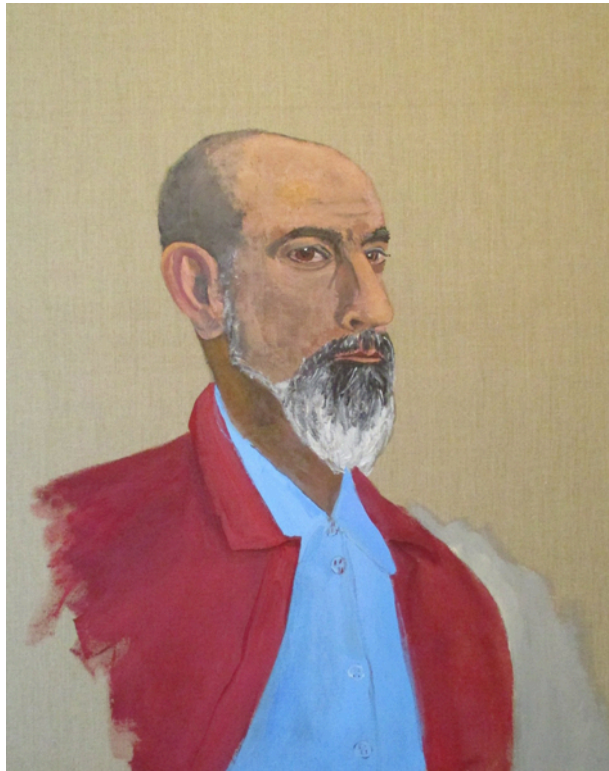


September 9, 2016

**Friday, October 14 – Friday, November 11, 2016**

**Opening Reception: Friday, October 14, 2016 / 6-9 PM**

**TABBOO! New Paintings!**



***Tabboo!'s portraits have an arresting honesty. —Sean Mellyn, Bomb, 2013***

How! Happening is pleased to present a series of new paintings by **Tabboo!**—a creative force in the Downtown/East Village/Alphabet City worlds of art, performance, and nightclubs for close to 35 years. Well known as a painter, Tabboo!'s subjects have ranged from still lifes to cityscapes—and he is renowned for his portraits. On view will be 14 portraits of Tabboo!'s closest friends, giving these new works an immediacy and potent emotional charge.

The portraits' expressionist tone and vibrancy are imbued with the innermost thoughts and

personality of both the artist and the sitters. In these portraits of his friends, we see Tabboo!'s own exuberant personality and his close, personal relationship to his subjects. The portraits capture his intimates with a fresh, empathetic eye, expressing their essential personality and the psychic depth beneath the painted surface of the linen. Poignant and loving, they are a record of a cross-section of his friends—some well known in the downtown scene, others just part of his tribe—and also a tribute to the creativity and continuum of culture that is alive and thriving—right here, right now!

*Tabboo!'s portraits recall the style of Alice Neel and Diane Arbus . . . Similar to Arbus, there is a poignancy to Tabboo!'s portrayal of his subjects. They are shown alone and isolated in empty space. They connect directly to the viewer. Like Alice Neel, Tabboo! foreshortens arms, he adds vernacular details, he brings out the warmth and domesticity of the setting, and the networks of friendships.* —Rupert Goldsworthy, Tabboo! catalog essay

Loaded with symbolism and emotive brushwork, these portraits bring out magical details of the sitters' inner and outer lives. The paintings vibrate with an uncanny life force. Clearly Tabboo! knows these people well!

Alongside Mark Morrisroe, Nan Goldin and Jack Pierson, Tabboo! was a member of the so-called Boston School. Arriving at the wide open creative arena of the East Village in the 80s, Tabboo!'s work is a riotous mixture of DIY energy and high camp. He has collaborated with countless artists, musicians, writers, and performers and his distinctive style has had a profound impact on leading cultural figures of his generation.

*Prolific in a way that borders on compulsivity, [Tabboo!] was not only one of the most imaginative figures in the early-'80s East Village art scene: he also illustrated our world, lending his hand to the cover art of era-defining records by the likes of Deee-Lite and Book of Love and producing a seemingly infinite array of flyers and ads for the most celebrated nightclubs of the day, like the Pyramid Club and Mudd Club. He was just as likely to be found inside those clubs, designing their interiors or commanding the stage as Tabboo! Of all that, [Tabboo!] simply says, 'I worked in nightclubs when nightlife actually mattered.'*

—Carlo McCormick, *Paper* magazine, 2013

Tabboo! continues to make his mark. He recently expanded his artistic range in a collaboration with Marc Jacobs on a collection featuring his signature work. Tabboo! and the collection have been featured in an article by [Tama Janowitz in August's Harpers Bazaar](#) and will also be featured in *Le Monde* in September. His work will be included in the Museum of Modern Art's upcoming exhibition about the legendary Club 57 and his book *Tabboo!* was published by Damiani on the occasion of his major exhibition at Participant, Inc. (New York). He has also had major shows at the University of Nevada, Reno; AMP Market, Provincetown; Vox Populi, Philadelphia; Gallery Mitterand, Paris; Gavlak Gallery, Los Angeles; and The Museum of Santiago de Compostela, Spain.

"The great thing about being an artist is the freedom to be myself," he says.

## NEWS ALERT

Howl! Happening: An Arturo Vega Project  
6 East 1st Street, NYC 10003 917 475 1294  
contact@HowlArts.org www.HowlArts.org

A fully illustrated catalog with texts by Rupert Goldsworthy, Brandon Olson, and others accompanies the show.

Video of Tabboo! talking about his artistic process [here](#).

### SPECIAL EVENT

October 27, 2016 / 7 PM

#### Fall Costume Extravaganza Produced and Directed by Tabboo!

An artsy, over the top drag show in the style of classic Hollywood glamour, the costume extravaganza will feature Agosto Machado, Brandon Olson, Flloyd, Trish Astor, Bobbie, Soigne, and, of course, Tabboo! A tribute to old-school queens, expect **tons of sequins, yards of tulle, and feathers galore**. Check Howl! Happening's [website](#) for updates.

Tabboo! Portraits Above (l-r) Flloyd and Self-portrait  
Photo attached: Agosto Machado

Howl! Happening: An Arturo Vega Project  
6 East First Street (between Bowery & 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue)  
New York, NY 10003  
(917) 475-1294  
[contact@howlarts.org](mailto:contact@howlarts.org)

**Gallery Hours: Wed-Sun, 11–6 PM**

### ABOUT HOWL! HAPPENING

X X X X X

For further information contact: MartinMPR  
Susan Martin, [susan@martinmpr.com](mailto:susan@martinmpr.com)  
Norma Kelly, [norma@martinmpr.com](mailto:norma@martinmpr.com)