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## DSNY Debuts “Trucks of Art”

### New York City Artists Painted Collection Trucks to Encourage Sustainability and Honor New York’s Strongest

The New York City Department of Sanitation premiered Trucks of Art, a unique art exhibit that challenged artists to beautify five new, state-of-the-art collection vehicles with hand-painted designs. Debuted in Times Square, the trucks’ artwork encourages New Yorkers to think sustainably and honors New York’s Strongest, the 7,500 uniformed men and women who keep New York City healthy, safe and clean. While this is the first time the Department has transformed our collection trucks into an artist's canvas, Trucks of Art builds upon the Department’s history of working with artists.

“We’re grateful that these artists volunteered to share their talent with New Yorkers,” said Sanitation Commissioner Kathryn Garcia. “These Trucks of Art truly are works of art, and they’ll beautify our cityscape while reminding New Yorkers that they’re our partners in keeping New York City healthy, safe and clean.”

Nearly 100 artists submitted design concepts, with artists as far away as Pakistan expressing interest in the project. Additionally, Trucks of Art was a zero waste challenge – artists used cans of New Yorkers’ unwanted paints collected from the Department’s SAFE Disposal Events and Special Waste Disposal Sites.

The artwork and artists include:

- **Dister**, whose Truck of Art illustrates several of the men and women of the Department of Sanitation who serve New Yorkers each day.

“My artwork is a depiction of Sanitation Workers, showing love to the NYC Department of Sanitation – and to our neighborhoods,” said artist **Dister**. “Sanitation is a vital part of how we live our day-to-day lives, and my work reminds people that Sanitation Workers are part of our community.”

- **Lady K-Fever** played upon the saying “stop and smell the roses” in her Truck of Art, now covered with flowers, birds and grass.

“We’re experiencing a global garbage problem, and I designed my mural to make people think about the beauty of our environment – and how their recycling can impact a

positive future,” said **Lady K-Fever**. “Putting this design on a Sanitation truck also reminds people just *who* helps them take care of our environment – DSNY!” As a playful addition to her design, she incorporated reflective decals for added flair and visibility.

- **Misha Tyutyunik** and **Victor A. Saint-Hilaire**’s Truck of Art will add bold color to the collection routes it will serve.

“My mural honors the Department of Sanitation and brings an awareness of recycling to the New Yorkers who DSNY serves,” said artist **Misha Tyutyunik**. “My artwork often revolves around abstract concepts and designs, which I use to tackle different subjects, such as recycling, which is depicted in this truck.”

- **Jillian White** brought a personal perspective to her Truck of Art.

“I purposely wanted to portray a female Sanitation Worker to symbolize how our workforce has grown and diversified to include many women serving New York City,” said artist **Jillian White**. “My art honors the DSNY workforce and also encourages recycling, because it displays New York’s Strongest doing what they are known to do best – keeping our City clean.”

- **Energy Tech High School**’s Visual Arts Teacher Alex Anastas led students in their effort to honor DSNY and encourage environmentalism.

“Our Advanced Art Mural students studied public art – including history, designing, creating and installing murals and public works. In Trucks of Art, they worked independently and collaboratively to best conceptualize and then beautify their truck,” said **Alex Anastas**. “We were able to put their semester-long study of public art into practice.”

As the Trucks of Art artists began adding fine detail work to their murals – Lady K-Fever in her flora and fauna designs and Dister in his Black/Latino New York art – they sought specialized spray paints with fine nozzles not typically included with the household paints collected by the Department. The art store **Scrap Yard** donated materials so that artistic elements in Trucks of Art designs would be easily visible to New Yorkers.

**The Times Square Alliance** hosted the public premiere of Trucks of Art on Broadway, where the five vehicles were on display.

“DSNY is transforming trash to treasure in Times Square this week,” said **Tim Tompkins, President of the Times Square Alliance**. “Times Square has always been about creativity and transformation, and more and more of it is a place of public art that fuses those things together. We are excited to have DSNY do this here.”

The trucks – each weighing nearly 23 tons and offering painters nearly 400 square feet of “canvas” – are “dual bins,” which have two containment areas to separate materials, for example isolating plastic, metal and glass from paper and cardboard. The Trucks of Art are the newest to

join our fleet, and each will be assigned to routes after being on display for the public throughout the summer.

About the Artists:

**DISTER** is a Manhattan-based artist, teacher, dancer, director and choreographer, whose work has been featured worldwide. One goal in his work is to share the value in the often-misunderstood and sometimes vilified beauty of Graffiti & Hip Hop. Learn more about Dister at [www.disternyc.com](http://www.disternyc.com) and [www.ilovemyhood.com](http://www.ilovemyhood.com) and follow him and his projects on social media @dister and @iLoveMyHood\_

**Lady K-Fever** is Bronx-based inter-disciplinary street artist who believes art is a catalyst for change. She has developed art-based workshops to beautify and transform communities. Lady K-Fever serves as a Museum Educator, Teaching Artist and Healing Arts Instructor, working with organizations such as the Museum of Art and Design, El Museo del Barrio, The Bronx Museum and Montefiore Hospital. Her murals are displayed in several NYC parks and through the Bronx. In Trucks of Art, she incorporated flowers, birds and insects that are native to New York. Learn more about Lady K-Fever at [www.ladykfever.net](http://www.ladykfever.net), and follow her on social media @ladykfever.

**Misha Tyutyunik** – known as MDOT – is a Brooklyn-based, Ukrainian-born painter, muralist, street artist, illustrator and virtual reality artist. He travels the world creating murals and is regularly commissioned to produce pieces that are visually striking and thought-provoking. Designed and painted by Tyutyunik, his Truck of Art is thanks to support from multidisciplinary artist **Victor A. Saint-Hilaire**, who trained at the Fashion Institute of Technology and is currently Lead Artist Muralist with Groundswell, a social justice organization that uses art as a tool for social change. Follow Misha: Instagram @MDOT\_SEASON; Twitter @bluubeard; Facebook @ Misha.Tyutyunik; and [www.mishat.com](http://www.mishat.com). See more about Victor on Instagram @VASH\_ART.

**Jillian White** is an artist – and a Principal Administrative Associate with DSNY, currently serving in our Richmond Command Borough Repair Shop in Staten Island. An artist all her life, her medium of choice is oil paint, and she was excited to meet the challenge of using paints donated by New Yorkers. White has been with Sanitation nine years and was eager to create artwork for the Department that she loves, respects and works hard for every day. She recently completed her Associate Degree in Fine Arts at Kingsborough Community College and is pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Queensborough College.

**Students and staff from Energy Tech High School's Advanced Art Mural Class** joined forces to create murals that liken Sanitation Workers to superheroes and encourage New Yorkers to recycle. Energy Tech is an Early College Initiative and Career and Technical Education school that enables students to earn college credits – thereby better preparing them for college while helping reduce the cost of higher education. Visual Arts Teacher Alex Anastas led the group of artists, which included Esi Bissah, Jesus Chevez, Daniel Cook, Harold Dauphin, Rawan Elsayed, Albert Garcia, Daniel Gomez, Katie Lee, Karen Miller, Julian Rampaul, Steven Rampaul, Parmvir Singh, Panupong Sittipanya, Mika Tabanera, Cheyenne Taylor, Kevin Torres, Jael Vasconez Vega, Tiheem Washington, and Nicole Rodriguez, who conceptualized and submitted the selected design. Learn more about Energy Tech High School at [www.energytechschool.org](http://www.energytechschool.org) and follow them in social media @energytechhs.

**About the New York City Department of Sanitation**

The Department of Sanitation (DSNY) keeps New York City healthy, safe and clean by collecting, recycling and disposing of waste, cleaning streets and vacant lots, and clearing snow and ice. The Department operates 59 district garages and manages a fleet of more than 2,000 rear-loading collection trucks, 450 mechanical brooms and 693 salt/sand spreaders. The Department clears litter, snow and ice from approximately 6,500 miles of City streets and removes debris from vacant lots as well as abandoned vehicles from City streets.