

## WALLWORKS NEW YORK

Peyton Scott Russell  
*Alphabetical Graphology*

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

SEPTEMBER 1, 2018 (BRONX, NEW YORK) WALLWORKS NEW YORK is proud to announce the first solo show of our fall season, an exhibition of works from Peyton Scott Russell. Alphabetical Graphology will explore the Minneapolis-based artist's personal study of the English language as informed by a modern graffiti aesthetic. Graffiti, an extreme form of personal artistic expression and a quest to understand the deeper meaning of letters as artistic objects, is brought forward through the form of language.

Language is a form that has existed for thousands of years and spans countless cultures and communities. It should stand that the culture of Graffiti and its writers would have their own exploration of the form of language. Peyton's discovery follows the tradition other artists who have delved into language through graffiti like RAMMELLZEE, Shoe, RETNA, JonOne and El Seed. When asked about the importance and significance of the theme of the show, the artist explains,

*These 26 letters are the source and content of the global graffiti writing community. Each artist strives for a personal signature style within the articulation and artistic formatting of these letters, which can result in abstracted letterforms. The stylized typography and font design reach levels where words written and painted take new meanings regardless of what is written – controlled and dictated by the individual artist. In graffiti, the letters retain their phonetic integrity and create an artistic life of their own that is embedded within itself. This serves as a new form of communication with people, artists, public, and society that often challenges property rights and boundaries in the forms of street art/artists using the environment as a canvas to express an opinion, tell a story, or just say, "I was here."*

Alphabetical Graphology will include canes work, sculpture and art items from the artist exploring these themes of language and expression and will run through mid-October.

### **ABOUT PEYTON SCOTT RUSSELL**

DAESK is my chosen name and moniker I use to create graffiti art. It derives from Daskarone, a childhood nickname given to me by my mother. Having my public moniker established in childhood was fitting as that is when my interest in art began. "Style Wars" from 1984 highlighted the Hip Hop culture in New York City. This culture of names, colors, energy, artists' stories, and personal characters spoke to me on a spiritual level. I knew it was something I needed to be a part of. It was not until years later, I realized my desire to be a part of what I had seen drove me to become the first "graffiti artist" in Minneapolis/St. Paul, creating multiple graffiti murals around the city during the summers of 1984 and '85.

By the mid 1990's, I had graduated from the School of the Arts Institute of Chicago; opened my art studio, House of Daskarone; and founded Juxtaposition Arts, the first arts organization in Minneapolis to interweave graffiti with fine arts instruction. I found it important to exercise the entire alphabet into my own artistic styles of the graffiti aesthetic. I am still a practicing and teaching artist based in Minneapolis, Minnesota. My current program, SPRAYFINGER, focuses on graffiti as a fine art and uses multiple mediums (e.g. drawing, collage and aerosol) to help students understand Graffiti: The Art of Creative Lettering.