

MARLBOROUGH
BROOME
STREET

PRESS RELEASE

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WALK-INS WELCOME

SEPTEMBER 12 - OCTOBER 12, 2014

OPENING RECEPTION: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 6-8PM

Marlborough Broome Street is pleased to present *Walk-ins Welcome*, a group exhibition that considers the barbershop as a complex metaphor for social space and imaginary projection. While the barbershop appears to speak purely of identity, it also epitomizes a quintessential American experience, where democracy and the melting pot are realized in everyday life.

The function of a barbershop is to quickly and efficiently provide a service. Through its "walk-in" policy, it becomes a kind of social club. One might unabashedly open a trashy magazine while waiting, keep one eye on the soap opera and one ear directed towards a heated political debate, as well as proudly recite sports statistics and seamlessly transition into local gossip.

Regular customers and employees offer elements of their personal lives, boasting wallet-size family photos, posters of an iconographic athlete or pop star, and a collection of idiosyncratic tchotchkes that pile up over time. In this way, the barbershop becomes not only a shared social space, but a repository of symbols of this communion—where bonds are made and broken and the public appearance and persona of the individual is forged from the consensus and dissent of the community.

Each artwork in this exhibition corresponds with both the utilitarian and individualistic elements of a barbershop. Artist-made chairs, mirrors, photographs, portrait paintings, magazines and videos, as well as works employing wigs, hair, found objects and posters transplant the barbershop experience to the gallery setting.

Artists in the exhibition: Nina Beier, A.K. Burns and Katherine Hubbard, Barb Choit, Juan Downey, Jonah Freeman and Justin Lowe, Donald Judd, Leigh Ledare, Tony Matelli, John Miller and Takuji Kogo, Matthew Palladino, David Scanavino, Josh Tonsfeldt, Devin Troy Strother, Jonas Wood, Eric Yahnker.