

Body of Work

February 19th–March 20th, 2026

Opening Reception: February 19th, 7–9 pm, 140 Plymouth St, Brooklyn, NY 11201



Lu Walstad, *We're Here for Your Enjoyment*, 2025, Acrylic and plaster on panel, 36 x 24 inches

Brooklyn, New York – Harsh Collective is pleased to present *Body of Work*, a group exhibition featuring fine art and tattoo artists Aya Galgani, Sara Sremac, Lu Walstad, and Cierson Zambo from Nice Try Tattoo, an independent tattoo studio based in Brooklyn. The show will open on Thursday, February 19th, with an opening reception from 7–9 pm at Baci Studio, 140 Plymouth St, Brooklyn, NY 11201. Temporary tattoos designed by the Nice Try Studio members will be available at the opening reception.

Body of Work brings the work of Nice Try Tattoo—a collaboratively-owned, artist-run studio in Brooklyn—into dialogue with the fine art world, offering a legitimizing platform for artists whose primary medium is skin. Founded by Cierson Zambo, Sara Sremac, and Ella Sklaw, Nice Try represents a rejection of hierarchical, exploitative models of art spaces and artmaking and strives to honor and prioritize diversity in knowledge acquisition and technical methods. By showcasing work across bodies and paper, the exhibition affirms that artistry doesn't change based on its canvas. In presenting Nice Try's cooperative model alongside Harsh Collective's artist-first approach, *Body of Work* is less about curation and more about practicing what both



spaces preach: community over gatekeeping, equity over extraction, and artists at the center.

In addition to the opening reception, gallery programming will be held throughout the duration of the exhibition at Baci Studio, including a color and sip night with a custom coloring sheet created by the artists on Saturday, March 7th, from 6:30–8:00 pm.

About the Artists

Aya Galgani

Aya Galgani (b. Tokyo, Japan, 1998) is an artist and tattooer from Los Angeles, currently based in Brooklyn. Her work revolves around the multidimensional self and layered, nonlinear realities.

Sara Sremac

Sara Sremac (b. Subotica, Yugoslavia, 1993) creates elemental paintings that mythologize personal and ancestral experiences and emphasize color and emotion. Rooted in subconscious discovery, Slavic folklore, and intuitive symbolism, her work conjures natural realms and visionary beings in order to create portals for viewer exploration. The themes she engages with are transformation, connection, protection, and healing.

Lu Walstad

Lu Walstad (b. San Francisco, California, 1999) is a tattoo artist, painter, and illustrator based in Brooklyn, New York. Lu was born and raised in San Francisco before receiving their Bachelor of Music in viola performance from UCLA in 2021. Since then they have worked full-time as a tattoo artist in Los Angeles and New York. Lu's art is driven by a fixation on objects from the past. Through studying old relics, they find comfort in a sense of continuous collective human existence. In their art, Lu recontextualizes historic forms by using techniques like soft airbrush and pastel colors to create their own modern relics.

Cierson Zambo

Cierson (b. San Jose, California, 1997) is a multidisciplinary artist from San Jose, California, weaving visual narratives through tattooing, painting, drawing, and ceramics. His creative work is at heart a devotional practice to the natural world and an exploration of the inner landscape. Journeys through trance meditation have allowed him to experience previous incarnations which have connected him to his lineage in the traditions of alchemy, witchcraft, and mysticism. Through ritual, he explores the underworld, pulling symbols from the mouth of the unconscious and molding them into form, recreating personal and collective memory as empowered mythologies. He creates art as amalgamations of archetypes, his own composite gods and spirits that act as guides to the subtle realms.



About Baci Studio

Baci Studio is a ground-floor space at the center of the Manhattan Bridge promenade in the heart of Dumbo. It serves as a central meeting point for exhibitions, shows, photo productions, and brand events. The studio provides a professional setting for artists, designers, and cultural brands to present and produce their work in New York City.

<https://www.bacistudio.com/>

About Nice Try Tattoo

Nice Try Tattoo is a collaboratively-owned tattoo studio founded in 2021 by Cierson Zambo, Sara Sremac, and Ella Sklaw in Brooklyn, New York. The studio is home to five artists working across diverse styles and techniques, from machine work to hand-poke tattooing. With its warm, inviting atmosphere and emphasis on meaningful client relationships, Nice Try has become a cornerstone of Brooklyn's creative community.

<https://www.instagram.com/nicetrytattoo/>

About Harsh Collective

Harsh Collective is an artist-first gallery that amplifies emerging contemporary artists' voices and offers a bespoke platform where collectors, artists, and guests are welcome and encouraged to build community. Harsh Collective demystifies the art market's inner workings, allowing the artist to be at the forefront—bringing attention to their process, inspiration, and story.

<https://www.harshcollective.com/>