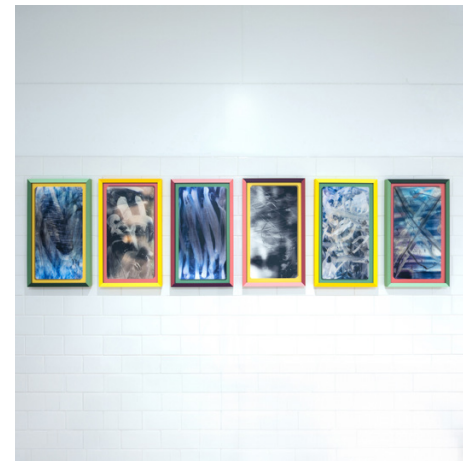


For Immediate Release. November 15th, 2023

PERMANENT PUBLIC ARTWORK BY ARTIST JOSÉ CARLOS CASADO FOR NEW PUBLIC SCHOOL IN QUEENS NOW ON VIEW

The NYC Department of Education and NYC School Construction Authority Public Art for Public Schools program commissioned the artwork in collaboration with NYC's Percent for Art initiative.

Images of the artwork and artist Casado are available for download [here](#).



New York, NY - Two large-scale artworks (*Trace*) have been commissioned from [José Carlos Casado](#) for a new public school in Sunnyside, Queens. Displayed in the lobby, first-floor corridor, and second-floor library of I.S. 429, they are now part of this [amazing collection](#) of almost 2,000 works that have pieces dating back to the early 20th century. **Casado is the first artist originally from Spain to be in the collection.** Faith Ringgold, Keith Haring, Tony Oursler, Sarah Sze, Lawrence Weiner, Vito Acconci, Fred Wilson, and Carrie Mae Weems are among the many prominent artists represented.

The large glass artworks resembling oversized smartphones feature vibrant “screens” that emit a luminous effect. Each piece displays an abstract composition of flowing gestures and scribbled lines reminiscent of brushstrokes on a canvas, but the image is made from the oil residues left by fingers on users’ screens. To craft these artworks, Casado had local middle school-aged children “smudge” the glass/screens of several iPads and iPhones, captured high-resolution images of the results, then made a collage and digitally enhanced the images.

“I am thrilled to make artwork for a NYC public school,” said **José Carlos Casado**, originally from Málaga, Spain. “My daughter attends a NYC public school. NYC has been my home for 25 years, and my studio was based in Queens for many years, so this project is near and dear to my heart. I created the work with the dynamic energy and diversity of the neighborhood in mind, and for the future we envision for our youth.”

Casado’s works convey the seamless integration of smart devices into our daily lives and the digital traces accompanying us wherever we go. It encourages viewers to contemplate how our notions of identity, connectivity, visual experiences, and memory have been and will continue to be influenced by our use of smart devices.

“José Carlos Casado’s ‘Trace’ artworks collectively offer a truly stunning and captivating visual experience for I.S. 429 students and the school community,” said **Tania Duvergne**, Director Public Art for Public Schools for the NYC School Construction Authority. “The works are not only unique to the DOE’s official artwork collection; they are unique in their perspective on and visual reframing of current technologies, society, and culture that are at once contemporary and timeless,” Duvergne said.

Other quotes about the work:

Claudia Hart, multidisciplinary artist: "I love this work! It is public in its address, though it also has a sense of private intimacy and tenderness. José Carlos has managed to transform digital art from a cold medium into a hot medium. The Traces reinvent gestural painting for our own time yet are conceptually resonant - the Derridean 'trace' is here reimagined as historical memento mori, the embodiment of everyone's lost childhood but also including a community of kids in the process! Looks like it was a lot of fun for them to make! Bravo!"

Sergio Pardo Lopez, Director, Percent for Art Program, NYC Department of Cultural Affairs: "Casado's public art commission at I.S. 429, Queens, masterfully marries tradition with modernity, offering a profound reflection on our digital age. Through a traditional medium infused with contemporary vision, Casado prompts us to contemplate the intricate dance between physical reality and digital virtuality, urging us to ponder the intertwined threads of memory, time, and our digital footprint in the modern world."

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CREDITS

Photo credits: **Garrison Block**

Please include the following **hashtags** (in addition to your tags) in posts:

@casadoart, #publicartforpublicschools, #nycsca, #nyculture, #artinschools, #publicart

All public postings **MUST** include the following:

I.S. 429, Queens
Collection of the NYC Department of Education, Public Art for Public Schools

If space allows, we also request including the following commissioning information:

Commissioned by the NYC Department of Education, NYC School Construction Authority Public Art for Public Schools program, in collaboration with NYC Department of Cultural Affairs Percent for Art program.