Landmarks Preservation Commission

July 8, 2025
Public Hearing

The current proposal is:

Preservation Department – Item 9, LPC-25-09497

344 Bowery – NoHo Historic District Extension

Borough of Manhattan

To testify virtually, please join Zoom

Webinar ID: 161 296 8061
Passcode: 940250
By Phone: 646-828-7666 (NY)
833-435-1820 (Toll-free)
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HOMMAGE TO BASQUIAT ART INSTALLATION ABOVE BASQUIAT'S FORMER WORKSHOP

Art installation approval - 344 Bowery
By Owen Dippie, Artist

PROJECT SITE - 344 Bowery



ARTIST BIO



Proudly hailing from the small Eastern Bay of Plenty community of Kawerau, New Zealand, Owen Dippie grew up surrounded by individuals with strong cultural identities. This naturally drove his chosen subject matter from a young age, transpiring in his **highly-praised portrait works.**

Owen has been painting his **large-scale realist portraiture** on the streets of New Zealand and New York for close to two decades. During Owen's 2015 trip to New York, he held his first solo exhibition in the United States, and was honoured to have one of his works named as Best Mural 2015 by The Huffington Post, along with producing his first work in downtown Los Angeles.

PROJECT OVERVIEW
Artwork description

Owen Dippie's concept is to pay tribute to Jean Michel Basquiat with a portrait mural of Jean at the location next to his former residence 57 Great Jones.

At an early age Owen was introduced to the work of Basquiat which had a profound impact on the young artist. In 2018, Owen created a mural honouring Jean in Brooklyn alongside Al Diaz, Basquiat's former friend and collaborator.

The duo known as SAMO were prolific in the downtown NYC art scene of the 1980s. That mural has since disappeared due to the ever changing environment of the city.

EXAMPLES OF PREVIOUS WORKS



Brooklyn, NYC - 2015

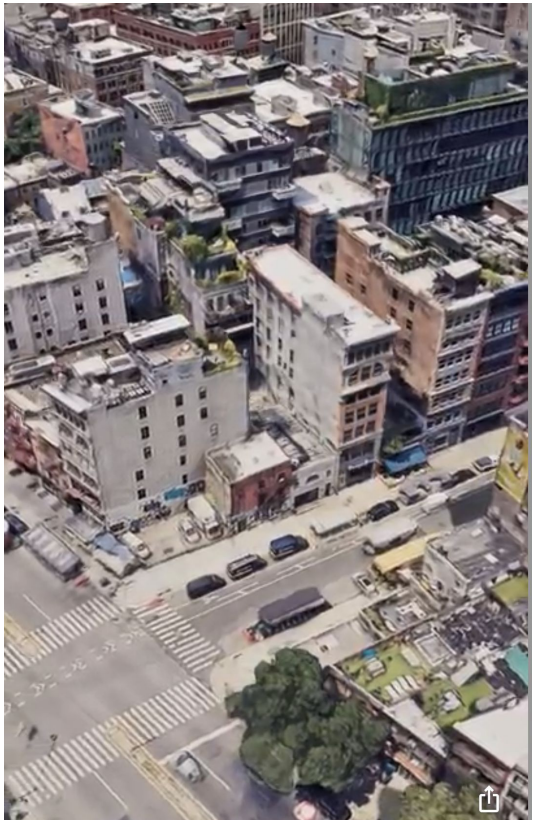
SIMULATION 344 BOWERY MURAL



SIMULATION 344 BOWERY MURAL - Alternative view

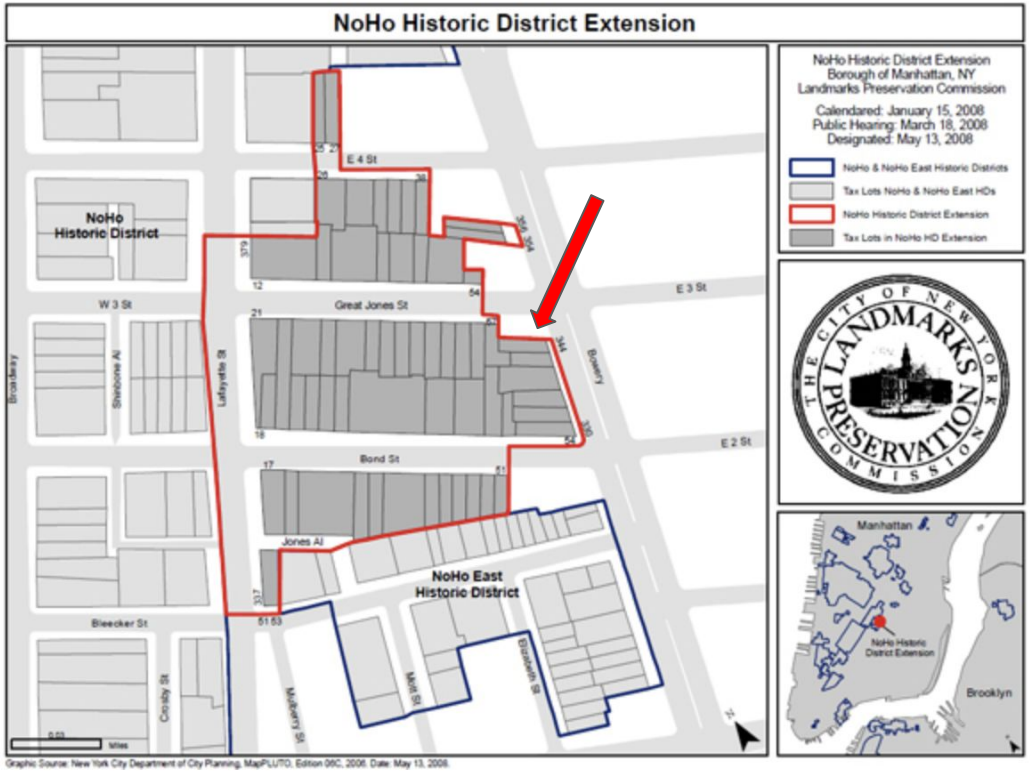


VIEWS OF THE BLOCK





344 BOWERY HISTORIC DISTRICT LOCATION



Source: Landmarks Preservation Commission

The Municipal Archives

Historic photograph showing ghost sign at this location

lvd_04_10549

Identifier: REC0041_1_00530_0034

Title: 344 Bowery

Title: Manhattan

Title: 1980s Tax Department photos

Start Date: 1983

End Date: 1988

Description: Block 530 Lot 34

Creator: New York (N.Y.). Department of Finance

Borough: Manhattan (New York, N.Y.)

Block: 530

Lot: 34

Type: Still Image

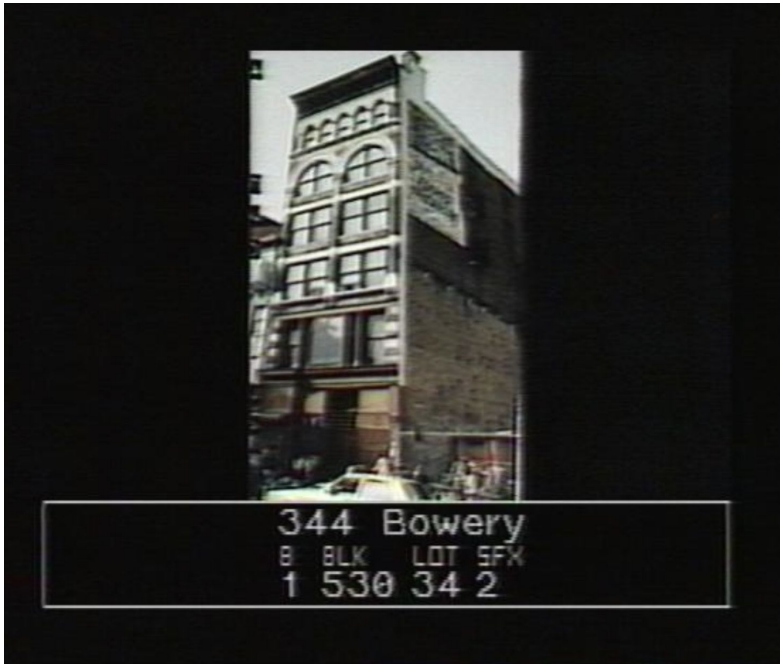
Format: Black-and-white negatives

Source: New York City Municipal Archives

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Publisher: NYC Department of Records and Information Services (DORIS)

Language: eng



Modern Buildings in the Historic District



48 Bond Street



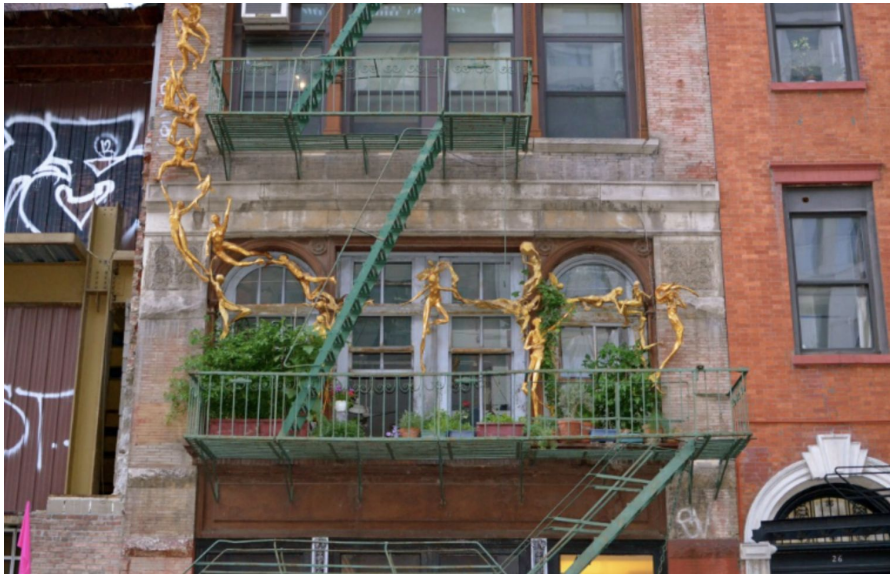
25 Bond Street



22 Bond Street

Art Installations in the Historic District @24 Bond





FUTURE EVOLUTION

The mural will take approximately 2-3 weeks to complete using a scissor lift.

It will cover approximately 50% of the facade.

The wall is already coated with oil based paint.

The Paint used will be Acrylic based Aerosol Paint.

Owen views his exterior works as one would an ageing renaissance painting, forever changing and maturing like a fine wine as the wall will not be repainted.

Although works can last decades they are temporal, which is where their true power lies, they are to be enjoyed while they are here.

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APPENDIX

BASQUIAT’S WORKSHOP HISTORY

Located next to the 344 Bowery Building, **Basquiat’s former workshop on 57 Great Jones**, is believed to be a stablehouse form the civil war era.

It was first purchased by Andy Warhol in 1970. Andy rented the space to Basquiat from 1983 where he lived, worked and ultimately died in the apartment in 1988.

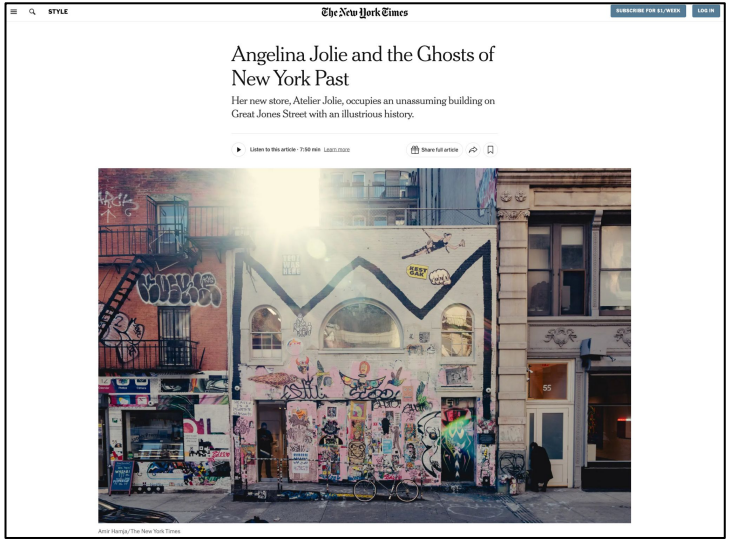
Basquiat is among the top selling artists in the world with his works, a lot of which were created at 57 Great Jones, fetching hundreds of millions of dollars. During their friendship Basquiat and Warhol created over 100 works together.

In 2016 the Greenwich village society for historic preservation installed a plaque on 57 Great Jones commemorating Basquiat's legacy. **The building has become a destination for fans of the artist the world over. The exterior walls covered in tributes and messages of love for Jean.**

Owen hopes to further celebrate Basquiat's contribution to culture by creating a monumental mural of his likeness, paying respects both to the geographical significance of the area and to the enduring legacy of this larger than life figure of art.

NEXT TO BASQUIAT'S FORMER WORKSHOP









WHAT IS AT STAKE?
Safeguarding and promoting NYC landmarks

> Honor Basquiat’s Legacy: Located near his former workshop, the mural connects directly to his life and impact on the neighborhood’s cultural history.

> Promote the neighbourhood cultural Identity: Highlights the area’s role as a hub for the 1980s art movement and celebrates NYC’s artistic heritage. Enhances the area's appeal and community pride.

> Boost tourism and Engagement: Attracts art enthusiasts, boosts foot traffic, and supports local businesses through increased visibility.

> Bring educational Value: Inspires public interest in art history and Basquiat’s influence through accessible, iconic imagery.

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