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Artego Gallery's 'Hyperphantasia' Astoria exhibit delves into the collective unconscious

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LIC Journal

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Opening this week in Astoria: 'Hyperphantasia' New exhibit offers exploration into the unconscious

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Hyperphantasia, defined by WordSense dictionary, is a condition where one's mental (the mind's eye) is extremely realistic.

Curator and long time artist D. Dominick Lombardi describes the experience as something greater – it's the experience that generates his and other artists' works.

It's this feeling that led Lombardi, 67, to name his newest exhibition "Hyperphantasia." Housed at the Artego Gallery in Astoria, the duo exhibition opens on Sept. 1 and runs through the month.

"You get a flash image in your head that you just kind of see clearly, and it fits into what you're working on or painting," he described. "You can either take it or leave it, and sometimes there's too many [images]."

This bombardment of images – and his acceptance of them – is how Lombardi created many of the works featured in the exhibit, specifically describing CCWSI

129 (Ham Andy) (right) as a piece that grew from these images in his mind.

"I was just receiving so many [flashes] that I just decided to just go with everything I received," he said. "So this is where it ended up being and I just stopped painting it at a certain point and went to the next piece."

He shared that these flashes often come to him from the collective unconscious, "his big, vast, amorphous thing that has information coming into it from the past, the present and the future."

Lombardi is a painter and sculptor, with both styles of art shown in the exhibit.

What triggers most of his art is reliving past thoughts and experiences through repurposing.

Much of Lombardi's work is layers from previous pieces, going back to as far as when he was eight years old. In his eyes, he is "oddly reconnecting" with the time that he originally made that painting, and reminiscing



These pieces show how some of the stickers can inspire a painting. In CCWSI 129 (Ham Andy) (2022) (on the right of the image) you see an interpretation of two of the stickers on top of an older canvas Lombardi painted previously in 1978 and 2006.

on those feelings from that time.

"You just feel so connected to your previous self, and what you may have been going through at the time," he said. "It's very therapeutic for me. But I also understand that if it doesn't work, then you messed up a pretty good painting. So you have to accept that that's a possibility that could happen."

The duo exhibition is

between Lombardi and fellow creator YoAhn Han.

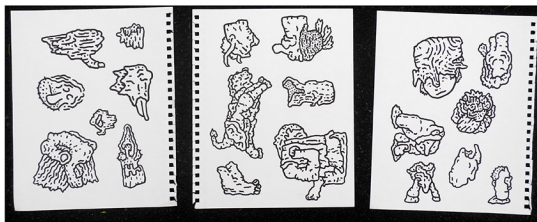
Han has many sources of imagery, most notably his fluctuating health issues, his homosexuality compared with his strict Catholic upbringing and that he has roots to two very different cultures: South Korea and the United States.

Han refers to his paintings, which are composed of a variety of media – including painting, cut paper

and resin – as an "intersection of the imagery of my homeland Korea, together with Boston, in my own aesthetic conversion" on the exhibition's website.

Artego Gallery is open Tuesday through Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. It opened on January 1, 2022, and is located at 32-88 48th Street in Astoria.

For more information on the exhibition or the artists, visit studioartego.com.



These images show the process where Lombardi was continuously drawing small 'sticker' images, thousands of them, which were then cut out and glued with acrylic medium to prepared canvases, which were pre-stained canvas, and covered with transferred life drawings and studies as a base.