

Norbert Brunner

Smiling Broadly

February 16 - March 24, 2012

Opening reception

with the Artist:

Thursday, February 16, 6-8 pm



Don't Wait, Start Now | Digital print on acrylic glass, acrylic mirror, Swarovski crystals, MDF, LED lights | 29.5 x 70.87 in.

The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes. -Marcel Proust

The encounter one has with Brunner's work is deeply personal and interactive and yet his work can be interpreted universally. Stand directly in front of a Brunner work in order for its full content to be revealed; the Artist states, "Only by confronting head-on what is possible can you stay true to your mission, hopes, and dreams. When you step away from the lineal path, my work dissolves into dots of color and flashes of brilliant crystal. This glittery, shadowy world is not clear and precise; conceptually it is a metaphor for losing your way, wandering afield from your chosen direction. I want the viewer to experience my work, to address what is possible and take it on full-force and straight away."

Brunner has created a body of work in which one's own reflection becomes part of the performance. Not an exact reflection of reality but a distorted conveyance that readily offers back to the viewer an interface with one's own, preconceived prejudices, strengths, hopes, and experiences. The Artist adopts a philosophical sense of humor, resisting outside pressures and transcending the prevailing environment rather than "coping" with it. LED lights installed within the framework of each piece illuminate the sparkling, seductive texts made of Swarovski crystals. Pixelated colors combine through three layers of Plexiglas to create portraits of beautiful eyes studying the viewer; are we the subject or the object of this performance?

These works call into question our interpretation of a "portrait" as a real moment in time. Neither a mirror nor a photograph can capture reality; we see only an interpretation of that which is captured in the confines of our perception of time. By encouraging the viewer's confrontation in a positive way, Brunner leaves us to come away from the work empowered, optimistic, and energized.

Artists have long been known to set historical precedent by foreshadowing and influencing world cultural shifts. Brunner makes an empowering physical encounter for the viewer of these works; we become immediately engaged; we recognize we all possess the ability to determine our own life path. Each of us has the capacity to change the world for the better, with new attitudes that integrate the principles of social responsibility and culture with a global outlook; we are a world looking for answers. We "Google" and "Tweet" and propagate a 24-hour news cycle all in an attempt to gather information to explain why and who we are. Brunner speaks directly to this quest, infusing a sense of soul into his works, delighting the viewer both visually and conceptually. The answers in life will come from within ourselves when we are brave enough to confront the questions directly.

Don't Wait, Start Now
Recognize the Potential
Visualize the Extraordinary
Anticipate Greatness

Public transportation to the gallery

Take C or E train to W. 23 St., walk west to 10 Ave., then walk 3 blocks North to 26th street & 1/4 block west **OR** Take any north/south local train including C, E, 1, 9, F, V, N, R, W or 6 to the W. 23 St. stop, & take the M23 bus west to 10th Ave. then walk 3 blocks North to 26th street & 1/4 block west **OR** The M11 bus stops on 10th Ave. between W. 25th & W. 26th Streets.