

ELLIE MAYER GALLERY

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June 11, 2026, Los Angeles, CA – **Announcing the Finale Show at Ellie Mayer Gallery in Hollywood, Los Angeles, June 20 and June 27, 2026. The one-time, long-term 5-month pop-up art gallery will feature New Works Tony Gold, Federico Martini Crotti, Saskia Jell, Johnny Lane, Ben Horton and Vezna Andrews.**

The Ellie Mayer Gallery will close at the end of this month with a group show featuring the artists it has showcased during its tenure. The gallery was founded by RISD graduate Vezna Andrews. An enduring camaraderie of friends from art school thirty years ago was the spark that initiated a reunion of RISD artists and the creation of the gallery. "It all started when the opportunity to use the space to show my work came about," said Andrews. "I thought, well, if I'm going to have a show, then I would like some artist friends that I greatly admire to have a show too."



Finale Group Show at Ellie Mayer Gallery



Vezna (middle) with fellow RISD artist friends Sandra Stokes and Tony Gold, 2026

The heart and soul of this project for Andrews is the friendships; the caring for each other and the respect of each-others work. It's about realizing that your community of artist peers has always been there. The creation of the Ellie Mayer Gallery has been a community effort, with family, friends and the creative community coming together to help transform the raw space into an art gallery. What was once a wig shop and a smoke shop on Hollywood Blvd is now an enormous space with eighteen-foot ceilings, on the scale of a museum, recalling one of the Hauser and Wirth's galleries.

For Andrews, artist and curator, the people you connect with for that time of becoming and experimentation, those bonds you make, last a lifetime. It was a joyous reunion of kindred souls after years of separation, living in different countries or states – after child-rearing, divorces, careers and life's lived. The creation of the gallery began with thoughts like, "What is Federico in Argentina up to?" Then when Vezna found his website, she was blown away. "Oh wow, these drawings are incredible!"

"I remember crying on graduation day knowing that this special time together would never be again, that we would scatter across the country and across the world" said Andrews. "This project was about realizing that the community we created has continued throughout the years." That the gallery itself culminates in a RISD Alumni event on the closing night is fitting. Vezna, whose parents met at RISD in the 60's and grandparents met at Pratt in the 30's, grew up in a community of artists. Her wedding bouquet was made by the late Connie Bates, a fellow RISD grad close friend of her artist mom, and Elizabeth Browning-Jackson, also a RISD grad, who's artwork was just acquired by MOMA after having a solo show in NY and featuring in Artforum at age 80, flew to LA with Vezna's mom for the opening show night at the gallery this January. The gallery is named after Vezna's grandmother, Ellie Mayer, the inspirational artist matriarch of the family.

The last chance to see this special art project before the gallery closes permanently is Saturday, June 20th and Saturday June 27th from 1-4 pm.

Tony Gold's solo show *Axtion Captain*, is not only an art installation about surveillance capitalism, it's a working model of it. A playable arcade cabinet by interdisciplinary artist Tony Gold runs the same extraction loop your phone runs every day, with one difference—you'll be able to see it happen.



Tony Gold, *AXTION CAPTAIN*, 2026, MDF board, electronics and custom software, 75 x 35 x 35 IN

"The most efficient surveillance systems we've ever built are the ones that look like games, videos, discounts...like dating, communities, rewards. They have flashing lights and sound effects and dopamine loops and stories about who you might become if you keep playing. Compliance has to be pleasurable, or no one stays in line. The surveillance state we live inside isn't enforced. It's *enjoyed*." –Tony Gold, May 2026

A full-size arcade with a custom marquee display, *Axtion Captain*, is engineered to be irresistible, in exactly the way every app on your phone is. The cabinet's flashing, loud, red sirens, neon LEDs, two joysticks and a delicious, pulsating giant yellow button calls out to you to want to play it—that wanting is the subject. The game inside is a side-scrolling beat-em-up set across three zones of a collapsing city, drawing characters and aesthetics from DUELIN' FIREMEN! a FMV game Gold helped create in 1994. The fighting is a pretext. The real game is the data.

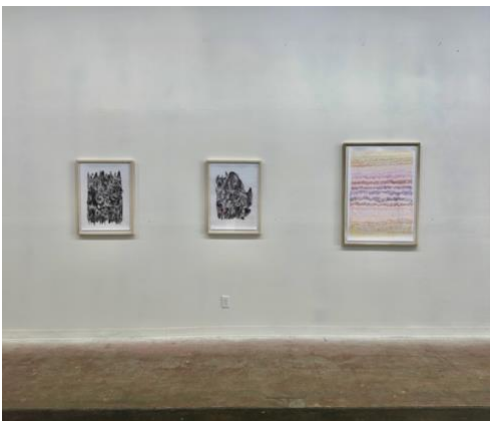
The cabinet interrupts gameplay with VALS psychographic survey questions, the same framework advertisers use to sort populations into targetable segments. As it photographs you, it logs behavioral metrics generating an AI-rendered portrait and a complete psychological dossier which it transmits 2,000 miles to Marz Community Brewing in Chicago, where strangers review the file and earn a free beer. The transaction is the artwork. Players surrender their data. Agents adjudicate it. Both sides walk away having performed, in public, the exact exchange that governs their daily digital lives, except this time the wires are visible.

About Tony Gold:

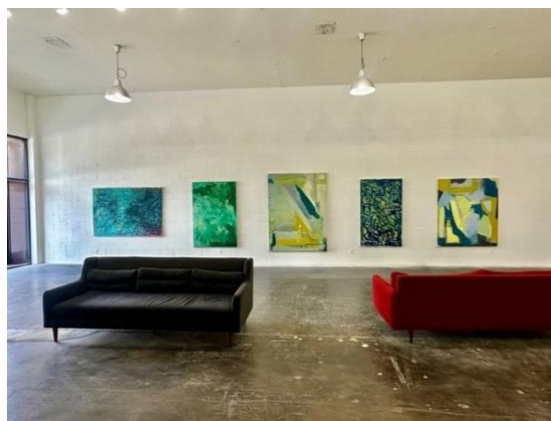
Tony Gold is a Chicago-based interdisciplinary and multimedia artist and the founder of RUNANDGUN! a production company that has produced advertising, experiential and live activation work for Samsung, Nintendo, McDonald's, Mars, Allstate, Bayer, and Skittles for more than two decades. He teaches at the School of Cinematic Arts at DePaul University, where his courses in commercial production, music videos, and senior capstone train future creators to enter a media landscape his own industry helped engineer. *AXTION CAPTAIN* extends the Duelin' Firemen! universe, a 3DO game created by RUNANDGUN! with an impossible cast—Rudy Ray Moore, Steve Albini, David Yow, Timothy Leary, Mark Mothersbaugh, and Tony Hawk, which developed a cult following among lost media obsessives, punk historians, and collectors into art installations, illustrated novels and live performance.

Group Show Finale: Federico Martini Crotti, Saskia Jell, Johnny Lane, Ben Horton and Vezna Andrews

Working with ink or pencil on paper, Argentine artist Federico Martini Crotti draws in abstract visions in repetitious patterns derived from observing nature. With exhilaration for the very act of drawing, subconscious thoughts emerge in the uncontrolled rolling ballpoint pen, resulting in the feeling of three-dimensional fantastical biomes.



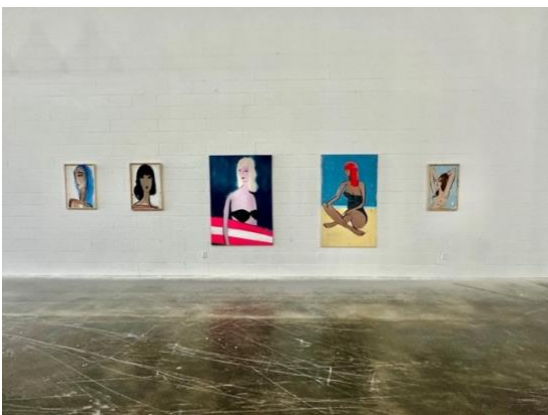
Three works on paper by Federico Martini Crotti



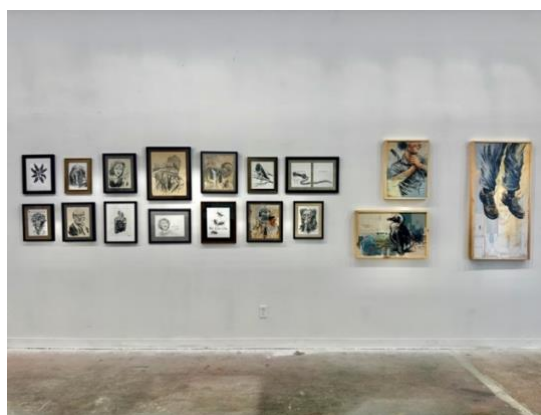
Five paintings on canvas by Saskia Jell

Saskia Jell, a multidisciplinary German American artist working with oil on canvas creates an intimate and visceral dialog through form, color, light and the illusion of space. Her paintings transmute energy; creating their own beautiful environments and imaginary life forms, inspired by the intense beauty she finds in nature and in contrast to her art studio in New York City.

Johnny Lane's life-affirming, joyous colorful works seems effortless at first, but like Matisse or Modigliani, two master painters Lane's work is often described as being like, the line, contour, form and color use reveals the work of a true master in his prime. Lane, a visual artist and musician, lives and works in Southern California where he runs the dog rescue Mutt Scouts which he founded with his wife in 2005.



Five paintings on canvas by Johnny Lane



Ben Horton, works on paper and wood

Ben Horton's solo show at the gallery was recently featured in 13 Things LA: "Horton confronts the spectacle of societal and ecological decay through a language of draftsmanship that channels the wonderment of 19-century explorers within the pathos of chronicling a vanishing world. Living and working between Hong Kong and San Diego, Horton populates his wood panels and paper substrates with human figures within the pathos of chronicling a vanishing world. Living and working between Hong Kong and San Diego, Horton populates his wood panels and paper substrates with human figures that chase a proto-modern hopefulness curdled by desperation-smiling faces, punctured; lifeforms' destinies, betrayed. His meticulous hatching and cross-hatching lend a heavy, illustrative permanence to creatures and people alike, even as they are collaged against found paper ephemera that signal the palimpsestic fragility of our systems and economies. Drawing from 15 years of travel notebooks to map a landscape of shared isolation, the work holds an unblinking mirror to the ugliness of corporatism and the deterioration of privacy, occupying the proverbial glass house we've built--and the stones we keep throwing inside of it." - Shana Nys Drambot



Gallery viewer listening to and viewing the *Minutes Art Collab*



Vezna Andrews, paintings on paper and canvas and Federico Martini Crotti, works on paper

Vezna Andrews's contribution to the Group Show Finale includes forty works on paper from the *Minutes Art Collab* – the visual component to an interdisciplinary art project she began in 2024 with two brilliant composers; Cornelius Dufallo and Guy Barash. The first twenty-four paintings were done in response to each innovative one-minute composition with violin and electronics by the composers, and viewers will be able to listen to the music on their phones. The second series of sixteen paintings, in 2025, were done simultaneously as the music was created, all three artists working in their disciplines – composers and musicians and painter, sharing their works in progress with each other. Viewers can listen to the music on their phone with headphones (provided) while viewing the paintings.

Finale Group Show and Tony Gold, *AXTION CAPTAIN* on view June 20 and June 27, 1-4 pm

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