

8/10/2022

Viper/Lee Carter - Viper ART at Apartment 13

@ Apartment 13 Gallery

Press Release:

Lee “Viper” Carter (b. 1971), is an American Rapper and artist from Houston, Texas whose 2006 album “You’ll Cowards Don’t Even Smoke Crack” helped usher in a unique style of Internet Rap which has found its footing in mainstream American music culture in recent years. Lee, who has been involved/affiliated with local groups such as the Herschelwood Hardheadz, Botany Boyz, as well as having rubbed shoulders with Houston legend DJ Screw and his Screwed Up Click (S.U.C.), employs a unique production style that takes influence from Chopped and Screwed, Afrobeat, and R&B musical styles.

Lee and I started talking over the phone in the spring of 2022 where I recommended he try his hand at painting. This turned into a show with two parts at our space, each show consisting of three artworks. There was a promise of a live appearance from Lee at both the first and second parts of the show and those promises being unfulfilled by him, along with my poor organizing skills, threw the project for a roller-coaster of emotions. In a way, the show serves as a sort of mapping of how we were planning this show behind the scenes with Lee. It is not too often a show of another artist’s work becomes a survey of the communication (or lack thereof) between artist and curator.

The first part of the show consists of three works by Lee that humorously feature references to his discography, hoes, Space Ghost, and a timbre reminiscent of “Blaxploitation”.

The second part originally consisted of 31 works on canvas that Lee personally delivered to me in Providence, RI. That day was supposed to include a live set from Lee at Louis Family Restaurant, this was ultimately not delivered and Lee did not show up for the events he and I told his fans he'd be present for. I formally called off the live event which turned into a conflict between me and Lee where he asked for all his work to be taken off the walls and returned to him. There were three works that I missed when returning the work which after we made up over phone, he proposed that the second part of his show be those three remaining paintings. With the original hanging hardware for 31 works still in the wall, the three works were arranged in the room.

Joshua Boulos