

TABLA RASA GALLERY  
presents

# STEPHEN BASSO

## Confessions & Reflections



TABLA RASA GALLERY  
224 48TH ST.,  
BROOKLYN, NY 11220

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April 15 - May 20, 2018

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Artists Reception:

**Saturday, April 21, 2018**

2:30 - 4:30 pm

Gallery hours: 1:00 - 5:00 pm  
THURSDAY, FRIDAY & SATURDAY  
Call 718.833.9100 for events and schedule updates.

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TABLA RASA GALLERY  
224 48 Street (between 2nd & 3rd Avenues)  
Brooklyn, NY 11220  
718. 833-9100

[info@TablaRasaGallery.com](mailto:info@TablaRasaGallery.com)  
<http://www.tablarasagallery.com/>

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**FREE**

**\*ABOUT Stephen Basso**

**Stephen Basso's** highly original pastels and oil paintings are romantic, yet thought provoking fantasies. His whimsical works are alive with boundless imagination, wry wit and fearless color. **Mr. Basso's** works evoke a high level of inquiry. The fanciful, yet keenly observed characters are unpredictable and evocative. The viewer vacillates between surprise, delight, and consternation.

A Brooklyn native, much of **Basso's** wildly imaginative artwork was inspired by travel to Jamaica, Puerto Rico, and especially Mexico. Combining a New York and a Mexican sensibility, he says of his work, "There is a natural surreal quality to Mexico that can collide with its harsh realities. One might call it bittersweet. It is often bawdy, but rarely vulgar, and images are everywhere. Love, hate, fear desire and of course, humor, never go out of style." And he adds, "I like mixing high ideals with American irreverence."

The elements of mystery, escapism, and humor blended with reality define his art. It is of a personal nature consisting of a cast of characters that inhabit the stage between the extreme highs and lows of life, a state of limbo where dreamlike scenarios are often pulled back to the reality of daily existence. Of his process, **Mr. Basso** says, "The paintings and drawings begin with objects around my home and studio, photos from various sources, and people I know, have known, or have yet to meet."

By in large, **Basso** is self taught. (After initially attending the School of Visual Arts for Illustration, he realized painting was more engaging for him.) Seeking emotional honesty, he looked to the work of several "mentors": Max Beckmann, Francisco Goya, Willem de Kooning , Philip Guston , Marsden Hartley and Albert Pinkham Ryder - artists that spoke to the human condition.

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**Directions to Tabla Rasa Gallery**

The gallery is located two express subway stops from Manhattan on the "D" or "N" train to 36th Street Station, plus one "R" stop to 45th Street (or a just few short "R" stops beyond Park Slope).

By car, Tabla Rasa is on 48th St between 2nd and 3rd Aves, Brooklyn. Ample street parking is available.

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**About Tabla Rasa Gallery**

Tabla Rasa Gallery is located in the burgeoning art destination of Sunset Park, Brooklyn. The gallery is known for their consistently stunning exhibitions. Within the 4000 square foot turn of the century carriage house, the gallery exhibits primary and secondary market artwork by emerging, mid-career, and established artists, in all media, including painting, sculpture, installation, drawing, print media, digital, film and video.

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Exhibitions are free and open to the public. It is recommended to call 718.833.9100 for events and schedule updates.