Molting
Juno Zago

Oct 15 - Dec 19, 2015
Gallery Aferro Main Gallery
73 Market Street, Newark

OPENING RECEPTION
October 17th, 2015
7pm – 10pm

GALLERY HOURS
Wednesday - Saturday
12pm - 6pm
and by appointment

Molting
Curated by Kayla Carucci, Alex Scott Cumming, & Jacob Mandel

Molting relates the psyche to free will by means of non corporeal identification. The show displays artists’ self portraits through representation of the ephemeral, the immaterial, and the objective. These representations are a process of association; i.e. through housing, environment, culture, subculture, relationships, and their various manifestations. A choice is an act of free will, consciously or subconsciously, and carry an imprint of the will. The paradox of free will and the psyche, a universal object originating before the human individual, creates non corporeal phenomena through which the artists may convey themselves. Molting is exposing the responsibility for change in our world.
Juno Zago’s penchant for the self is never left completely out of the equation because his work dwells in it one way or another. The figurative confines of the self-portrait are broken by both visual abstraction and more objective ideas. With his latest body of work, Juno is also inspired by the Japanese art of kintsugi. This is a philosophy that explains that an object’s repair should be a part of its visual history instead of something to be concealed. Thus when a piece of pottery breaks, it is put back together with lacquer or glue containing powdered gold, so when the object is whole again, its cracks become part of what makes it a beautiful object.

On a physical level, Juno is creating collages that are driven by the hoarding of his old and tattered clothing. He then tears, rips, cuts and stitches them using embroidery thread painted golden to mimic the appearance of kintsugi and create large pieces on canvas that are visually concerned with composition, shape and color. On a metaphysical level, these compositions document important moments in his life: like break-ups, work experiences, and body consciousness.

Born in Brazil, João (Juno) came to the United States at the age of eleven and lived in Newark, NJ where he graduated from Arts High School. His art school rearing, coupled with his interest in different art forms inspired him to explore and create work in the areas of drawing, oil painting, metal casting, installation, collage and assemblage.

Recently his work has addressed the idiosyncrasies of self-image in various ways. Juno currently lives in Kearny, NJ and is enrolled at Ramapo College of New Jersey where he’s taken on a Visual Arts Major with concentrations in Drawing and Painting as well as Art History.