



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 05, 2018

**John Avelluto: *Use-a the Forza, Mamaluke!***

**October 19 - November 18, 2018  
Stand4 Gallery and Community Art Center**

**Reception: Friday, October 18, 2018, 7-9 PM**

**Artist talk: Saturday, November 3, 2018, 3-5 PM**

Stand4 Art Gallery  
Community Art Center

414 78th Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11209

[standconnect.com](http://standconnect.com)

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BAY RIDGE, BROOKLYN – Stand4 Gallery and Community Art Center is pleased to present an exhibition of new paintings by John Avelluto.

Avelluto's work is complex in both cultural re-appropriation and process. Playing with the cultural plasticity as a first generation immigrant of Italian descent, Avelluto weaves a new narrative that is entirely his own, but inclusive of the complicated identity of first generation immigrants, a group that finds themselves between two worlds.

Avelluto's imagery incorporates Italian history and pervasive American pop culture, in this case *Star Wars* and the masked visage of Darth Vader. Using paint to create an object, Avelluto's process reflects and becomes a physical manifestation of his bifurcated experience. The painting process takes his cultural origins and re-imagines them via cutting and assembly to produce a collaged facsimile made entirely of paint. This labor intensive process adds new possibilities to the original image, bringing us into the realm of art.

Our Nation's history has been culturally and economically enhanced with the added value of the labor and innovation of its immigrants, yet they continually find themselves at an impasse into the realm of the "Real American". Avelluto elevates this experience, reminding us of the tenuous welcome we give to newcomers and the extreme benefit we get from their inclusion.

The exhibition will be on view from October 18 through November 13, 2018. An artist reception will be held on Friday, October 18, 2018, from 7-9 PM. The artist will also present an artist talk about his work on Saturday, September 1, 2018, starting at 3 PM.

Founded in January 2017 as an artist-run initiative, Stand4's pursuit is to be alive and working towards a better world through the arts as an active medium of engagement. Stand4 serves as a generator of meaning, action, agency, collaboration and social justice. It is shapeless, non-conforming and responsive to the times. Stand4 is meant to exist as a catalyst: a way to envision a more socially and environmentally just future.

Housed in a former medical office in the heart of Bay Ridge, Stand4 brings the visual arts to the center of the community. Stand4's programming opens up opportunities for social, political and cultural connections by creating a discourse that bridges culture, tradition and includes new voices towards a more sustainable future inspired by local interests.

Location: Stand4 Gallery and Community Art Center  
414 78th Street, 1st Floor  
Brooklyn, New York 11209  
[standconnect.com](http://standconnect.com)

Hours: Saturday, 12-3 PM and by appointment.

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