

## JR Mural Replaces Kenny Scharf's Smileys on Houston Street

By Benjamin Sutton, Published June 24, 2011



Photo courtesy of amolho4/Flickr

After bringing his Inside Out project to Park Slope last month, French street art star and TED Prize-winner JR has moved it into the city and taken over the Tony Goldman mural space at Houston and Bowery from Kenny Scharf with his massive photo portrait “Lakota, Dakota Nation.” But Scharf had one last celebrity visitor before his cartoon-faced crowd disappeared...

Compulsive camouflageist Liu Bolin flew from China—and was actually allowed to leave, unlike some of that country’s artists—and arrived in New York on Tuesday to be painted into Scharf’s mural. See the whole process below, at the end of which, with some assistance from Scharf himself, Bolin blends right into the bright, multi-toned composition.

Meanwhile, the JR mural officially made its debut yesterday. A press release for the project explains:

The Inside Out Group Action: “Lakota, North Dakota” will highlight the Standing Rock and Pineridge Native Reservations — some of the most important Native American reservations whose impoverished and forgotten communities have suffered unspeakable hardships. The Lakota, Dakota Nation group action is to show that the people in this community are still struggling to hold onto their native way of life.

How long will it take for New York’s native tribes to make their contributions to the new mural?

## The Day I New Faces, New Places

By Chelsea Rose Marcus, Published June 24, 2011



Photo courtesy of Michael Natale

Good morning, East Village.

Another major overhaul took place Thursday at the corner of Bowery and East Houston. A new face, pictured above, has replaced the colorful ghouls painted by artist Kenny Scharf on the Tony Goldman graffiti wall; EV Grieve says it's called, "Lakota, North Dakota." Community contributor Tim Schreier shared photos of the work in progress at right.

Local theatergoers will have their last chance to visit Performance Space 122 this Saturday before the venue on the corner of First Avenue and Ninth Street temporarily closes for renovations. Theater Mania reports that the organization — named for the old Public School 122 building it has inhabited since 1979 — will relocate until construction is complete.

Counter will also soon be gone. The vegetarian bar and bistro on First Avenue between Sixth and Seventh Streets told Gothamist that its closing is imminent, although owner Deborah Gavito has yet to give an exact date.