

# FAST FORWARD

Dizz Hicks, Art, & Freestyle  
Collide in Queens, New York

Story and Photos by Keith Terra



The long, blonde curls and spiked leather arm bands may be gone, but not the heart and soul of a Dizz kickturn session. Mess with the wedge, you get the horns.



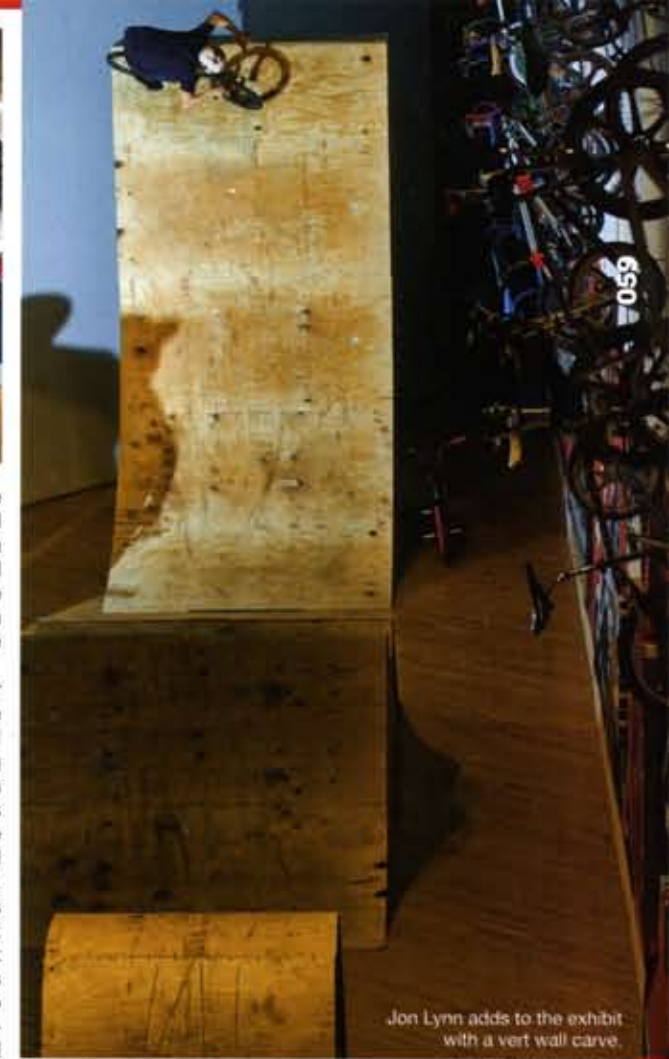
Dizz in the house.

Lying in the heart of Queens, New York—located in the legendary Flushing Meadow Park—is a building called the Queens Museum of Art. A very well-known museum that has encased tons of great exhibits from famous artists, we would never think that something BMX-related would ever grace its floors. It turns out that we were quite mistaken. All it took was a man by the name of Ryan Humphrey to set it all up with some great artwork incorporated with vintage BMX to make something as big as this happen. One of those vintage BMX things was the great John "Dizz" Hicks there in person, riding what made him so popular in the '80s; a good ol' kickturn wedge ramp.

The World's Fair took place in Queens in 1939 and 1964, and this was one of the buildings constructed for the events. To this day it is the only building that still stands from the Fairs. In 1972, the building was turned into the art museum that it is today. The fourth installment of Queens International kicked off on January 24, 2009. The importance of the Queens International exhibits is great; it showcases 42 individual artists, collectors, and collectives from 18 countries. Among the first of many exhibits this year, Ryan Humphrey put together "Fast Forward." Set in the largest area of the museum, this show was the main attraction. Easy access to the second floor with a balcony looking over the exhibit was a great place to look and take in everything as a whole. A wild rollercoaster-like rhythm section with a good vert wall was placed on the museum's nice wood floors in front of a backdrop of vintage

bikes hung on the wall from the ceiling to the floor. There were classic bikes such as original CWs from the '80s to custom Standards from the early 2000s. Displayed on that same wall were paintings that incorporated bikes in some way. Bikes customized and encased within giant sound systems were also set up on the floor next to the ramps.

Dizz Hicks was one of the more popular freestyle riders back in the '80s. He was the king of the kickturn ramp, and from what I saw that night, he still is. He was still doing some of the wildest kickturn moves that can still hold their own—even with today's status of riding. The shows he put on in the '80s were jam-packed with metal music, so why should anything change now? With the tunes cranked, Dizz hopped on his bike and hit the museum's floor. It's hard to even explain half the things that he was doing, and I'm too young to know what they are called. But one of his signature moves that he pulled out at the show was throwing up the devil horns and looking to the crowd anytime he could during any trick. I'm still amazed that I got to hang out and shoot photos of Dizz Hicks for a night. He truly is a legend in his own time. Riding along with Dizz was a couple of riders from the NYC area such as Darryl Nau, Brian Barnhart, Jon Lynn, and Nigel Sylvester. It really was an amazing sight to see people riding in a museum. This show was one of the finer exhibits I've seen put together—BMX-related and non-BMX-related. And I'm sure many others will agree. It really was amazing what "Fast Forward" showcased—opening the eyes of the average person in the art world to a new side of life.



Jon Lynn adds to the exhibit with a vert wall carve.

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