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Murage Apparel gives back to the art community

HARRISBURG – Murage Apparel is a unique player in the world of streetwear.

Dropping its first artist collaboration today at 6 p.m., Murage Apparel has a social component designed to give back to the artists who create street art in their hometowns.

“Murage Apparel is changing the face of streetwear by giving back,” said Bryan Speece, Creative Director. “Ten percent of all purchases support murals and street art in local communities. Public art is important to the character and unity of a community and this is a great way for people to show their love of art and support for local artists.”

Murage, which is based in Harrisburg, Pa., is pleased to announce its first artist collaboration featuring an artist from the company’s hometown. The artistic piece created by Stephen Michael Haas, a 27-year-old artist who’s painted murals in Baltimore, Chattanooga and in his hometown, touches on themes of love, vulnerability and self-worth.

Haas’s design, featured on shirts marketed by Murage Apparel on a limited basis, contains the words ‘Speak your love with pride and you will be loved’ coming out of a bubble from the mouth of a surreal head.

“Feelings of love can be so hard to express,” Haas said. “Being vulnerable is not easy, either, because it may not always be received as intended. The message behind the shirt is simple: Say it when you mean it, mean it when you say it and don’t give in to the fear that wants to shut you down.”

Haas draws upon many of his life experiences when he creates art and uses his talents as a form of therapy, having survived a traumatic childhood.

Haas began drawing when he was 4, thanks to a mother and grandmother who realized his talent and helped nurture it. His grandmother also had a major influence on the cartoonist artistic style he would eventually adopt by playing video games with Haas when he was a child. His love and passion for the cartoon form developed thanks to Nintendo games, especially Super Mario World and Yoshi’s Island.

It was actually like a melting pot of great things all happening at the same time,” Haas said. “...Super Nintendo games were also coming out and they came with an instruction book. I’d

watch my grandmother play, she would give me a media journal and I would draw the characters from the instruction books...”

Editor’s Note: For more on [Haas](#), visit the Murage Daily website.