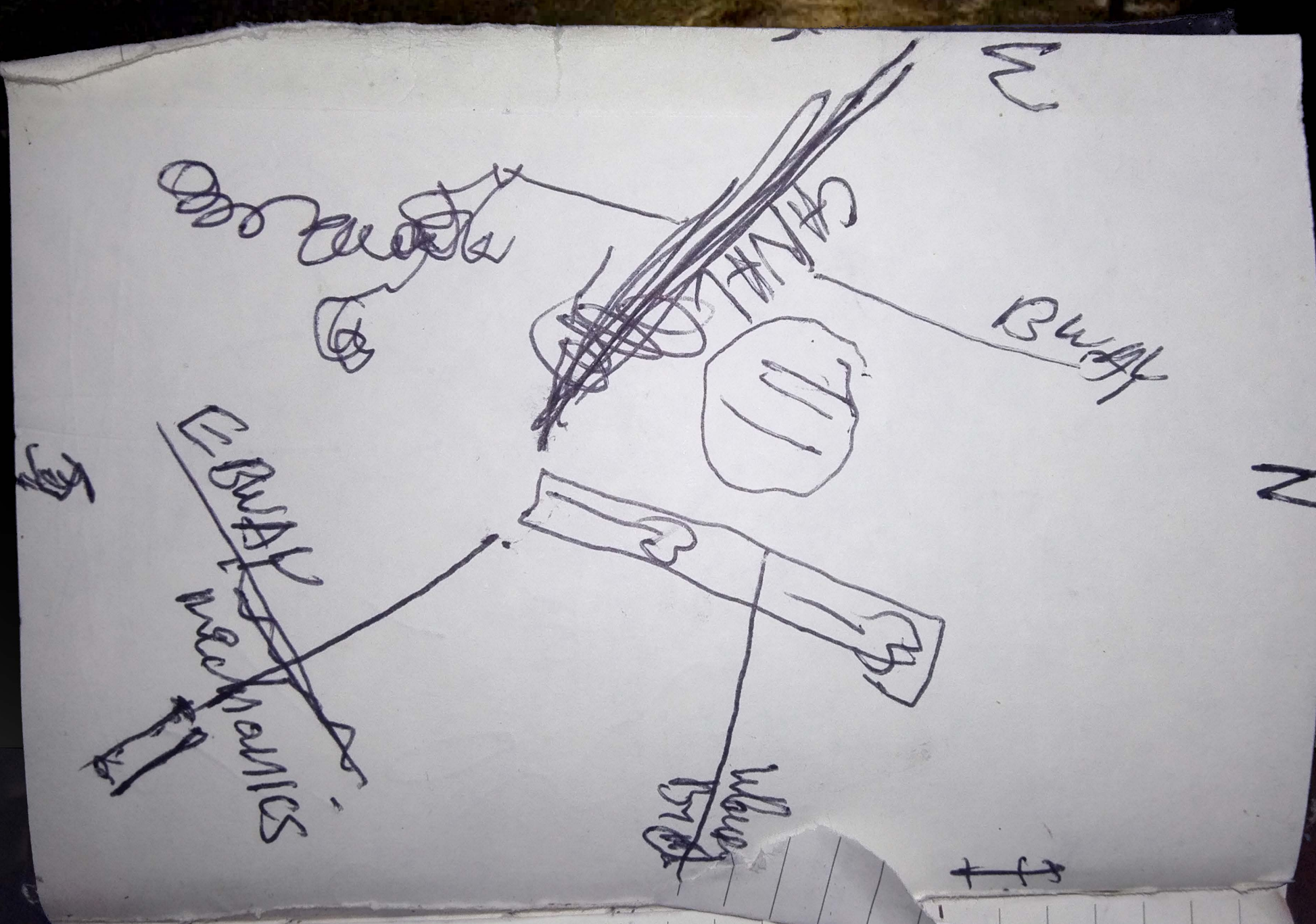




FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

18.12.15

ILYA SMIRNOV MECHANICS ALLEY



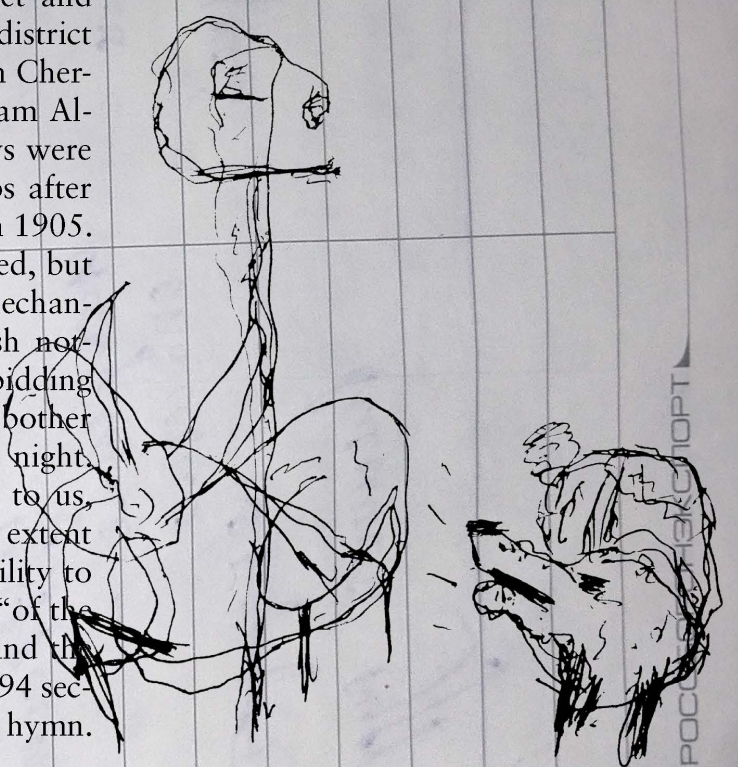
Telephone

Механикс Алли

Мену

1810

MECHANICS ALLEY begins at Henry Street just east of Market Street and runs two blocks southeast to Monroe. It appears on maps of the district from the early 1800s on, but it runs closer to the riverfront, between Cherry and Monroe Streets, where another tiny lane, called Birmingham Alley runs from Madison to Henry Streets. Presumably, the two alleys were joined at some point. Mechanics Alley disappeared from city maps after the Manhattan Bridge was constructed, almost directly overhead, in 1905. For a long time it used to be a corridor that no maps acknowledged, but now you'll be able to google map the correct configuration of Mechanics Alley, Henry Street and Forsyth Street. As author Kevin Walsh noted, while passing by Mechanics Alley in the daytime it's "... a forbidding place which looks like mugger central. As you will see I did not bother walking on it", and I know it is even more impressive during the night. Noscitur a sociis when a Goddess has functions that are unclear to us, abilities that are inconceivable to us because of our circumscribed extent of awareness, she is called Νυκτέρια and it refers to our own inability to reckon her brilliance. She is also addressed as Τριόδῖτις i.e. the one "of the crossroads", the "three-ways". In the Taylor translation you will find the hymn to her at the end, while the Prometheus Trust reprint of the 1894 second edition of Taylor's translation corrects this, making it the first hymn.



* TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION BY ANNA TETERKINA.

SPECIAL THANKS TO EMMA McMILLAN FOR HER INVALUABLE HELP WITH SET DESIGN AND FILMING.

63rd-77th STEPS is pleased to announce *Mechanics Alley*, a book by Ilya Smirnov incorporating sequence of texts, drawings and photographs into one in-depth location study.

Ilya Smirnov lives and works in New York. Late exhibitions include *Flooding of Fitzgerald's Casino in Tunica, MS* at Semperdepot, Vienna (2015); *AIRBNB Pavillion* at 14th Venice Architecture Biennale; *Fool Disclosure* at Henningsen Gallery, Copenhagen (2014); *Never Odd or Even* (in a collaboration with Anna Teterkina) at Team Titanic, Berlin (2013). His work has also been on view at Polytechnical Museum and Second Watch Factory, both in Moscow; and at Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin.