

VENUS MANHATTAN

The Art of Collaboration

September 17 - October 23, 2018

Opening: Monday, September 17th, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Venus Over Manhattan

980 Madison Avenue

New York, NY 10075

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:



(New York, NY) – Venus Over Manhattan is pleased to present **The Art of Collaboration**, an exhibition dedicated to collaboratively produced works of art. Comprising a tightly focused selection of major collaborations, the exhibition will be on view from September 17th through October 23rd, 2018. **The Art of Collaboration** marks the first exhibition dedicated to artistic collaboration in nearly thirty years, following Cynthia Jaffee McCabe’s *Artistic Collaboration in the Twentieth Century* at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden in 1984, and Nina Castelli Sundell and Susan Sollins’ *Team Spirit* in 1991.

The Art of Collaboration highlights a specific type of collaboratively produced art. Featuring work in nearly all media, the exhibition gathers collaborations by artists who maintain independent practices, and elect to collaborate beyond the scope of their individual productions. Various descriptions of personal connections, artistic affinities and conceptual attachments, many of the works on view testify to powerful relationships; others register the dynamics of influence, or complicate the notion of an artist’s signature style. Others still provide an arena in which to question authorship, or parse responsibility for a given gesture. Taken together, the presentation confirms the persistent presence of collaboration in modern and contemporary art, despite an artistic economy predicated on self-expression.

The presentation demonstrates a wide range of reasons that drive artists to collaborate, featuring the products of friendship, romance, marriage, physical proximity, shared gallery representation, or specific requests for individual exhibitions. A large-format work on canvas by Jean-Michel Basquiat and Andy Warhol represents a group of collaborative works produced at the suggestion of Swiss gallerist Bruno Bischofberger, and registers each artist’s trademark imagery. A group of works by artists including Basquiat, Keith Haring, Kenny Scharf and Fab 5 Freddy documents a period of intense collaborative energy in New York City, when artists associated with Neo-Expressionism and Street Art spontaneously riffed on one another’s works and surfaces. A photograph of a dress printed with Christopher Wool’s signature wallpaper pattern records a collaborative exhibition with Robert Guber at 303 Gallery in 1988, born of Wool’s admiration for Guber’s work. A multipartite installation by Ed Kienholz and Nancy Reddin Kienholz, featuring a life-sized representation of a husband and wife, attests to the energy of a long-term partnership in both marriage and art.

Despite uneven attention for such efforts, visual artists have collaborated with varying degrees of intensity throughout the history of art: the workshop model, in which an artist oversees a studio of assistants, was popularized during the Renaissance, and witnessed a rebirth of sorts at Andy Warhol’s Factory. Collaboration became far more common in the twentieth century, which saw artists associated with Dada, Surrealism, and the Cobra group produce collaborative works. Examples of sustained collaboration emerged in the second half of the twentieth century, first as a consequence of married artists jointly signing their work, then as a

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strategy employed by artists partnering in long-term production. Such partnerships are increasingly common, but collaborations between artists who maintain independent practices remain relatively infrequent. In spite of recognition from both critics and collectors that Western art has always been in certain respects, a collaborative endeavor, the cult of the individual retains a strong foothold in the visual arts. Indeed, the "traditional conception of the artist as an autonomous agent" remains an effective barrier to the production and acceptance of collaboratively produced art.¹

The exhibition will feature collaboratively produced works by **Jean-Michel Basquiat** and **Andy Warhol**; **Jean-Michel Basquiat** and **Keith Haring**; **Jean-Michel Basquiat, Keith Haring, Fab 5 Freddy, Futura, Eric Haze, LA II, Tseng Kwong Chi, Kenny Scharf**, and others; **John Currin** and **Rachel Feinstein**; **Robert Gober** and **Christopher Wool**; **Mark Grotjahn** and **Jonas Wood**; **Keith Haring** and **LA II**; **Richard Hell** and **Christopher Wool**; **Ed Kienholz** and **Nancy Reddin Kienholz**; **Jonathan Meese** and **Albert Oehlen**; **Tim Noble** and **Sue Webster**; **Claes Oldenburg** and **Coosje van Bruggen**; and **Anselm Reyle** and **Franz West**, among others.

1. Galenson, David, *Conceptual Revolutions in Twentieth-Century Art* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012).

ABOUT VENUS OVER MANHATTAN

Founded in 2012 by Adam Lindemann, Venus Over Manhattan is dedicated to curated exhibitions both historic and contemporary, which cast a unique and iconoclastic view on the work of established artists whose works have been somewhat overlooked. The gallery continues to collaborate with prominent artists, foundations, and galleries.

For further information about the exhibition and availability, please contact the gallery at info@venusovermanhattan.com

For all press inquiries related to the exhibition, please email press@venusovermanhattan.com