

Panic Room - Works from The Dakis Joannou Collection

Press Release

The exhibition Panic Room, presents more than 120 works from the most exciting new and emerging artists in the US, England, Germany, Greece and beyond, who work with drawing as their primary medium. The exhibition attempts to map a group of artists that eclectically and unconventionally mix contemporary art with the culture of comics, graffiti, music, psychedelia and fantasy as well as highlight alternative ways of expression and collaboration.

A number of people including Ali Subotnick, Jeffrey Deitch and Kathy Grayson contributed and advised on the acquisitions and grouping of these works.

According to Deitch and Grayson, most participating artists not only «(...) share working methods, subject matter or formal concerns, but rather than that they form a complex community and collaboration-based network of very different practices that are hostile to generalizing terms but share a unique energy, ethos, and sincerity».

The centerpiece of this exhibition is a dazzling black and white wallpaper piece by Assume Vivid Astro Focus. A.V.A.F., a morphing collective put into motion by Eli Sudbrack, is the best example of how artists today move in networks of collaboration. Each installation of A.V.A.F. includes different like-minded artists, and as a result, the projects are always chronicles of the movements of Eli's community. In addition, the installation of his piece in Panic Room literally encircles not only some of the artists that his long arms bring in along with but also a number of artists who share a similar approach and work in a similarly distinct framework.

Two major areas of art activity are primarily highlighted in this exhibition: San Francisco, California and Providence, Rhode Island. These cities, maybe surprisingly, have germinated some of the most exciting activity going on in the young artists community.

The San Francisco group is characterized by a beautiful graphic line that came out of graffiti and sign painting traditions, along with a commitment to using found materials like salvaged wood and paint. Providence was the location of the now-infamous Fort Thunder, a deserted warehouse building where many local artists made their home, shaping a whole new style of art and music that has breathed new life into the art scene.

Panic Room reveals numerous ties between the two sides of America and the two sides of the Atlantic and brings forward the way these artists are linked to each other through their commitment to underground community building, their anti-corporate, anti-establishment vibe and a do-it-yourself independence, not through galleries or the art market.

Using the different communities that intersect to create this new scene, the exhibition highlights networks of collaboration and personal relationships that are the foundation for stylistic and conceptual commonalities. It is not only that these artists

share working methods, subject matter or formal concerns only, but rather that they form a complex community and collaboration-based network of very different practices.

Artists: assume vivid astro focus, Tauba Auerbach, Devendra Banhart, Hernan Bas, Diann Bauer, Marc Bell, Hisham Bharoocha, John Bock, Mat Brinkman, Beth Campbell, Paul Chan, Brian Chippendale, Yiannis Christakos, Michael Cline, Bjorn Copeland, Roberto Cuoghi, Verne Dawson, Derraindrop, Brian Degraw, Anastasia Douka, Jim Drain, Sam Durant, Carin Ellberg, Simon Evans, Eye, Naomi Fisher, Ry Fyan, Delia Gonzalez, Matt Greene, Yusuke Gunji, Robert Gutierrez, Daniel Guzman, Oliver Halsman Rosenberg, Karen Heagle, Julian Hoeber, Christian Holstad, Elliott Hundley, Jo Jackson, Chris Johanson, Cameron Jamie, Xylor Jane, Eleni Kamma, Margaret Kilgallen, John Kleckner, Marcus Knupp, Friedrich Kunath, Wes Lang, Robert Lazzarini, Matt Leines, Jose Lerma, Tim Lokiec, Nick Lowe, M/M (Paris), Ashley Macomber, Dan McCarthy, Barry McGee, Dominic McGill, Keegan McHargue, Irini Miga, Ted Mineo, Dave Muller, Shay Nowick, Shaun O Dell, Philippe Perrot, Alessandro Pessoli, Ara Peterson, Ben Peterson, Paper Rad, Matthew Ritchie, Kirstine Roepstorff, Clare Rojas, Georgia Sagri, Justin Samson, Aurel Schmidt, Lawrence Seward, Jim Shaw, Raqib Shaw, Hannes Schmidt, Christian Schumann, Dasha Shishkin, David Shrigley, Konstantinos Skafidas, Nedko Solakov, Christiana Soulou, Alex Stein, Peter Thompson, Jiannis Varelas, Kelley Walker, Olav Westphalen, Yelena Yemchuk, Ralf Ziervogel.

Opening Hours:

Fridays 16.00-20.00, Saturdays: 11.00-16.00 and by appointment.

Deste Foundation

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