



Kenny Scharf

OPERA GALLERY

Kenny Scharf

Blobs

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Preface

Kenny Scharf has remained a key and prolific figure in the art world since his early participation as a key proponent in the NYC East Village Art scene in the early 1980s, where he worked alongside artist peers such as Keith Haring and Jean-Michel Basquiat. His works have been exhibited widely ever since.

When we look at a work by Kenny Scharf, we see a dynamic and joyous burst of colour, form and energy radiating from the canvas. However, these saturated, seemingly playful shapes have sharp teeth that lurk beneath, reflecting the dual nature of our modern society.

Kenny Scharf's paintings are always reflective of the artist's unique, self generated, visual universe, drawing from ideas and experiences extracted from the surrounding world. He successfully conjoins fine art with popular culture feeding from the traditions of Pop Art, Abstract Expressionism, Surrealism, comic books and Street Art.

We are delighted to collaborate with this major international artist and showcase 'Blobz', an incredible new collection of works, signalling his first solo show with Opera Gallery at our flagship London space.

Gilles Dyan

Chairman and Founder, Opera Gallery Group

Sébastien Plantin

Director, Opera Gallery London

“My ambition as a professional artist is to maintain the course that I set nearly 30 years ago by establishing my work in the fields of painting, sculpture, and performance. Every project I undertake is building on my past experiences. My original approach has remained unchanged; it is a personal challenge to produce the best work possible every time. One very important and guiding principle to my work is to reach out beyond the elitist boundaries of fine art and connect to popular culture through my art.

My personal ambition has always been to lead by example. I believe the artist has a social responsibility to engage others in a thought process that ultimately brings art into everyday life thereby enhancing the quality of our experience.”

Kenny Scharf





Recent Works

BLORBZZ

2018
Oil and acrylic on linen with powder coated aluminium frame
122 x 102 cm | 48 x 40 in



KOZBLOBZ

2018
Oil on linen with powder coated aluminium frame
178 x 229 cm | 70 x 90 in



NEBULAZ

2018
Oil and acrylic on linen with powder coated aluminium frame
122 x 122 cm | 48 x 48 in



ARGGGHHHRRR

2018
Oil on linen with powder coated aluminium frame
122 x 122 cm | 48 x 48 in



BLOBZETC...

2018
Oil on linen with powder coated aluminium frame
122 x 122 cm | 48 x 48 in



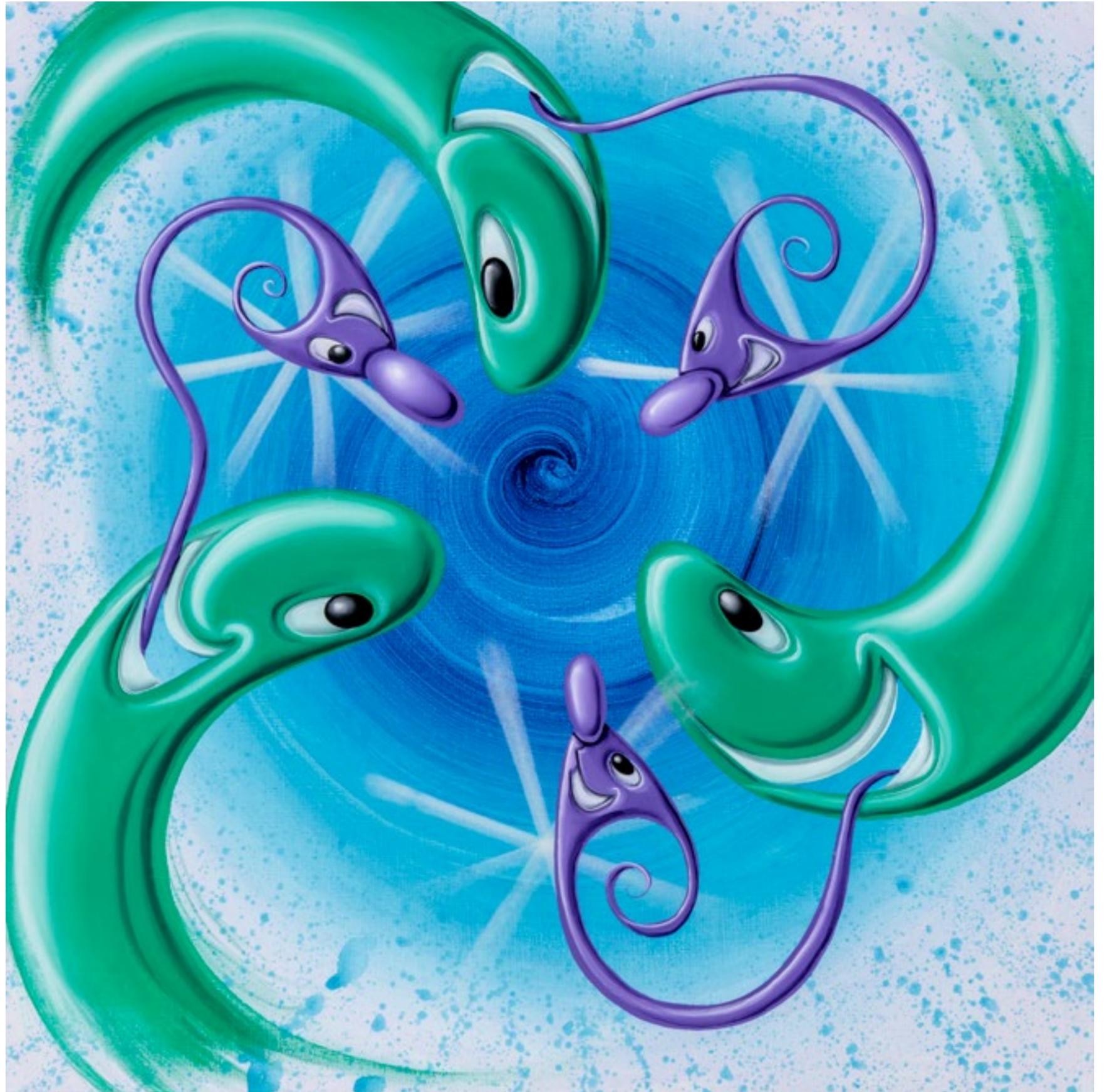
TOUNGLES

2018
Oil and acrylic on linen with powder coated aluminium frame
102 x 122 cm | 40 x 48 in



WHIRLIFIC

2018
Oil and acrylic on linen
91.44 x 91.44 cm | 36 x 36 in



BLUBZZ

2018
Oil and acrylic on linen with powder coated aluminium frame
122 x 122 cm | 48 x 48 in





Biography

Born in 1958 in Los Angeles, California
Lives and works in Los Angeles

Education

1980 B.F.A., School of Visual Arts, New York City, NY

Recent exhibitions

- 2018 Inner and Outer Space, Leila Heller Gallery, Dubai
Scharftopia: The Far Out World of Kenny Scharf, Gustavus College, Minnesota
Fast Forward: Painting from the 1980's, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York
Under One Roof, Urban Nation Museum for Urban Contemporary Art
- 2017 Blox and Bax, Honor Fraser Gallery, Los Angeles
Inner and Outer Space, Deitch, New York
Club 57 Film: Performance and Art in the East Village 1978-83, MoMA, New York
Animal Farm, curated by Sadie Laska, Brant Foundation, Greenwich
Bombay Beach Biennale, curated by Lily Johnson White, Salton Sea
Stand Still - A Still Life Show, Allouche Gallery, New York
Libres Figurations Années 80, Fonds pour la Culture Hélène & Édouard Leclerc, Landerneau
Spotlight Kenny Scharf, Frieze Fair, New York
- 2016 Kenny Scharf, Nassau County Museum of Art, Roslyn Harbor
Fast Forward: Painting from the 80s, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York
Desire, curated by Diana Widmaier Picasso, Gagosian & Deitch at Art Basel Miami Beach
Cosmic Connections, David Totah Gallery, New York
Around the World in 86 Days, Ludwig Forum, Aachen
Piston Head - 2 Artist Engage the Automobile, Venus Over Los Angeles, Los Angeles
The Neon Wilderness: Voices from Los Angeles, The Conversation, Berlin
Muse, Galerie Hideout, Paris
AftermodernisM, Neumann Wolfson Art, Watermill
A Selection of Works of the 80s, Vito Schnabel Gallery, St. Moritz
Masters: Urban & Street Art, Galerie Laurent Strouk, Paris
Hammer Projects Lobby Mural, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles
- 2015 Born Again, Honor Fraser Gallery, Los Angeles
Cosmic Donut Occurences, Patricia Low Contemporary, Gstaad
Schow, Frederic Snitzer Gallery, Miami
She Sells Seashells by the Seashore, Eric Firestone Gallery, East Hampton



Outside In, curated by Jim Daichendt, Art Center College of Design, Pasadena
Cosmic Cavern #33, Portland Art Museum, Portland, Oregon
Monstropolis, Mural at Art Center College of Design, Pasadena
Hammer Projects Lobby Mural, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles

- 2014 Kenny Scharf, Colette, Paris
Kenny Scharf, Pace Prints, New York
Urban Theater: New York Art in the 1980s, The Modern Art Museum, Fort Worth
Appropriate Disruption, Jacob Lewis Gallery, New York
Saying Yes to Everything, curated by Corrina Peipon, Honor Fraser Gallery, Los Angeles
Fun and Games, Montalvo Art Center, Saratoga
LOISADA - NY's Lower East Side in the 80's, Addison Gallery, AndoverW
COSMIGOGO, textile design for Louis Vuitton
- 2013 Kolors, Paul Kasmin Gallery, New York
Amerikulture, Eric Firestone Gallery, East Hampton
Pop Renaissance, Honor Fraser Galley, Los Angeles
AREA: The Exhibition, curated by Jeffrey Deitch, Eric Goode, Serge Becker, Glenn O'Brien and Jennifer Goode, The Hole, New York
Pistonhead: Artists Engage the Automobile, Art Basel Miami Beach
Calligraffiti, Leila Heller Gallery, New York
Futures Project, Center for the Living Arts, Mobile
Contemporary Magic: A Tarot Deck Art Project, The Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh; The National Arts Club, New York; The Dali Museum, St Pete; Virginia MOCA, Virginia Beach
Tonywood, The Wynwood Walls, Memorial Garden, Miami
Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Whitewall Suite 5000, New York
Back To Supersonica - Spray Painted 1960's Lockheed Jetstar, Pima Air Museum, Tucson
Installation of Squirtz and Red Scary Guy at the Standard Hotel High Line, New York
MOBLOBZ - Monumental Mural on the Historic Center for the Living Arts, Mobile
Mural Installation, Kings County Children's Hospital, Brooklyn
Mural, Davis Bros Tires, Los Angeles
- 2012 Hodgepodge, Honor Fraser Gallery, Los Angeles
Thank You Andy Warhol, Benrimon Contemporary, New York
Times Square Show Revisited, Leubsdorf Gallery at Hunter College, New York
Portrait of a Generation, The Hole Gallery, New York
All For You, Eric Firestone Gallery, East Hampton
Jello Bacchanalia, Art Rio, Rio de Janeiro
Cedars Sinai Chunk Pack, Cedars Sinai Children's Wing, Los Angeles

Public collections

The Bass Museum of Art, Miami Beach
Brant Foundation, Greenwich
The Dannheiser Foundation, New York
The Broad Foundation, Los Angeles
Groninger Museum, Groningen
Guggenheim Museum, New York
The Jewish Museum, New York
Ludwig Museum, Cologne
Miami Art Museum, Miami
Museo de Arte Contemporaneo de Monterrey, Monterrey
Museu de Arte Moderna, Rio de Janeiro
Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego
Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles
Museum of Modern Art, New York
New England Center for Contemporary Art, Brooklyn
Pasadena Museum of California Art, Pasadena
Paterson Museum, Paterson
Patrick Lannan Foundation, Los Angeles
Pearl Arts Foundation, Portland, Oregon
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco
Sogetsu Museum, Tokyo
Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam
Whitney Museum of American Art, New York

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