

OPERA GALLERY



Andy Warhol, *Four Multicolored Marylins (Reversal Series)*, 1979-1986, acrylic and silkscreen on canvas, 40 x 40 in. | 101,6 x 101,6 cm

PARIS

Transatlantic: Figurations in the 80s

15 OCTOBER - 14 NOVEMBER 2024

PARIS, September 2024 – Opera Gallery is pleased to present ‘Transatlantic: Figurations in the 80s’, a group exhibition **curated by Pascale Le Thorel**, running from 15 October to 14 November 2024, during Art Basel Paris. Offering a comprehensive exploration of 1980s figurative art on both sides of the Atlantic, this exhibition captures the dynamic and multifaceted spirit of this transformative period in art history.

The 1980s were a decade of significant artistic shifts, as the art world moved away from the dominance of minimalism and conceptual art. In response to the socio-political climates of their respective countries, artists in the United States, France, and wider Europe embraced new forms of figuration. ‘Transatlantic: Figurations in the 80s’, curated by Pascale Le Thorel, brings together a remarkable ensemble of works that exemplifies this period’s rich diversity of styles and approaches, reflecting the broader cultural currents that defined the era.

Pascale Le Thorel, known for her extensive curatorial experience with leading institutions, has also authored the exhibition catalog, providing fascinating insight that frames the works within their historical and cultural contexts, while also examining how these aesthetic developments during this influential decade continue to inform contemporary art.

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Keith Haring, *Untitled, June 10, 1984*, acrylic on canvas, 94 x 188 in | 238,8 x 477,5 cm

The exhibition features iconic works by American artists such as **Keith Haring**, **Kenny Scharf** and **Andy Warhol** who used figuration to explore themes of consumerism, media culture, and urban life. Their works capture the essence of the Reagan-era United States, characterised by both a vibrant pop culture and a critical examination of societal norms.

In contrast, French artists like **Jean Charles Blais**, **Hervé Di Rosa**, **Robert Combas** and **François Boisrond** leading figures in the Figuration Libre movement, used figuration to address issues of identity, politics, and the human condition. Their works also reflect the unique socio-political environment of France, offering a powerful counterpoint to the American perspective and contributing to a rich dialogue on how different cultural contexts shape artistic expressions. Women artists will also be represented, with works by **Catherine Viollet**, **highlighting her vital contribution to the artistic developments of the 80's** and **Niki de Saint Phalle** for her support and the inspiration she provided to this new figurative movement.

Curator Pascale Le Thorel remarked, “The exhibition ‘Transatlantic: Figurations of the 1980s’ presents works by **Jean-Michel Basquiat**, **Jean Charles Blais**, **François Boisrond**, **Roberto Cabot**, **Luciano Castelli**, **Saint Clair Cemin**, **Sandro Chia**, **Robert Combas**, **Hervé Di Rosa**, **Keith Haring**, **Kenny Scharf**, **Tseng Kwong-Chi**, **Catherine Viollet**, and more—artists who were among the most vibrant figures in the new wave of figurative art that spanned both the United States and Europe. This presentation examines the cultural zeitgeist and aesthetic trends of the 1980s and the overlapping pop cultural influences ranging from comics to fashion to punk rock to street culture. Dynamic in medium and narrative tone, the art created during this period left a significant mark in art history”.

Opera Gallery Paris’ exhibition space will be transformed with immersive **scenography by Cécile Degos**, Parisian scenographer known for her ambitious designs and attention to detail. Her vision for this exhibition supports the thematic and formal concerns of the ensemble, allowing the audience to fully engage with the multicultural and interdisciplinary dialogue at the heart of ‘Transatlantic: Figurations in the 80s’.



Catherine Viollet, *Femme à l'épine*, 1983, acrylic on ochre with skai backing, 57.1 x 76.8 in. | 145 x 195 cm, Courtesy of Catherine Viollet/ BDC

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Kenny Scharf, *Travel Time*, 1984, acrylic and spray paint on canvas,
72 x 96 in. | 182,9 x 243,8 cm

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About Opera Gallery

Founded in Singapore in 1994, Opera Gallery has forged, over its 30 years, a network of 16 galleries worldwide including London, Paris, New York, Geneva, Hong Kong, and Seoul, establishing itself as one of the leading global players within the international art market.

Headed by Gilles Dyan, Opera Gallery specialises in post-war French art, Modern and Contemporary European, American, and Asian art. In addition, the gallery represents international emerging artists such as Andy Denzler, Anthony James and Gustavo Nazareno, and more established contemporary artists such as Ron Arad, Manolo Valdés, Jean Charles Blais, Shepard Fairey and Anselm Reyle.

2024 marks Opera Gallery's 30th Anniversary and over the gallery's three decades, Opera Gallery's mission is to showcase the dynamic, innovative, and diverse expressions of modern and contemporary art through its ambitious yearly exhibition programming as well as to bring together institutions that shape the cultural landscape, often supporting private collections and leading public institutions.

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