



**SEEN**  
**POST NO BILLS**

OPERA GALLERY

# FOREWORD

Opera Gallery is proud to present a major solo exhibition of legendary American street artist SEEN. The artist will join the opening night, showcasing new original stencil and spray paint works on canvas, as well as his iconic free-hand graffiti works.

The exhibition features SEEN's newest series of Super-heroes — with the likes of Superman, Batman, Catwoman and Hulk, against bold collages of his graffiti signage. "I grew up with super-heroes and cartoons. All these characters are part of my life; I consider them my friends" SEEN explains.

Hailed as the "Godfather of Graffiti", SEEN was born in 1961 in The Bronx, New York as Richard "Richie" Mirando. Named SEEN "to be seen", the graffiti legend first took to the streets of New York City in 1973, quickly gaining notoriety for his whole train panel-pieces with his crew United Artists (UA). By the early 80's, there were more pieces by SEEN than billboards, having painted all the subway lines running throughout Manhattan. On the thrill of painting trains SEEN commented, "it was about getting in and doing your thing, then getting out before you got caught."

In the late 1980's SEEN moved from the streets to the studio to produce original works on canvas. When the genre of Street Art, which began as a form of subversive public communication, was becoming legitimate, SEEN was at the forefront. Despite the high demand for his canvas works in New York and in Europe, SEEN continued to hit the New York subway trains until 1989 with the crackdown on public vandalism.

Today, SEEN's works can be found in museums, galleries and private collections all over the world, influencing and producing alongside the next generation of daring street artists. In 2013 he also broke numerous auction records, placing his art at the foremost position of today's street art.



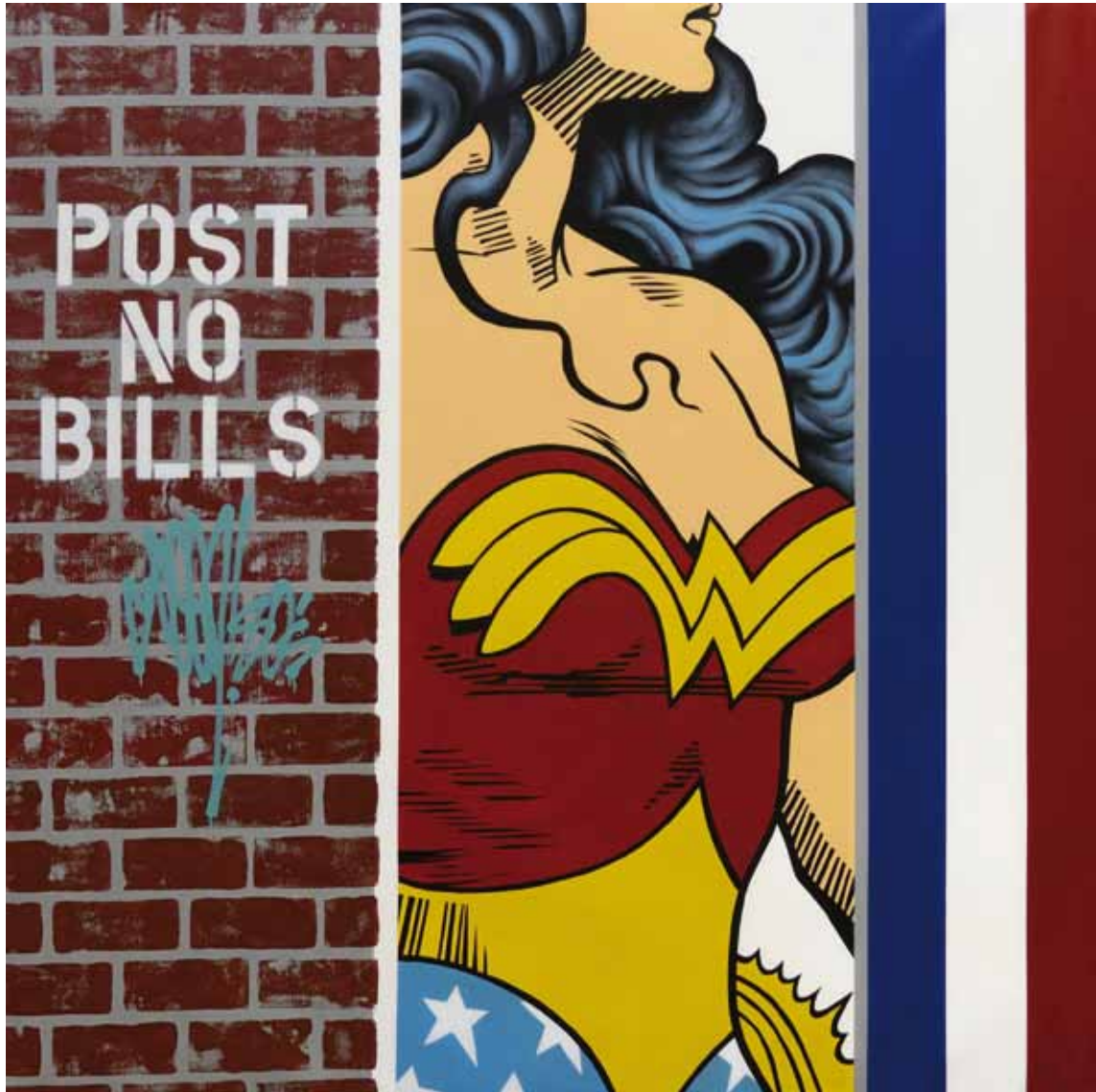
**Dick Tracy, 2013**

Stencil and spray paint on canvas  
110 x 110 cm - 43.3 x 43.3 in.



**Spider-man, 2013**

Stencil and spray paint on canvas  
110 x 110 cm - 43.3 x 43.3 in.



**Wonder Woman post no bills, 2013**

Stencil and spray paint on canvas  
200 x 200 cm - 78.7 x 78.7 in.



**Superman fist, 2013**

Stencil and spray paint on canvas  
200 x 200 cm - 78.7 x 78.7 in.



**Blonde Catwoman, 2013**

Stencil and spray paint on canvas  
200 x 200 cm - 78.7 x 78.7 in.

**Batman, 2013**

Stencil and spray paint on canvas  
200 x 200 cm - 78.7 x 78.7 in.



**Spider-man, 2013**

Stencil and spray paint on canvas  
160 x 110 cm - 63 x 43.3 in.



**Flash, 2013**

Stencil and spray paint on canvas  
160 x 110 cm - 63 x 43.3 in.



**Hulk, 2013**

Stencil and spray paint on canvas  
200 x 280 cm - 78.7 x 110.2 in.



**Wolverine, 2012**

Stencil and spray paint on canvas  
87 x 87 cm - 34.3 x 34.3 in.



**Batman, 2013**

Stencil and spray paint on canvas  
87 x 87 cm - 34.3 x 34.3 in.





**The Mighty Thor, 1989**

Stencil and spray paint on canvas  
230 x 380 cm - 90.5 x 149.6 in.



**Batman, 2013**

Stencil and spray paint on canvas  
106 x 106 cm - 41.7 x 41.7 in.



**Captain America, 2013**

Stencil and spray paint on canvas  
200 x 200 cm - 78.7 x 78.7 in.



**Thor, 2007**

Stencil and spray paint on canvas  
150 x 120 cm - 59.1 x 47.2 in.



**Captain America, 2013**

Stencil and spray paint on canvas  
160 x 110 cm - 63 x 43.3 in.



**Skull black and white, 1990**

Spray paint on canvas  
160 x 130 cm - 63 x 51.2 in.

**Skull, 2009**

Spray paint on canvas  
180 x 80 cm - 70.9 x 31.5 in.





**Asterix, 2007**

Stencil and spray paint on canvas  
142 x 110 cm - 55.9 x 43.3 in.



**Pink Panther, 2013**

Stencil and spray paint on canvas  
110 x 110 cm - 43.3 x 43.3 in.



**Hot Stuff, 2007**

Stencil and spray paint on canvas  
180 x 50 cm - 70.9 x 19.7 in.

**Popeye, 2013**

Stencil and spray paint on canvas  
110 x 110 cm - 43.3 x 43.3 in.





**Joker, 2013**

Stencil and spray paint on canvas  
110 x 110 cm - 43.3 x 43.3 in.



**Joker, 2013**

Stencil and spray paint on canvas  
160 x 110 cm - 63 x 43.3 in.

# BIOGRAPHY

Richard Mirando, known as SEEN, was born in 1961 in The Bronx, New York. Referred to as the "Godfather of Graffiti", SEEN carries the title of being the world's most famous graffiti artist. He is recognized as a leader of the school of Graffiti Art and has become an icon of street art, which was once considered an underground trend but now has become an international art movement.

When SEEN was young, he used to work at his uncle's auto shop next to the train yard, where he watched trains going by everyday. To him, trains were like blank canvases that were begging to be painted. By the age of 12, he had picked up a spray can and created his first mural on Train Number 6.

In 1973, SEEN started to paint on New York's subway. For the next 16 years his pieces were running across the city on all subway lines, especially prominent on lines 2, 5, and 6. He was responsible for hundreds of whole cars from top to bottom, many of which have become iconic images of the time and gained SEEN tremendous reputation. Many of the great subway painters from the late 70's and early 80's have fallen into oblivion, nevertheless several have been quite successful with their creativity since that period and SEEN, among one of the achievers, may have been the greatest and most versatile artist from this generation of subway painters.

But SEEN's impact goes beyond what he has done on trains. He started to paint on canvases in the late 1980s and his works were widely featured in galleries and acquired by museums and collectors around the world. Following a number of successful solo shows, SEEN also exhibited in historic group shows, including the landmark art show "New York/New Wave" in 1981 at the P.S.1, which also featured Andy Warhol, Keith Haring and Jean-Michel Basquiat. He was also prominently featured in the 1983 PBS documentary titled *Style Wars*.

Not only was he among the earliest artists who took their art on to canvases, but also he was a pioneer in the application of Graffiti in fashion. He painted graffiti-inspired designs on clothing,

which soon became a huge success, inspiring a number of followers and soon breeding a trend in NYC. After exploring the graphic possibilities on clothing, SEEN was drawn to the art of tattooing and incorporated his style in creating body art. He quickly began to master the art of tattooing and his tattoo parlor became one of the largest and most popular studios in New York. SEEN once again showed the graffiti world another avenue in which the art form could be explored.

Since couple of years, SEEN went back to his first love: comic's characters and super-heroes, as he used to paint them on the New York trains, years ago. He's now sharing them with us on canvas. You can find his new body of artwork during shows all around the world, with Opera Gallery.



"I always loved cartoons and comic characters and of course super-heroes. They're just part of my childhood, as far as I remember, my mum used to put me in front of the television, in the 60's, to keep me busy and quiet. My first favourite cartoons were all the Hannah-Barberas, where you could meet everybody from Top Cat, Scooby-Doo, George Jetson, The Flintstones, Jonny Quest, etc... I was already fascinated by all those characters as a kid and when I started drawing/painting, I naturally used them as a model."

SEEN



# SOLO EXHIBITIONS

1982, 1983, 1985 : The Yaki Kornblit Gallery, Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
1983 : Stellweg-Seguy Gallery, New York, USA  
1985 : Suntory Company, Tokyo, Japan  
1995 : Clayton Gallery, New York, USA  
2001 : Twenty-Four Gallery, Vancouver, Canada  
2003 : STIP Gallery, Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
Stussy San Francisco Gallery, San Francisco, USA  
2005 : Outside Institute, London, UK  
Prosper Gallery, Tokyo, Japan  
McCaig-Welles Gallery, New York, USA  
2007 : SEEN City, Make Your Mark, Paris, France  
Sign of the Times, Stolen Space Gallery, London, UK  
2009 : Pop-Up Show, Lyon, France  
Pop-Up Show, Stockholm, Sweden  
2010 : Please Enjoy, Magda Danysz Gallery, Paris, France  
2011 : SEEN Rétrospective, Opera Gallery, Paris, France  
2013 : SEEN, Opera Gallery, Geneva, Switzerland

# GROUP EXHIBITIONS

1981 : New York / New Wave, P.S.1., New York, USA  
1984 : Graffiti, Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebæk, Denmark  
1991 : Graffiti Art, Musée National des Monuments Français, Paris, France  
2007 : That 70's show, Power House Arena, New York, USA  
2009 : TAG, Grand Palais, Paris, France  
Nés dans la rue, Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, Paris, France  
2010 : Playboy Redux, Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh, USA  
2011 : Graffcity, Opera Gallery, Paris, France  
Pop Street, Opera Gallery, Hong Kong  
Street Art Show, Opera Gallery, London, UK  
This is not graffiti, Opera Gallery, Seoul, Korea  
New Wave, Opera Gallery, Singapore  
2012 : The Street Art Show, Opera Gallery, Dubai  
Graff the Peace, Opera Gallery, Paris, France  
Urban Masters, Opera Gallery, London, UK



**Wonder Woman, 2013**

Stencil and spray paint on canvas  
200 x 200 cm - 78.7 x 78.7 in.



# OPERA GALLERY

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