

# DAVID KLEIN GALLERY

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DAVID KLEIN GALLERY PRESENTS:

*KENNY SCHARF*

September 6 – October 27, 2018



KENNY SCHARF, *HANDY ANDY* – 2008, OIL ON LINEN, 60 X 72 INCHES

David Klein Gallery, 1520 Washington Boulevard, Detroit, Michigan, is pleased to announce the opening of *Kenny Scharf*, an exhibition of paintings from 1999 – 2018. This is Scharf's first exhibition in Detroit. A reception for the artist will take place on Thursday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30 to 8:30 PM.

Kenny Scharf is widely known for his pop culture murals, paintings, sculpture, and installations. Scharf considers himself a "Pop Surrealist". As Scharf states: *The images come from the unconscious except that my unconscious is filled with Pop imagery. My unconscious is Pop, so therefore, the art would be Pop Surrealist.*

In the early 1980's, Scharf was a prominent member of the East Village art scene along with his friends and contemporaries Jean-Michel Basquiat and Keith Haring. Scharf participated in many significant exhibitions in New York at that time including the *Times Square Show*, *Club 57* at Club 57, the *Open Studio Show* at P.S.1 and the 1985 Whitney Biennial. Most recently, Scharf was included in *Club 57: Film, Performance and Art in the East Village, 1978-1983* at the Museum of Modern Art and *Fast Forward: Paintings from the 1980's* at the Whitney Museum of American Art, both in New York, NY. His murals can be found in multiple cities in the U.S. and abroad, including Los Angeles, CA; New York, NY; Wynwood, FL; Careyes, Mexico; Paris, France; Sao Paulo, Brazil; and Malaga, Spain.



KENNY SCHARF, BEAR JUNGLE – 2010, OIL,  
ACRYLIC, AND SPRAY PAINT ON CANVAS, 96 X 120 INCHES

Scharf's Detroit exhibition will feature a number of seminal works including *Handy Andy*, 2008, *Bearjungle*, 2010, and *Probz*, 2018. As a child growing up in 1950s and 60s, Scharf was intrigued and inspired by popular TV culture, especially the saturated color and imagery of daytime cartoons like *The Jetsons* and *The Flintstones*. These characters and the wildly imaginative landscapes they inhabit have had a profound influence on Scharf's work. The cartoons' playfulness and sunny optimism continue to provide a foundation for his best work.

Scharf's work is in numerous public and private collections including the Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY; Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, CA; Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA; Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego, CA; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA; Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, the Netherlands; the Sogetsu Museum, Tokyo, Japan and the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY.

Kenny Scharf lives and works in Los Angeles.

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