

Ross + Kramer is pleased to present *More psychology!*, a group exhibition honoring the enduring legacy and influence of Peter Saul on contemporary painters. The exhibition includes works by Ryan Travis Christian, Robert Colescott, George Condo, Nicasio Fernandez, Erik Parker, Walter Price, Peter Saul, and Allison Zuckerman.

In the 1966 Saul wrote to his dealer, Allan Frumkin:

Every kind of painting is debated nowadays, bare canvases, cubism, figures pop, etc., but there is one kind of painting that is a sort of lyrical expressionism, where the aim seems to be to please the imaginary spectator, and there the psychology is very "disturbed"--seemingly out of control & naive and the surface is popping eyeballs & hysterical faces amidst a blazing sunset--this kind of work is occasionally seen in Italian restaurants--this kind of work is not discussed, does not travel, is made in the neighborhood, for the neighborhood--that's my project: and my first effort...In other words, look at it with interest, hang it if it's in my best interests, and suspend your judgment of my current work.

Saul's description of this new work he was making reads almost prophetically of the types of contemporary painting, particularly figurative paintings, made today. He developed his signature painting style in the mid-1960s in San Francisco. Often referred to as "bad painting", his work formed an irreverent counterposition to the predominant "good painting" of the time. In his letters to Frumkin, he called for "more psychology", invoking the need for a new kind of figurative painting that could respond to the chaotic nature of the times. As opposed to traditional portraiture, Saul imbued his figures with cartoonishly heightened emotions. Once an artist that existed on the periphery, Saul is now a central figure in conversations around figuration and narrative in contemporary painting.

Saul's style has influenced at least two generations of painters that have come after him. Some of these artists have been influenced directly, having studied or worked with him, as in the case of Erik Parker. Others have been influenced by Saul's style more indirectly, making work that simply shares an affinity with his visually bold aesthetic sensibilities. This exhibition asserts that Saul's influence has been far reaching and fundamental in establishing today's painterly vernacular.

The exhibition is anchored by Saul's 1966 painting *Golden Gate*, the artist's rendering of the landmark bridge that links San Francisco to Marin County, here represented with thick dollar signs, and a horrific veiny figure linking the two sides. A traditional ranch house on the Marin side sits next to a modernist home, while the San Francisco side consists purely of abstract interlocking forms. Above it all floats a crowned, crucified sperm-like figure. Shocking and grotesque, this work is emblematic of those from Saul's early career, and a bellwether of what was to come. The exhibition also includes a more contemporary portrait, *The Listener*. Together, these works serve to illustrate the two nodes of Saul's particular style.

Saul was defiantly uncategorizable, democratically blending influences from Pop Art, Surrealism, Abstract Expressionism, San Francisco Funk, and cartoon culture, acknowledging no distinction between high and low brow. In the intervening years, his work has become known for its humor and social critique. Gonzo portraiture, grotesquerie, and energetic compositions teeming with figures and narrative chaos are Saul's calling cards.

Ryan Travis Christian

Ryan Travis Christian (b. 1983, Oakland, CA) lives and works in Chicago, IL. He received his BFA from Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, IL. Ryan Travis Christian's work has been featured in a number of solo exhibitions at galleries, as well as museums, including the Contemporary Art Museum in Raleigh, NC, USA; The Hole, NY, USA; Guerrero Gallery, San Francisco, CA, USA; Halsey McKay, East Hampton, NY, USA; and Cooper Cole, Toronto, Canada.

Christian's work has been included in group exhibitions in London, Rotterdam, San Francisco, Philadelphia, Hong Kong, New York, Baltimore, Dallas and Los Angeles. His work has been noted by outlets such as Frieze, Art Ltd, Art Papers, New American Paintings, Daily Serving, Indy week and the Associated Press. Christian's work is included in collections internationally, including the Artist Book Collection, SFMOMA, San Francisco, CA; Artist Book Collection, Berkeley Art Museum, Berkeley, CA; Illinois State Museum, Springfield, IL; Jager Collection, Amsterdam, NL; McHenry County College, Crystal Lake, IL; SoHo House Chicago, Chicago, IL; and Coleccion Solo, Madrid, ES.

Robert Colescott

Robert Colescott (b. 1925, Oakland, CA – d. 2009) earned his BA from the University of California at Berkeley in 1949, he then went on to study with Atelier Fernand Léger in Paris for a year, and subsequently returned to Berkeley, earning his MA in 1952. Following his studies, Colescott served as a professor at a number of colleges and universities, including Portland State University, American University of Cairo in Egypt, Cal State, Stanislaus, UC Berkeley, the San Francisco Art Institute, and the University of Arizona.

In 1997, Colescott was the first African American painter to have a solo exhibit at the Venice Biennale in Italy, which embarked on a three-year museum tour, including exhibits at the Walker Art Center; Queens Museum of Art; University of Arizona Museum of Art; Portland Art Museum; University of California Berkeley Art Museum; Sheldon Museum of Art; Contemporary Arts Center, New Orleans; and the Honolulu Museum of Art Spalding House. Colescott's work is in many major public collections, including those of the Museum of Modern Art in New York; Corcoran Gallery of Art; the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden; the Baltimore Museum of Art; the Metropolitan Museum of Art; the Seattle Art Museum; the Studio Museum in Harlem; and the Oakland Museum.

George Condo

George Condo (b. 1957, Concord, New Hampshire) lives and works in New York City. Since his first solo show in 1983 at the Ulrike Cantor Gallery in Los Angeles, Condo's work has seen a number of solo exhibitions. In 2017, a retrospective of Condo's works on paper, 'The Way I Think,' traveled internationally from The Phillips Collection, Washington DC to the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebæk, Denmark. In a large-scale exhibition one year prior, 'Confrontation' at the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin — Museum Berggruen in Berlin, Germany, Condo's work was presented alongside some of his major art historical reference points including pieces by Cézanne, Picasso, Matisse, Klee, and Giacometti.

Nicasio Fernandez

Nicasio Fernandez (b. 1993, Yonkers, NY) lives and works in Mahopac, New York. Fernandez received a BFA from the School of Visual Arts in 2015. His work has since been the subject of solo exhibitions at several galleries, including Ross + Kramer Gallery, East Hampton, NY; Over the Influence, Los Angeles, CA; Harper's Apartment, New York, NY; and Kustera Projects, Brooklyn, NY; and in 2021, Fernandez curated an exhibition at Harper's, East Hampton entitled "Potent".

His work has been featured internationally, with group exhibitions in New York, California, Hong Kong, London, and South Korea. Fernandez's work can be found in the Hall Art Foundation Collection, as well as the Beth Rudin DeWoody Collection.

Erik Parker

Erik Parker (b. 1968, Stuttgart, Germany) lives and works in New York City. Parker attended the University of Texas at Austin, studying with Peter Saul, before receiving an MFA from Purchase College of the State University of New York in 1998.

Parker's work has been featured in exhibitions in New York, Tokyo, Paris, Los Angeles, Copenhagen, and most recently, Hong Kong, for a solo exhibition in 2021 at Over The Influence, entitled "New Solitude." His work can be found in the collections of the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Brooklyn Museum, the Museum of Modern Art, the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, the Yale University Art Gallery, the RISD Museum, and the Hammer Museum. He has an upcoming mid-career retrospective at CAC Málaga in June 2022.

Walter Price

Walter Price (b. 1989, Macon, GA) lives and works in Brooklyn, New York. Price served in the United States Navy before receiving a BA from the Art Institute of Washington in Arlington, Virginia. Recent solo exhibitions include Camden Art Centre, London, UK; Green Naftali, New York, NY; Aspen Art Museum, Aspen, CO; MoMa PS1, New York, NY; Kölnischer Kunstverein, Cologne, DE; The Modern Institute, Glasgow, SCT; and LUMA Foundation, Zurich, CH. His work was also included in the 2019 Whitney Biennial.

Price's work can be found in the collections of the Aishti Foundation, Lebanon; Astrup Fearnley Museet, Oslo; Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; Fondation Louis Vuitton, Paris; Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Turin; Hessel Museum of Art, Annandale-on-Hudson, New York; Museum of Modern Art, New York; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; and the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, among others.

Allison Zuckerman

Allison Zuckerman (b. 1990, Harrisburg, PA) lives and works in New York City. Zuckerman studied at the Yale Norfolk Summer School of Art and went on to receive a BA from the University of Pennsylvania, as well as an MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Zuckerman has been the subject of solo exhibitions at Stems Gallery, in both Brussels, Belgium and Milan, Italy; Kravets Wehby Gallery, New York, NY; Herzliya Museum of Contemporary Art in Israel; Akron Art Museum in Ohio; and the Rubell Family Collection in Miami, FL. In 2017, she completed a residency at the Rubell Museum in Miami, FL. Additionally, Zuckerman has collaborated on projects with Tods, Charli XCX, Louis Vuitton, and Moschino.