

GLADSTONE

The Estate of Pope.L Joins Gladstone

Gladstone announces representation of the Estate of Pope.L, the artist and educator whose multidisciplinary practice spanned writing, painting, drawing, sculpture, and installation, with language and public performance at its core. Pope.L will be the subject of a comprehensive survey of works on paper at The Drawing Center in New York this June. A solo exhibition at Gladstone is planned for 2027 in New York, reflecting the gallery's mission to champion significant historical artists who have helped define the field of contemporary art. Gladstone represents the Estate of Pope.L in collaboration with Modern Art, London, and Vielmetter, Los Angeles.

Pope.L illuminated and destabilized embedded systems and power structures within art and society, using binaries and voids to probe the complexities of race, gender, and class through the lens of personal experience and existential observation. Renowned for his strenuous, provocative, and absurdist performances and interventions, the artist was independent, insightful, humorous, and confrontational in his approach to artmaking.

"I am a fisherman of social absurdity, if you will. My focus is to poeticize disenfranchisement, to make it neut, to reinvent what's beneath us, to remind us where we all come from." —Pope.L

"Pope.L defied boundaries with his innovations across visual, performance, and conceptual art," said Max Falkenstein, Gladstone's Senior Partner. "His work left a profound mark on culture at large, shaping and inspiring a wide community of artists working today. We are proud to represent his legacy and ensure that his impact continues to be recognized and celebrated."

"Pope.L was a ground-breaking visionary artist in his lifetime, and since his untimely death, his vast impact and influence have come into higher relief and only continue to grow. We feel so privileged at Gladstone to be a part of continuing his legacy," says Director Julian Ehrlich.

About Pope.L

Pope.L (b. 1955, Newark, NJ; d. 2023, Chicago, IL) began creating works in the 1970s that were inspired by personal travail, reading philosophy, and performance and theatre training with Geoffrey Hendricks and Mabou Mines. His first performances occurred on the street, and later at major and historic venues, such as Anthology Film Archives, Franklin Furnace, Just Above Midtown, Museum of Modern Art, New Museum, Performa, The Sculpture Center, and the 2002 Whitney Biennial in New York; MIT and Mobius in Boston; MOCA Los Angeles; Shinjuku Station in Tokyo; Diverse Works in Houston; Cleveland Institute of Art in Ohio; Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art in Gateshead Quays, UK; Prospect.2 in New Orleans; Walker Art Center in Minneapolis; Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago; and CAM Houston, among

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others. Some of his major performances include *The Escape* (2018); *Whispering Campaign* (2017); *Baile* (2016); *The Problem* (2016); *Pull* (2013); *The Black Factory national tour* (2002–2009); *The Great White Way* (2001–2002); *Community Crawls* (2000–2005); *Eating the Wall Street Journal* (2000); *Roach Motel Black a.k.a. Black Domestic* (1994); *How Much is that Nigger in the Window* (1990–1992); *Times Square Crawl* (1978); and *Thunderbird Immolation* (1978).

Pope.L's work has been the subject of important solo and group shows throughout the span of his nearly 50-year career. Especially in the final years of his life, he received broad recognition, with major exhibitions at institutions including the South London Gallery (2023–24), Schinkel Pavillon, Berlin (2022), the Museum of Modern Art (2019), and the Whitney Museum of American Art (2019). Other recent exhibitions, performances, and projects include *Impossible Failures* at 52 Walker, New York (2023); *The Ritual Is For All of us* at Vielmetter Los Angeles (2022); *Ghostscript*, at Modern Art, London (2022); *Misconceptions* at Portikus, Frankfurt (2021); *Notation, Holes and Humour* at Modern Art (2021); *Four Panels* at Mitchell-Innes & Nash, New York (2021); *My Kingdom for a Title* at The Neubauer Collegium (2021); *Singles* at Regards, Chicago (2020); *One thing after another*, La Panacée (2018); *Flint Water Project* at What Pipeline, Detroit (2017); *Whispering Campaign* at documenta 14, Athens and Kassel (2017); *Claim (Whitney Version)* at the Whitney Biennial (2017); *PLAMA (The Spot)*, a commercial commissioned for *On the Tip of the Tongue* at Museum of Modern Art Warsaw (2016); *Baile* at the 32nd Biennial de São Paulo (2016); *The Freedom Principle* at ICA Philadelphia (2016) and MCA Chicago (2015); *The Public Body* at Artspace, Sydney (2016); *Less than One* at Walker Art Center, Minneapolis (2016); *Trinket* at The Geffen Contemporary, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (2015); *Black Pulp!* at Yale School of Art, New Haven and IPCNY in New York (2016); *Radical Presence: Black Performance in Contemporary Art* at Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, CAM Houston, and Studio Museum in New York (2014); *Claim* at Littman Gallery, Portland State University, Portland, OR (2014); *Cage Unrequited* at Performa, New York (2013); *Forlesen* at The Renaissance Society, University of Chicago, Chicago (2013); and *A Long White Cloud*, Te Tuhi, Auckland, New Zealand (2013).

Pope.L studied at Pratt Institute and later received his BA from Montclair State College in 1978. He also attended the Independent Study Program at the Whitney Museum of American Art before earning his MFA from Rutgers University in 1981. He received numerous awards and fellowships, including the Bucksbaum Award, Joyce Foundation Award, the Tiffany Foundation Award, the United States Artists Rockefeller Fellowship, the Bellagio Center Residency, Solomon R. Guggenheim Fellowship, Andy Warhol Foundation grant, Creative Capital Foundation grant, Franklin Furnace/Jerome Foundation grant, National Endowment for the Arts fellowship, Artists Space grant, and more.

About Gladstone Gallery

Gladstone is known for its commitment to artists whose prescient approaches and experimental practices have defined the contours of contemporary art. The gallery has

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long been an active partner in the cultivation of iconoclastic careers, fostering a roster of artists recognized for their ground-breaking contributions. Headquartered in New York and including outposts in both Brussels and Seoul, Gladstone's impact extends globally, enabling both the presentation of new bodies of work, and an amplification of the international reach of its artists. Alongside its work with contemporary artists, the gallery is steward to the legacies of pivotal historical artists and serves as an advocate for the enduring power of art. Gladstone is led by a team of partners who spearhead its long-term vision and program, building on the values of its founder Barbara Gladstone.

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