

PRESS RELEASE

Beaumont Street
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21 January 2015, for immediate release:

ED PASCHKE: VISIONARY FROM CHICAGO, 1968–2004

17 January–5 July 2015



Ed Paschke (1939–2004)
Mannish Boy, 1970
© Ed Paschke

ED PASCHKE: VISIONARY FROM CHICAGO, 1968–2004 is the third in the Ashmolean's series of exhibitions of post-war and contemporary art presented in collaboration with the Hall Art Foundation (USA). The exhibition includes an important early work borrowed from the Ed Paschke Foundation, along with four paintings lent by the artist Jeff Koons. Koons, who studied with Paschke and was hired as Paschke's studio assistant in 1974, has contributed an interview with exhibition curator, Sir Norman Rosenthal, to the exhibition catalogue.

Part of a group of artists known as the Chicago Imagists who emerged in the 1960s, Paschke (1939–2004) was strongly influenced by media imagery and popular culture – newspapers, magazines, advertisements, film and television. In works like *Hilda* (1973) and *Mannish Boy* (1970), his brilliantly coloured, provocative and surreal paintings of circus freaks, tattooed ladies, transvestites, wrestlers and hairy wingtip shoes, explore the underbelly of urban life and a dark side of Pop Art. While Paschke's later works such as *Voulez-Vous Danser? (Would You Like to Dance?)* (1989) depict cultural icons like the Mona Lisa, his layered, mask-like abstraction of the face, use of electronic colours and neon-bright static lines, differs drastically from the treatment of similar subjects by his New York contemporaries,

Andy Warhol, James Rosenquist and Robert Rauschenberg.

Born in Chicago, Edward F. Paschke studied painting at the School of the Art Institute in Chicago, where he received his BFA in 1961 and MFA in 1970. From 1978 until the year of his death, he was Professor of Art and Art History at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. His work is included in numerous public collections worldwide including the Art Institute of Chicago; the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; and Museum Moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig, Vienna. Major exhibitions include *Ed Paschke: Selected Works 1967–1981*, held at the Renaissance Society at the University of Chicago, which traveled to the Contemporary Art Museum, Houston (1982); *Ed Paschke Retrospective* organized by The Art Institute of Chicago, Illinois, which traveled to the Musée National d'Art Moderne, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, and the Dallas Museum of Art, Texas (1989–1990); and *Ed Paschke: Chicago Icon. A Retrospective*, held at the Chicago History Museum, Illinois (2006–2007). Paschke lived and worked in Chicago until his death in 2004.

Sir Norman Rosenthal, Curator of the exhibition, says: 'Chicago and the American Midwest have an extraordinary and very different visual art culture that established itself after the positive reception there of surrealism and the work of artists such as Dalí, Magritte, Delvaux and Matta. Unlike the New York City and Los Angeles art scenes, this world is little known in Great Britain. Ed Paschke is one of Chicago's most significant artists, and this exhibition, the first of Paschke's work in the United Kingdom, should come as a revelation.'

Exhibition: ED PASCHKE: VISIONARY FROM CHICAGO, 1968–2004
Dates: 17 January–5 July 2015
Venue: Gallery 2
Admission: Free
Press previews: To arrange a press preview please contact the Ashmolean Press Office

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HALL

ART FOUNDATION

The exhibition is organized by the Hall Art Foundation in collaboration with the Ashmolean Museum, University of Oxford.

Ashmolean Museum

Founded in 1683, the Ashmolean Museum is the most significant museum of art and archaeology in the heart of Britain and the finest university museum in the world. Its collections are large, rich and unusually diverse, ranging from archaeology to fine and decorative arts, and from numismatics to casts of classical sculpture from the great museums of Europe. The Ashmolean is home to the best collection of Predynastic Egyptian material in Europe; the only great collection of Minoan antiquities outside Greece; the largest and most important group of Raphael drawings in the world; the greatest Anglo-Saxon collections outside the British Museum; a world-renowned collection of coins and medals; and outstanding holdings of Indian, Chinese, Japanese and Islamic art. The works and objects in these remarkable collections tell the story of civilisation and the aspirations of mankind from Nineveh and ancient Egypt, to the Renaissance, right up to the triumphs of twentieth century Europe. Admission to the Museum is free.