

VENUS MANHATTAN

Peter Saul: From Pop to Punk

February 25 - April 25, 2015

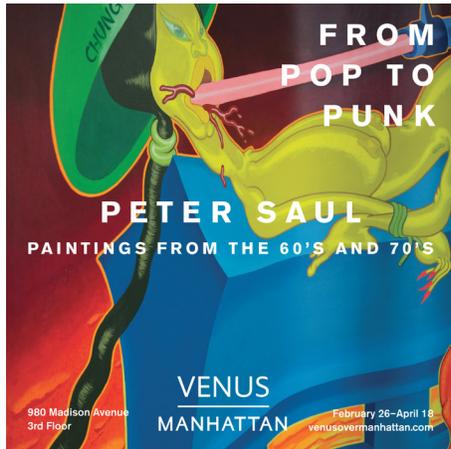
Opening: Wednesday, February 25th, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Venus Over Manhattan

980 Madison Avenue

New York, NY 10075

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:



(New York, NY) – Venus Over Manhattan is pleased to present **From Pop to Punk**, paintings from the 1960s and 1970s by renowned painter **Peter Saul**, on view at 980 Madison beginning February 25, 2015.

Saul's politically charged, and often politically incorrect, paintings are rooted in a system of removal from the artist's beliefs, void of morals and ambivalent in their politics. Saul sources imagery from popular culture and current and historical events for his cartoonish and surreal depictions. The resulting paintings of the grotesque are more akin to social commentary than clear political statements.

Born in San Francisco in 1934, Saul settled in Paris in the late 1950s after completing his studies at California School of Fine Arts and Washington University, St. Louis. Saul is often associated with the Chicago Imagists, a group of artists typically defined by their Post-War tradition of fantasy-based art-making rooted in surrealism, pop culture, and the grotesque, as well as the Funk Artists of the San Francisco Bay Area. Like the Imagists and Funk Artists, Saul chose to work outside of the confines of the New York art scene, instead embracing humor in a time of stark seriousness.

Predating Pop Art, Saul's *Sex Boat* (1961) is expressionist and loosely rendered, depicting banal everyday objects as a direct response to the existentialist beliefs of Abstract Expressionism. Saul's paintings from the late 1960s and early 1970s, on the other hand, are more vibrantly colored, technically refined and illustrative. An exhibition highlight, *Crucifixion of Angela Davis*, 1973, depicts Davis as a green, contorted, monstrous figure strung about a wooden cross, stabbed with knives that read "JEEZ US," "JEEZ IS," and "JEE SIS". A prominent counterculture leader of the 1960s associated with both human rights and violent activism, Davis remains a controversial political figure. These are the images that Saul is drawn to – "pictures with problems."

ABOUT PETER SAUL

Peter Saul has exhibited his work internationally and throughout the United States. Saul's work appears in numerous museum collections, including the Art Institute of Chicago; the Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh; Centre Pompidou, Paris; Los Angeles County Museum of Art; Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Museum Ludwig, Cologne; Museum of Modern Art, New York; and Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam. Peter Saul lives and works in New York.

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VENUS OVER MANHATTAN was founded by Adam Lindemann in 2012 as a curatorial platform for exhibitions and projects that expand upon the conventional gallery format through collaborations with artists, gallerists, collectors, curators, and institutions. The gallery is located at 980 Madison Avenue, between 76th and 77th Streets, on the 3rd floor, and is open to the public Tuesday through Saturday, from 10:00 am - 6:00 pm.

For further information about the exhibition and availability, please contact the gallery at info@venusovermanhattan.com

For all press inquiries related to the exhibition, please contact Nadine Johnson & Associates by e-mail at adam@nadinejohnson.com, and lindsey@nadinejohnson.com