

JACK RUTBERG FINE ARTS

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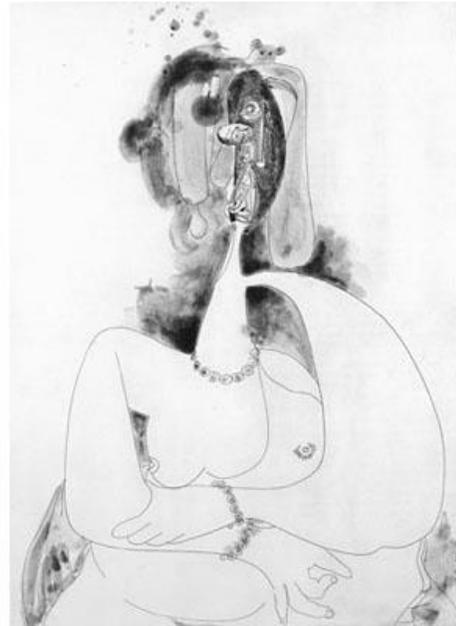
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June 18 - September 3, 2011

GEORGE CONDO: a collection of etchings

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SUMMER GROUP EXHIBITION:
paintings, prints, drawings, & sculpture



George Condo is among the most influential and provocative contemporary American artists on the international scene today.

This rare view of Condo's works in Los Angeles reveals an intimate - and for many - a surprising aspect of Condo's work, displaying a more distilled aesthetic, rooted through great draftsmanship and line. Condo is typically known for bold paintings so brash as to be referred to as Gonzo Artificial Realism. "Artificial Realism" is the term the artist uses to describe his works, which by turns are meditative, wry, irreverent and fantastical, reflecting Condo's now-iconic surrealistic mash-up of old and modern masters.

In this exhibition, Condo merges, through a series of works entitled "More Sketches of Spain - for Miles Davis," his admiration of Spanish masters along with his profound admiration for the music of Miles Davis, whose own jazz masterpiece album recording was entitled "Sketches of Spain." In these works from 1991 - large-scale sheets and smaller works on paper executed in etching and aquatint - Condo employs an eloquent Picasso-like line with masterful draftsmanship and bravura, giving sly references to Picasso, Dali, Velázquez, etc. Miles Davis has also long been a source of inspiration in Condo's works. One such example is Condo's major painting in the Eli Broad collection entitled "Dancing to Miles" exhibited at the 1987 Whitney Biennial.

Also included here is an important early painting on canvas that was part of Condo's first solo exhibition, which was presented in Los Angeles from 1983, at the Ulrike Kantor Gallery and followed in quick succession by two shows in New York City that year, which catapulted Condo's career on the national scene.

Born in 1957, George Condo had early associations with other avant-garde artists of the eighties, such as Andy Warhol, Keith Haring and Jean-Michel Basquiat, as well as many of the avant-garde artists in Europe. His engagements with literary figures such as Allen Ginsberg are notable, as well as his collaborations with writers William Burroughs and David Means. Condo's continued interest in music is underscored in varied ways, and took a provocative turn when he collaborated with rap star Kanye West, who commissioned Condo to create his "banned" cover for the recent chart-topping album "My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy".

His impact on popular culture has even extended to the realms of the world of fashion, as designer Adam Kimmel sourced Condo's life and artwork as inspiration for his fall/winter 2010 menswear collection. Condo's impact upon artists of the last decade is particularly profound, as evidenced by his being the major influence of such significant contemporary painters as John Currin, Cecily Brown, Lisa Yuskavage, etc.

"George Condo: a collection of etchings" follows the recent retrospective exhibition, George Condo - Mental States at New York's New Museum, labeled "sensational" by The New York Times art critic Holland Cotter. That major exhibition, organized by the Hayward Gallery, will travel to Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam (June 25–September 25, 2011); Hayward Gallery, London (October 18, 2011–January 15, 2012); and Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt (February 23–May 28, 2012).

In recent months, Condo has been featured in Art in America, Artnews, Art Forum, Los Angeles Times, New York Times, Washington Post, New Yorker Magazine, Wall Street Journal - virtually every major international art publication and news journal.

Jack Rutberg Fine Arts proudly presents "George Condo: a collection of etchings" through September 3, in conjunction with a revolving large group exhibition of modern and contemporary paintings, drawings, prints and sculpture.

Images available for press purposes.