

76 GRAND STREET NEW YORK NY 10013



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MEET THE ARTISTS: COLLABORATIVE WORKS BY JAKE, PAUL, GEORGE AND DINOS

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76 GRAND STREET

Deitch Projects presents an extraordinary collaborative project with Jake and Dinos Chapman, George Condo and Paul McCarthy. The four artists were invited by RS&A of London to collaborate on the creation of eight paintings and a set of etchings over a period of one year.

The project commenced in March 2006 when four large-scale canvasses, four small-scale canvasses and four etching plates were delivered to each artist's studios – two in London, one in Los Angeles and one in New York. The artists then had one month to paint before their paintings and etching plate were collected and rotated to the next artist in a prearranged sequence. Each canvas and etching plate rotated in total four times. This allowed each participating artist to be both first, second, third and fourth in the sequential makeup of a single painting and etching plate.

The ideal of collaborative creativity is at the heart of the creative experience. In the 1920s the Surrealists played the game *Exquisite Corpse* in which a number of artists came together to create a single work of art. In the 1960s Fluxus artists George Maciunas and Ben Vautier collaborated on the production of *Flux Cabinets*, a single body containing multiple works of art while in the 1980s Andy Warhol, Francesco Clemente and Jean Michel Basquiat joined forces to create 'physical conversations in paint', single canvasses on which all three artists painted together. More recently Los Angeles based artist Paul McCarthy has worked closely with fellow artists Mike Kelley and the late Jason Rhoades.

***Meet The Artists* is a unique project as the artists are engaged in a collaborative exercise that is executed in the solitary environment of their own studios.**

Art is never created in a vacuum but rather produced in response to a prior history as well as other social and cultural concerns. *Meet The Artists* is therefore a celebration of art as discovered through a collaborative and collective consciousness. It represents an experiment not only into the ego of the artist but also their capacity

to work *with* or *against* each other. For some the opportunity to paint over the work of their predecessor has allowed them to dictate the final outcome of the work. But just as they are the last link in a painting chain of four artists they are also the first link and so subject to the same level of interference. In contrast, the opportunity to work *with* another artist has provided a catalyst for new creative insights.

As an image to represent the project for its London launch the artist's came up with the idea to reference the famous second album cover of The Beatles – 'With the Beatles' from 1963, (Released as 'Meet the Beatles' in the United States and hence the renaming of the show at Deitch Projects). All four artists appear in black polo necks and are photographed in dramatic lighting in the same style as the original iconic Beatles image. The names of the original fab four have also been changed to the first names of the artists and so reads: 'Jake, Paul, George and Dinos' – a play on the common way of naming the Beatles members.

RS&A Ltd is a London based company who specialise in the commissioning of experimental and innovative artist projects. In 2003 the company was responsible for the production of The Art of Chess, an on-going project that invites leading artists to rethink and reform the traditional game of chess. *Meet The Artists* was first shown by RS&A under the title *With The Artists* in London last October.

Deitch Projects presented a solo exhibition with George Condo in 1999 and presented Paul McCarthy's famous sculpture, The Garden, in conjunction with his New Museum retrospective exhibition in 2001.

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