

APRIL 19–25, 2007
ISSUE 603 \$2.99
TIMEOUTNEWYORK.COM

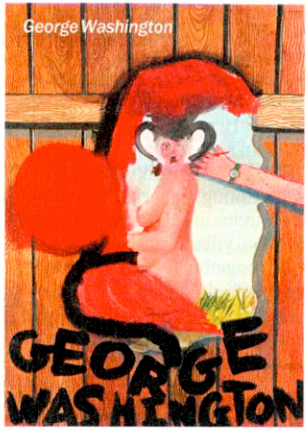
Art

Reviews

“Meet the Artists”

★★★★★
Deitch Projects, through Apr 28 (see Soho)

Art



The text on the moody group portrait advertising “Meet the Artists”—a joint project of Jake and Dinos Chapman, George Condo and Paul McCarthy—reads **FIRST COLLABORATION BY THE PHENOMENAL POP COMBO**. But the works here, created in a round-robin rotation from studio to studio, are less Beatlemania than *Never Mind the Bollocks*. Cacophony and joyful dissonance rule.

Each artist started with eight blank canvases and four etching plates; when he had made his mark, the works were photographed, then shipped to the next collaborator, and so on. Twelve of these works are now on view at Deitch Projects.

George Washington began with George Condo, whose rendition of a neckless vampire head on a zaftig body can still be seen smiling out from the finished product. Dinos Chapman framed the image as a pin up tacked to a wood fence; his brother Jake added a stubby cartoon arm, reaching in to tickle her with a paintbrush, and Paul McCarthy, seemingly grossed out by all the teamwork, trashed the preceding trompe l’oeil effects with a pair of huge, messy jug-ears and graffiti.

More remarkable than the result is the arm wrestling—the power struggles—by which they were created. The show is improved many times over by several unframed photographs hung informally by the door that track the pieces through their evolution (or is it devolution?). The series reads like a progressive “What’s Wrong with This Picture?,” though in this case the transformations they record are so wrong they’re right.—*Sophie Fels*