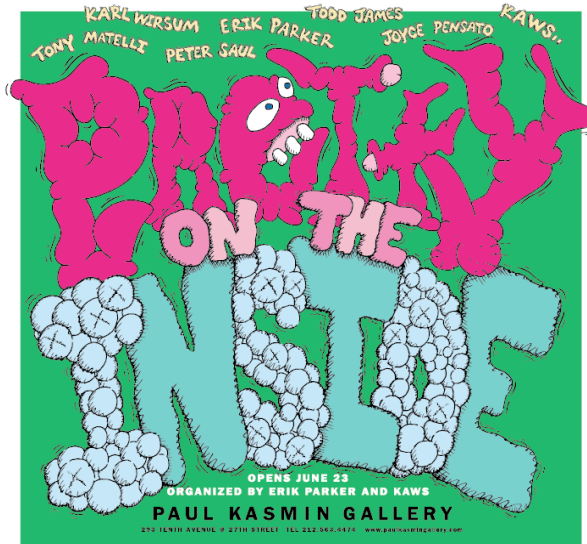


# PAUL KASMIN GALLERY



## *Pretty on the Inside*

**Todd James, KAWS, Tony Matelli, Erik Parker, Joyce Pensato, Peter Saul, and Karl Wirsum**

**June 23–August 19, 2011**

**Private View: June 23, 6-8pm**

Paul Kasmin Gallery presents the exhibition *Pretty on the Inside*, organized by Erik Parker and KAWS. This is the first time that the two artists have collaborated to organize an exhibition. *Pretty on the Inside* includes works in a range of media by seven American artists: Todd James, KAWS, Tony Matelli, Erik Parker, Joyce Pensato, Peter Saul, and Karl Wirsum. At first glance, these artworks challenge the viewer through their visual intensity, but upon closer inspection, they reveal an inner beauty. Many of the artists included make ironic or subversive works, hijacking the language of cartoons and comics to both celebrate and criticize contemporary culture.

Todd James (b. 1969) makes large-scale installations, drawings, animated videos, and gouache paintings that appropriate the style of Saturday morning cartoons to make social and political commentary. KAWS (b. 1974) draws from the traditions of Pop art and Geometric Abstraction, while revitalizing the figure by altering and recombining animated forms and features to create new hybrid images.

Tony Matelli (b. 1971), known for his elaborately rendered sculptures, contributes *Double Meat Head* (2008)—a compelling self-caricature rendered from various cuts of meat. In its various stages of decomposition, the sculpture is a rumination on death, decay, and rebirth. Erik Parker's (b. 1968) figurative paintings feature eye-popping colors and psychedelic designs, yet take their inspiration from Francis Bacon, Vincent Van Gogh, and Pablo Picasso. The exhibition will represent the New York premier of Parker's new high-octane take on the still life genre. Joyce Pensato's (b. 1941) expressionistic black and white canvases and charcoal drawings of bug-eyed iconic characters are the anti-Disney, where her sources are transformed into psychologically charged compositions through barrages of action painting.

Peter Saul (b. 1934) and Karl Wirsum (b. 1939) first rose to prominence in the 1960s. Saul's provocative paintings mix acid color and images of exaggerated violence and sexuality to tackle taboo topics and provide sharp-witted cultural critiques. Wirsum, an original member of Chicago's surrealist art group the Hairy Who, makes brightly hued paintings and sculptures of original characters, partially inspired by Peruvian and Mezzo-American art.

For more information, please contact Hayden Dunbar: [hayden@paulkasmingallery.com](mailto:hayden@paulkasmingallery.com)

For press and image requests, please contact Meg Blackburn at FITZ & CO: [meg@fitzandco.com](mailto:meg@fitzandco.com)

293 TENTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, NY 10001  
TEL 212 563 4474 FAX 212 563 4494  
[www.paulkasmingallery.com](http://www.paulkasmingallery.com)