

# Openings/KENNY SCHARF

& ART



CLOSET #3 (Detail), 1983

Twenty-four-year-old Kenny Scharf's paintings and installations traffic in the artifacts of his childhood in Los Angeles, the early years of the atomic age, color television, and the space program. In his early work Scharf used characters from the cartoons of his boyhood—*The Jetsons*, *Felix the Cat*, *The Flintstones*. He now uses characters of his own creation, and since he came to New York in 1978 his work has shown a street influence as well; he uses a graffiti-like spray technique as a contrasting background for the figures, which are sharply painted in oil or acrylic. In his installations, Scharf adds "customized" objects—painted televisions, radios, and clocks—creating complete environments that he calls closets. The photo above shows a detail from his *Closet #3*, created this past spring for the Tony Shafrazi Gallery in New York City; the mix of psychedelic and graphic effects and bright Day-Glo colors particularly shows off the Sixties op-art influence on his art. His works are being shown this fall at the Robert Fraser Gallery in London and the American Graffiti Gallery in Amsterdam, and his show "Tendencies in New York" will travel from Madrid to Paris and Düsseldorf.