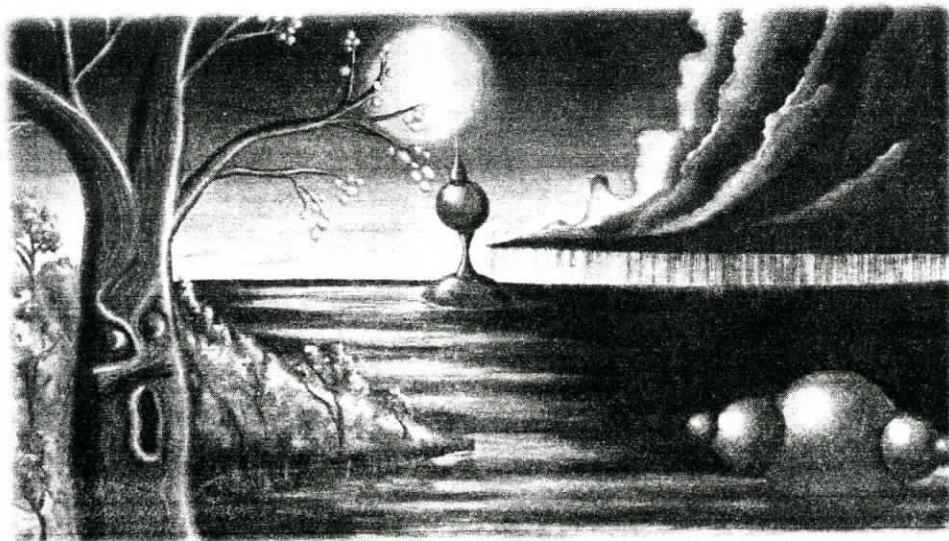


Local gallery works



Scharf showed his first solo exhibition, 'The Estelle Series' at Fiorucci NYC, while still in school in 1979. **Above**, work from his upcoming exhibition at the McIntosh Gallery.

Kenny Scharf Brings His Whimsical Paintings & Sculptures To Atlanta's McIntosh Gallery

by P. Shortt

Brightly colored swirling, curving spray painted explosions of color. Zigzags, globs and laughing cartoon characters. Organic sculptures, Swatch watches, Pucci mannequins and over-sized paintings. This is the art of the nation's leading pop surrealist, Kenny Scharf. And now Atlantans can enjoy these fun and whimsical images as the artist makes his first-ever Atlanta showing at the McIntosh Gallery in Midtown, September 11 to October 31.

Scharf's Atlanta premiere will include a lecture in the Rich Auditorium, Woodruff Arts Center, presented by the Atlanta College of Art, Thursday, September 10, at 7 p.m.; an opening night reception at the McIntosh Gallery Friday, September 11, from 6 - 9 p.m. with a party following at Mumbo Jumbo Bar & Grill downtown; and the exhibition of Closet #16, a funky day-glo environment contained within a portable closet space, at the Nexus Contemporary Art Center's Art Party, Saturday, September 12.

A California native, Scharf hit the New York art scene in the early 1980s with a splash. A contemporary of Keith Haring, Jean-Michele Basquiat and Andy Warhol, Scharf first attracted attention, not through the gallery world but on the street, by making street spray paintings of mutant cartoon figures all around Manhattan. He also achieved notoriety as a performance artist sharing the stage with the likes of Klaus Nomi, Joey Arias, Ann Magnuson, John Sex

and Min Thometz Sanchez at locations such as Club 57, the Mudd Club and Max's Kansas City.

Scharf showed his first solo exhibition, 'The Estelle Series' at Fiorucci NYC, while still in school in 1979. Then his customized air conditioning unit, shown in the ground-breaking group exhibition 'The Times Square Show' (1980), was duplicated in 'Art in America'. Other shows including 'New York, New Wave' (PS.1., 1981), the 'Famous Show' (Gracie Mansion, 1983) 'The Comic Art Show' (Whitney Museum, 1983), 'The Surrealist Show' (Robert Miller, 1983) and 'Contemporary Surrealism' (Barbara Gladstone, 1984), placed Scharf among the young generation of artists creating an electricity in the New York art world. But it would be his fist exhibition at Tony Shafrazi Gallery that would propel his recognition to the notable level enjoyed by his friends Haring and Basquiat.

Creating his self-dubbed 'FUN art,' Scharf is an artist weaned on television. That gave him a special relation to the landscape of the

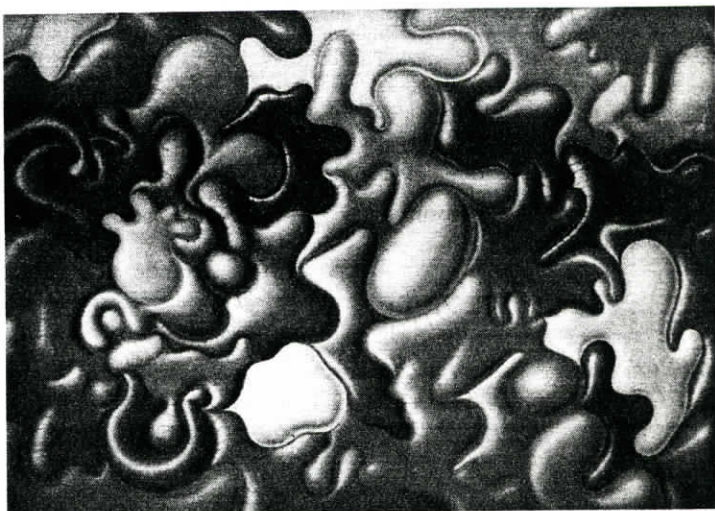
American pop culture. His brightly colored work can present images from cartoons such as the Jetsons juxtaposed with a nuclear explosion.

Scharf has painted cars and televisions, created sculptural works, created a series of black light closets and designed a line of watches for Swatch and a line of mannequins for Pucci. Scharf's work is shown in galleries, museums and private collections around the world. He was the fourth artist to be shown at the Dali Museum.

Now living with his family on Miami Beach, Scharf remains the leading pop surrealist of his time. He lost many of his friends to AIDS and has spearheaded awareness for AIDS and other issues such as the depletion of the rain forest through his art.

Since its opening in 1981, the McIntosh Gallery has featured the works of both emerging and well established artists from the United States and Europe, including many Southeastern and African-American artists. With over 4,000 square-feet of exhibit space on two levels, the gallery offers an intimate setting in which to view art. The gallery's extensive reserves of both art and slides offer a broad selection of work in a variety of styles and media.

For information regarding the opening contact the McIntosh Gallery at 404-892-4023; for information regarding the Atlanta College of Art lecture contact the school at (404)733-5052; and for information regarding the Nexus Art Party contact Nexus at (404)688-1970.



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