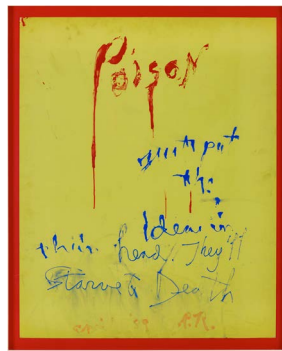


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Eighties art brightens up St Moritz Warhol, Haring and Basquiat bring pizzazz to the mountains

by Christina Ohly Evans
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LEFT TO RIGHT: © Kenny Scharf Photo by Argenis Apolinario Courtesy of Vito Schnabel Gallery, © The Estate of Rene Ricard Photo by Argenis Apolinario Courtesy of Vito Schnabel Gallery, Courtesy of Vito Schnabel Gallery © 2016 Pro Litteris, Zurich, Courtesy of Vito Schnabel Gallery © 2016 The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts Inc., New York / Pro Litteris, Zurich

The bucolic mountain resort of St Moritz is fast becoming a world-class art destination. This holds especially true from July 8 to September 4, when the works of contemporary artists from the 1980s - Jean-Michel Basquiat, Keith Haring, David Salle and Andy Warhol among them - will be on view in *A Selection of Works from the 1980s* at the Vito Schnabel Gallery on atmospheric Via Maistra.

Founded in 2015 by Vito Schnabel, son of artist and filmmaker Julian, the gallery is committed to cutting-edge programming that explores contemporary art and the surrounding landscape. Following on the heels of a successful inaugural exhibition dedicated to the work of Urs Fischer, as well as a public art installation by Sterling Ruby, this show promises to be a thought-provoking, mixed-media extravaganza incorporating performance art, graffiti, sculpture, video, as well as figurative and abstract painting.

Much of the work (from SFr35,000 to SFr4.5m, about £27,000 to £3.5m) involves bold, expressive elements (thick impasto brushstrokes and vibrant colours) to play up the political themes and social commentary that touch on the issues of the decade (Aids; the Iran-Iraq war; the rise of global warming; advertising as art) - from the playful,

pop-art figures by Haring and Kenny Scharf (*Rosso Ruska Rougette*, 1984, first picture), to the street art of Rene Ricard (*Poison*, 1989, second picture) and Jean-Michel Basquiat (*Untitled*, 1981, third picture).

Among the show's other notable works is George Condo's *Homage to Manet*, 1985, an oil painting that references the work of the great impressionist painter, and which stands in stark contrast to Andy Warhol's exploration of colour and blurring of commercial and fine-art lines in *Reflected (Purple, Red, Green and Yellow on Black)*, 1982 (fourth picture).

Welcome unexpected elements include McDermott & McGough's *Strangers on a Train*, 1921, 1989, and musician Laurie Anderson's video projection *Drum Dance*, from her concert film *Home of the Brave*, 1986.

With the breathtaking Engadin valley as a backdrop, this promises to be one of this summer's high-altitude visual highlights.

July 8-September 4 at Vito Schnabel Gallery, 37 Via Maistra, 7500 St Moritz (+4181-544 7620; www.vitoschnabel.com).