



Over the Influence and Perrotin present
“ERRÓ”

Opening Reception: June 8, 6 - 9pm
Exhibition Dates: June 9 - July 21, 2019

Over the Influence and Perrotin are honored to present “ERRÓ”, a survey of paintings and collages made between 1960 and 2018 by the seminal European artist.

Erró (born Gudmunder Gudmundsson) is known for his densely composed alkyd paintings that synthesize heterogeneous graphic imagery, appropriated from sources ranging from comic strip characters to political cartoons, from Socialist Realist propaganda to commercial sign painting. While Erró’s oeuvre is grounded in his experiments with collage, at an early stage in his career he began transforming his paper collages into skillfully rendered paintings.

Born in Iceland in 1932, Erró moved to Paris in 1958, where he associated with Surrealists including Roberto Matta (with whom he often collaborated) and Victor Brauner. He did not identify as a Surrealist, however, instead developing a practice of collagist appropriation that represented and critiqued Capitalist consumer culture.

He was especially drawn to American Pop art, which he encountered firsthand at Galerie Ileana Sonnabend where the work of John Chamberlain, James Rosenquist, Claes Oldenburg and Andy Warhol was introduced to European audiences. After a trip to New York in 1963, Erró’s work was galvanized by a sharpened focus on the images and signs of American consumerism; he later described the experience as “a kick in the ass”. From supermarkets, bookstores, fast food outlets and magazine stands, he compiled a vast trove of printed material that would shape his art in the ensuing years.

In the same period, Erró often quoted from other canonical artists, most notably Pablo Picasso but also Van Gogh, Frida Kahlo, Fernand Léger and Jean Auguste Dominique Ingres (as in the collage *On Venus La Concubine de Lénine*, 1973, included in this exhibition). By conflating Picasso’s Cubist portraits – as, for example, in *Grille Fléchée*, 2013 – with animal cartoon characters, he both subverts the status of the great master painter and elevates the commercial cartoonist.

In Paris in the 1960s, he became associated with the Narrative Figuration group that included Bernard Rancillac and Hervé Télémaque, and more broadly with European iterations of Pop. Erró has always resisted and transcended labels and movements, consistently pursuing his own thematic and conceptual agendas and developing his distinctive aesthetic.



While Erró's socially critical position is always evident in his intense and often disturbing compositions, he never espouses didactic politics or narrative messaging in his work. Instead, his approach harks back to his roots in Surrealism and Dada, in which combinations of source images come together intuitively, often with unexpected resonances. Erró has said:

Generally speaking, before setting my images down on the canvas, I build the box that is going to contain them while leaving them enough freedom so that they might act and operate upon one another. [...] I must, at every moment, be imagining a structure with the dynamic of a city in cross section and with the complexity of a labyrinth.

About Erró

Erró has gained international recognition as a leader of Figuration Narrative – a French pendant to Pop Art that emerged in the early 1960s – and a pioneer of painted collage, which he compares to automatic writing. Originally close to the Surrealist circle in Paris, he radically renounced his own imaginary representations to make collage the exclusive matrix of his flamboyant oeuvre following his discovery of American mass consumer culture during a trip to New York in 1963-64. His technique consists in painting strictly after preliminary montages of ready-made images such as comics, advertisements, postcards and reproductions of masterpieces, which he thoroughly archives from all over the world to fuel his serial work. Politicians, celebrities, superheroes, aliens and warriors stand among the most recurrent motifs of Erró's often monumental, kaleidoscopic accumulations, in which different civilizations and ideologies deliriously collide to better capture the absurdity of our contemporary propagandas from current affairs to popular fantasies.

Born in Olafsvik, Iceland in 1932, Erró studied art in Norway and Italy, and has resided in France, Thailand, and on the island of Formentera for most of his life. In 1989 he donated a large collection of his works to the Reykjavik Arts Museum, which has regular exhibitions on rotating display.

Erró has been exhibited at Hafnarhús Reykjavik Art Museum, Reykjavik, Iceland; Ludwig Museum, Koblenz, Germany; Musée d'art contemporain de Lyon, Lyon, France; Centre Pompidou, Paris, France; Turku Art Museum, Turku, Finland; Musée d'art moderne et contemporain, Saint-Etienne, France; Today Art Museum, Beijing, China; amongst other international institutions. His work is in the permanent collections of MoMA, New York; Centre Pompidou; National Gallery of Iceland; Reykjavik City Museum; Fondation Louis Vuitton; and more.

About Over the Influence

Over the Influence was founded in Hong Kong in 2015 and expanded to Los Angeles in 2018.

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The gallery represents an international roster of emerging and established artists working across different mediums and disciplines. OTI is dedicated to championing artists who challenge traditional approaches to studio practice and presents a dynamic program that explores the intersection of contemporary art, architecture, design, music, fashion and other forms of visual expression.

About Perrotin

Emmanuel Perrotin founded his first gallery in 1990 at the age of 21. He has since opened over 18 different spaces with the aim to continue offering increasingly vibrant and creative environments to experience artists' works. He has worked closely with his roster of artists, some for more than 25 years, to help fulfill their ambitious projects. Perrotin has galleries in Paris, Hong Kong, New York, Seoul, Tokyo, and Shanghai, totaling approximately 7000 square meters (75,000 square feet) of exhibition space across its various locations.

Location

Over the Influence
833 E 3rd Street
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Press Contact

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