



THE ARTS CLUB

Running Wild

The Arts Club

27 February – 18 May 2018

Private view: 26 February 2018, 6-8pm



Eric Fischl, *Christian Retreat*, 1980, oil on canvas, 162.6 x 243.8cm, Courtesy Skarstedt

The Arts Club is pleased to present an exhibition which includes key masters in the re-establishment of painting in the 1980s, united in their criticism of media and socio-political climate at the time. The exhibition coincides with a solo exhibition of new works by Eric Fischl at Skarstedt London from 6 March - 26 May 2018.

Perhaps no era is so instantly associated with brash wealth, conservative values, American confidence and rampant consumerism as the 1980s; Reagan-omics fueled bullish markets and unrestrained profit, and the middle classes continued flocking to the suburbs in search of the American Dream. As advertisements, glossies and society magazines fed visions of champagne-fueled parties and non-stop glamour, artists turned to the peculiar discontents, anxieties and profound ennui lurking beneath this lifestyle, most notably in painting, a medium resurrected after falling out of favour in the 1970s.



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Running Wild examines the boisterous re-emergence of painting as a popular medium in the wake of the dominance of conceptual, sculptural and ephemeral practices in the 1970s. Within that sphere, the exhibition focuses on figuration and its deftness in pinpointing anxiety about hyper-consumerism and suburbia. The key painters in the exhibition include **Eric Fischl**, whose psychologically charged depictions of suburbia draw on his dysfunctional childhood in the wealthy peripheries of New York; and **David Salle**, who collaged together images from pop-art to historic paintings and abstraction, pastiching and creating a post-modern dialogue. By the late 1980s **Peter Cain** began his series of dismembered or morphed cars, evoking the slick language of advertising to portray a kind of empty machismo. Also included is **James Rosenquist**, who by the 1980s was gaining notoriety and making paintings referencing domestic spheres where mundane objects are rendered strangely dangerous: lipsticks are positioned like missiles and groceries threaten to topple over.

The exhibition is curated by Amelie von Wedel and Pernilla Holmes from Wedel Art. Both Eric Fischl and David Salle are represented by Skarstedt London and New York. James Rosenquist is represented by Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac and Peter Cain is represented by Matthew Marks gallery.

Notes to Editors

About The Arts Club

Since its foundation in 1863 as a Club ‘instituted for the purpose of facilitating the social intercourse of those connected with, or interested in Art, Literature or Science’, The Arts Club has gained international recognition as the London hub for artists, writers and creatives. The Club has a rich and expanding collection of contemporary art and carefully curated exhibition and events programme which is attentive to international trends while maintaining a focus on British artists.

In the course of its existence, the Club has included amongst its members many outstanding figures in the history of art, literature and science. Today, the Arts Club is a place for creative and entrepreneurial patrons to come together to meet, exchange ideas, dine and participate in the Club’s various events.

About Wedel Art

Wedel Art works with private and corporate clients on their collections, exhibition programs, special projects and philanthropy, as well as curating numerous exhibitions and artist projects internationally.



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Title: *Running Wild*
Address: The Arts Club, 40 Dover Street, Mayfair, London, W1S 4NP
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7499 8581
Website: www.theartsclub.co.uk
Dates: 27 February – 18 May 2018

Opening Hours:

For members:
Mon-Tues: 7:30am-1:00am
Wed-Fri: 7:30am-3:00am
Saturday: 08:00am-3:00am
Sunday: 08:00am-Midnight

For the public, by appointment only:

Wed: 10:00am-Midday
Sat: 10:00am-Midday

For non-members, please email art@theartsclub.co.uk for appointments to view the exhibition within these times.

Travel: Piccadilly, Green Park or Bond Street Tube Station

For press information and images please contact:

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