

RAY DAVIES PRESENTS

PETER HARRIS – A ROCK 'N' ROLL FANTASY

Konk Studios

7 November - 7 December 2013

Private view: Thursday 7 November 7 – 9pm

RSVP: Alma 07530 348124 or email: almarayk@hotmail.com

Gallery entrance: 49 Church Lane, London N8 7EE

Gallery opening hours: Monday – Friday 4 – 8pm

www.konkstudios.com

For further information and images call Thom Driver at Mummery + Schnelle on: 07534 982459 or email: thom@mummeryschnelle.com

Ray Davies of the Kinks has selected a series of artworks by Peter Harris (b. 1967) based on Harris's collaborations with musicians, among them David Bowie, Pete Townshend and Lee 'Scratch' Perry. Some 25 works from the last 15 years are on display in *Ray Davies Presents: Peter Harris – A Rock 'n' Roll Fantasy*, and this is the first time many of these pieces have been exhibited together.

Harris trained as a painter, but his work encompasses other disciplines including video and performance. His collaborative pieces form another strand of his output, involving – as well as musicians – actors, public figures and other visual artists, notably Gary Webb, Bob and Roberta Smith and Turner Prize nominees Angela de la Cruz and George Shaw.

In 2012, Harris mailed Davies a sheet of paper, enclosing with it a letter asking Davies to touch the paper and send it back. Harris later received the blank piece of paper in the post which he then signed, conferring on this 'anti autograph' the status of an artwork. The piece is a play on the notion of faith (we cannot know for sure whether Davies in fact touched the paper) as well as the concept of value - of the artist's signature in the market place versus the value bestowed by the touch of the celebrity.

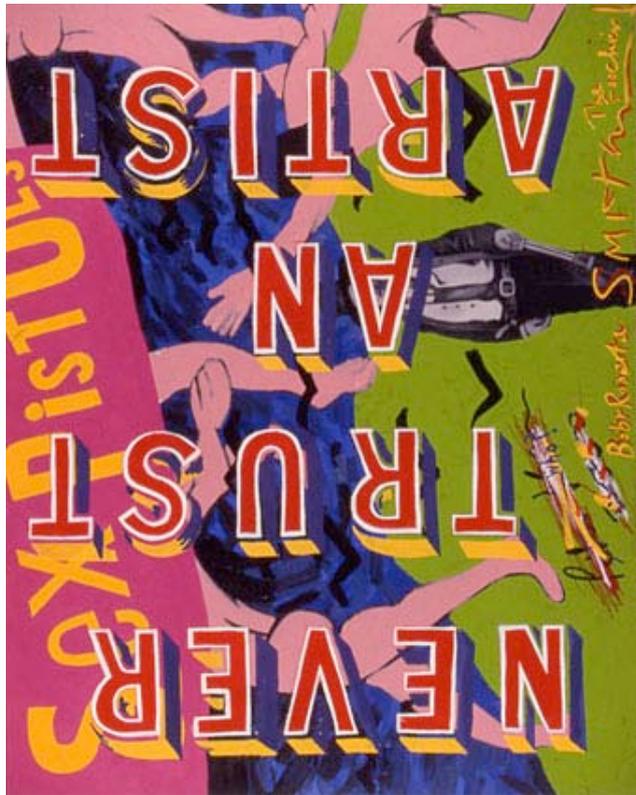
The influence of music on Harris's art making is evident in the earliest works on show here from his *Self-Portrait by Proxy* series (1999). Harris invited family, teachers, TV presenters and comedians and, most significantly for the focus of this exhibition, musicians who had had a profound influence on him to give him ideas for paintings. The title underlines the significance to Harris, beyond that of merely creating an artwork, of this search for his identity through those who have played a part in constructing it. Among the respondents were David Bowie, Siouxsie Sioux and Stranglers bass guitarist JJ Burnel.

This selective retrospective will also include collaborative paintings with the legendary Jamaican musician Lee 'Scratch' Perry as well as previewing a selection of drawings from Harris's new series *Art Dads* which will be on display at Mummery + Schnelle from 6 December 2013–18 January 2014.

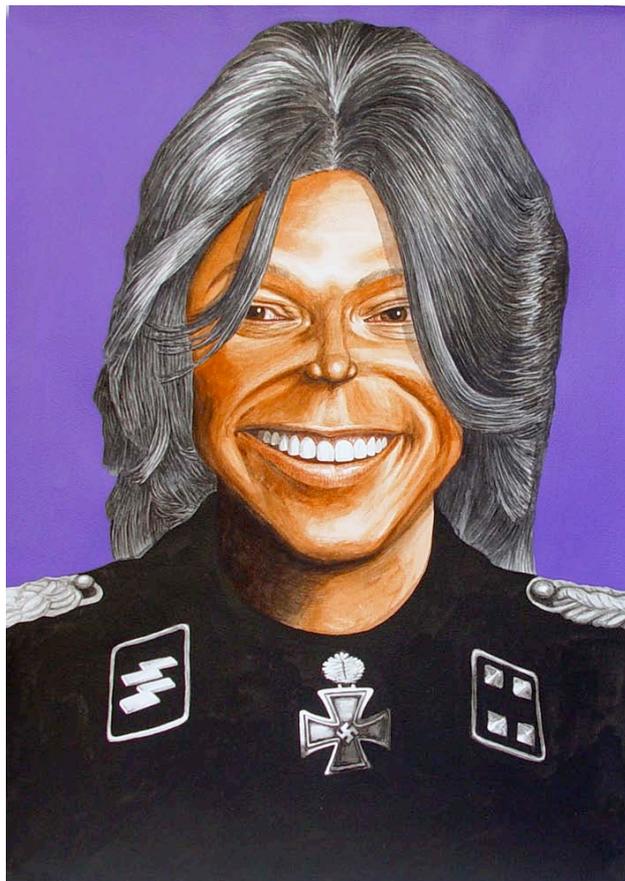
As Simon Groom, director of the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, has written: '*Art world maverick Peter Harris is one of the most original, thought-provoking and unsettling artists of his generation. Working in a wide range of media and often employing unconventional means, which includes collaborative works with musical icons, bank clerks, gangsters, holy men and politicians, Harris expands our conception of the self-portrait as he undermines our sense of what constitutes identity.*'

A signed limited-edition Kinks themed print created especially for the exhibition will be on sale.

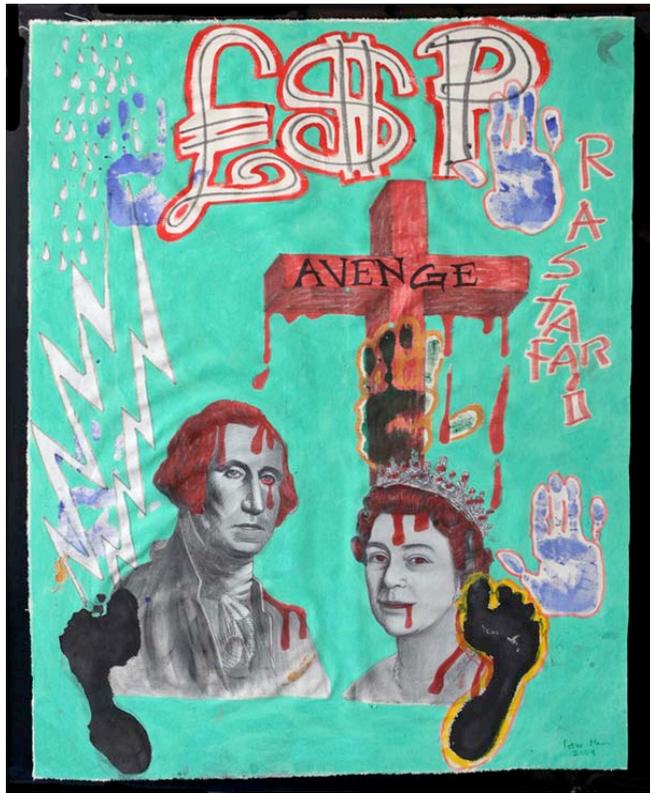
For further information, high-res images or to request an interview, call Thom Driver at Mummery + Schnelle on 07534 982459 or email thom@mummeryschnelle.com.



Never Trust An Artist (collaboration with Bob & Roberta Smith), 2000



Google Porraits: Michael Jackson 3, 2011



Avenge (collaboration with Lee 'Scratch' Perry), 2007



Art Dads: Bob Dylan, 2013