

# VENUS OVER MANHATTAN

Press Release

## MAIJA PEEPLES-BRIGHT AND ROY DE FOREST

Curated by Adrienne Rubenstein

June 20 – July 26, 2024

Opening: Thursday, June 20th, 6:00 – 8:00 PM

39 Great Jones Street

New York, NY 10012



(New York, NY) – **Venus Over Manhattan** is pleased to present a two-person exhibition featuring the vibrant works of **Maija Peeples-Bright** and **Roy De Forest**, curated by artist **Adrienne Rubenstein**. Both Peeples-Bright and De Forest were central figures in the Northern California Funk Art movement of the 1960s, a period known for its whimsical imagination, vibrant colors, and unique quirkiness. Featuring historical works by both artists, as well as new work by Peeples-Bright, the exhibition draws out the visual and historical connection between these two artists' work. Comprising paintings, works on paper, and sculpture, the presentation will be on view at 39 Great Jones Street from June 20th through July 26th, 2024.

Adrienne Rubenstein has curated this exhibition to highlight the joyful surrealism and unfiltered eccentricity of Peeples-Bright and De Forest's works. She views these pieces as reflective mirrors of our own everyday lives, providing a unique lens to explore and question the essence of life and perception. Roy De Forest, with his creative and original approach to

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image-making, saw his paintings as “a hook to put your imagination on.” This sentiment is echoed throughout the exhibition, capturing one of the central tenets of the 1960s California art scene.

More than professional peers, Maija Peeples-Bright and Roy De Forest shared a deep friendship that influenced their artistic journeys. Together they wrote the Nut Art manifesto, which embraced humor alongside the phantasmagorical. They delighted in “alter-egos,” fantastical and often anthropomorphic versions of themselves and their friends, which they painted into their work. Rubenstein's curation pays homage to their shared creative exuberance.

This exhibition follows recent solo shows for both artists, including Peeples-Bright's recent presentations at Parker Gallery, Los Angeles, and Nicelle Beauchene, New York; and De Forest's solo exhibition at the Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem Museum of Art in Davis, California.

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## GALLERY HOURS

Monday – Friday  
11:00 am – 6:00 pm

## IMAGE CREDITS

Roy De Forest, “The Green Pony,” 1971. Polymer on cotton canvas; 66 x 62 x 2 1/4 in (167.6 x 157.5 x 5.4 cm). Courtesy the Estate of Roy De Forest and Venus Over Manhattan, New York.

Maija Peeples-Bright, “Manticore Core,” 1972. Acrylic, watercolor, ink and glitter on paper with artist's frame; 26 x 30 in (66 x 76.2 cm). Courtesy the artist, Parker Gallery, Los Angeles, and Venus Over Manhattan, New York.