

# Peter Saul

## Pop, Funk, Bad Painting and More

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This first retrospective in Belgium of American artist **Peter Saul** (b. 1934) covers the career of one of Pop Art's most recent contemporaries, from the late 1950s to the present day. Created at Les Abattoirs, Musée-Frac Occitanie in Toulouse, the exhibition *Peter Saul. Pop, Funk, Bad Painting and More*, an exhibition of unrivalled scope, presents just over 80 works (paintings, graphic arts, archives, etc.).

Surprisingly, the journey begins in Paris, at the dawn of the 1960s. It was here that the artist produced his first works, reproducing superheroes, comic books and everyday objects typical of the *American Way of Life*. Thousands of miles from the epicenter of Pop Art, to which he nonetheless denied belonging while sharing its themes, **Peter Saul** offered a critical side, questioning the Western consumerist and imperialist model.

Upon his return to the USA in 1964, he moved to California, the home of a new "Funk" art, with which his pop and surrealist painting resonates, revealing how, despite its singularity, it anticipated some of the major artistic trends of the late 20th century. Pop differently, Funk brightly, his art also prefigured the "Bad Painting" of the 1980s, while revealing a new way of making colorful, exuberant history paintings. Peter Saul has never ceased to pay attention to the world around him: the Vietnam War, civil rights struggles, ecology, junk food and cigarettes are all strong themes that he has regularly addressed in his work.

Right up to the present day, Peter Saul has never ceased to reveal the most powerful issues facing the world and art, making him one of the major painters of the 20th and 21st centuries, and one of the most influential on the young art scene.