

# The Peanut Gallery

For Immediate Release

## REACT

240 East 4th Street, New York  
April 7–17, 2017

Opening Reception and Performance by t.Rutt:  
**Thursday, April 6, 7–10 p.m.**



New York – **The Peanut Gallery** is pleased to present REACT, a pop-up exhibition featuring painting, video, photography, sculpture, street art and mixed-media works by eight inspiring artists reacting to some of the vexing issues that underlie our social and political divisiveness. **Carlos Aires, Eugenio Merino, Mary Mihelic, Marilyn Minter, thrashbird, Pete Voelker, Ernest Withers** and **t.Rutt** (Mary Mihelic and David Gleeson's artist

collective) speak with powerful voices to immigration, the environment, corporate greed, social inequality and our new President. Their works invoke nostalgia, anger, satire, humor, anxiety and some combustible energy in reflecting how and why we have arrived at our current situation and where we might go from here.

Works by Eugenio Merino and Carlos Aires created in the year preceding the 2016 election allude to growing tensions underlying the Obama era, suggesting that it was premature to be celebrating apparent progress. Integrating U.S. currency into their work, the artists make a critical commentary on capitalist agendas and greed as the root of class struggle, exploitation and the destruction of our rights and liberties.

Ernest Withers' 1968 *I Am A Man* brings us back to the sanitation workers' strike in the Civil Rights era segregated South. Fifty years later, the works of Pete Voelker and Mary Mihelic show us that the fight is not yet over in their depictions of protests across the country on behalf of women, Muslims and the environment, spontaneously gathering on the streets, at the airports and outside of our courthouses and Trump's real estate. T.Rutt's *Open Carry* transforms paintbrushes into life-size rifles; Marilyn Minter's RESIST/ UNITE video coupled with an audio recording of Trump's controversial musings prompts viewers to find their own footing as activists in this inclusive movement for social equality.

REACT is a celebration of our right to freedom of expression. Of all the voices there are to be heard, we understand that REACT gives visibility to just a few. So whether you are cheering or throwing peanuts at what these voices have to say, we encourage you to bring your own voice and share your REACTIONS.

REACT will be on view from April 7 through April 17, 2017 at 240 East 4<sup>th</sup> Street. The Peanut Gallery will hold an opening reception on Thursday, April 6 from 7 to 10 p.m. with a performance by t.Rutt.

### **About The Peanut Gallery**

The Peanut Gallery produces unique thematic pop-up exhibitions that are designed to engage a larger art community with meaningful talent and relevant art. We eschew the curatorial structure of conventional galleries by organizing exhibitions around subjects of popular interest reflected in the works of both emerging and established artists. Our pop-up exhibitions, together with our Virtual Peanut Gallery, provide a physical and online platform for artists to reach a new audience and for our audience to reach a new awareness.

Our mission is to make art more accessible and more relatable to a more inclusive art community. The Peanut Gallery is about getting more people involved in showing, viewing, critiquing, acquiring, enjoying and talking about art. Whether you're cheering the art or throwing some peanuts, we want art to matter to you, and we want to help you discover the art that you will treasure.

---

*Open Carry: The Right To Bear Art: Western Edition – The Oakley*, 2016, women's shovel handle, hand made gun holster, coyote tail, rifle scope, 60 x 6 x 4 in.

*Open Carry: The Right To Bear Art: The Veteran*, 2016, large Australian paint brush, rifle scope, guitar strap, acrylic paint, 72 x 7 x 4 in.

*Open Carry: The Right To Bear Art: Western Edition – The McClendon*, 2016, shovel handle, coyote tail, rifle scope, used cowboy chaps, hair spray. 60 x 6 x 4 in.

---

### **For press and sales inquiries, please contact:**

Jackie Dreier, *Director*, The Peanut Gallery: [jackie@peanutgalleryprojects.com](mailto:jackie@peanutgalleryprojects.com)