

reviews: new york

## 'Hooray for Hollywood!'

### Mixed Greens and Pavel Zoubok

This celebratory show was a lively tribute to Pop princess Holly Solomon (1934–2002), the savvy, irreverent collector turned dealer who launched an eclectic mix of artists in the heyday of SoHo. Solomon started with a private art space on Greene Street, then opened her first gallery on West Broadway in 1975. She left for 57th Street in 1983, only to return downtown in 1993, opening her last gallery on Mercer Street. As a rebuttal to the astringency of Post-Minimalism and Conceptualism (which she also collected, supporting artists such as Gordon Matta-Clark), Solomon promoted a flamboyant, brightly colored esthetic that included Pattern and Decoration artists such as Kim MacConnel, Thomas Langan-Schmidt, Miriam Schapiro, Valerie Jaudon, Nerl Smyth, and Robert Kushner. One of the beauties of the show was Kushner's delicately ornamented, kimono-inspired wedding gown, mounted flat like a beautiful giant butterfly.

This parade of more than 45 of the legions of artists associated with Solomon Gallery, many now household names, was cocurated by Mixed Greens and Pavel Zoubok Gallery. At Mixed Greens, portraits of Solomon—never averse to



Ned Smyth, *Portrait of Holly*, 1983, mosaic, 37" x 48" x 4". Mixed Greens.

images of herself—were highlighted. These included a series of flirty photo-booth headshots by Andy Warhol, undated sketches by David McDermott & Peter McGough, a William Wegman diptych, the casual odalisques of Robert Mapplethorpe, a photo-and-marker portrait by Nam June Paik, and a more conceptual Joseph Kosuth text portrait consisting of the definition of "holly."

At Pavel Zoubok, the show was even

more riotous in color, with an explosive wall piece by Judy Pfaff, a glittery, glamorized Smyth vision of a toilet; a coolly lyrical Melissa Meyer painting; Joe Zucker's amusing picture of a boll weevil, *Chomp* (1975), slyly made of cotton balls and Rhoplex on canvas; and an eye-catching suit for a monster ball by Rob Wynne. Scrappy and strikingly diverse, this gathering should have appealed to the rebel in us all.

—Lilly Wei



Rob Wynne, *Suit*, 1980, sewn canvas, silksatins, and mirrored glass buttons, dimensions variable. Pavel Zoubok.



Kim MacConnel, *Fish*, 1978, acrylic on fabric, 89" x 104". Pavel Zoubok.

CLOTHES FROM TOP: ETERNA PROPOSALS; COURTESY THE ARTIST AND GALLERY/CONTEMPORARY NEW YORK