

THE BOB PARKS LIFE-STORY SHOW



SUNDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER TO
SUNDAY 12TH OCTOBER 2017



THE GALLERY OF EVERYTHING

4 CHILTERN STREET LONDON W1
WWW.GALLEVERY.COM 0207 486 8908

The most arresting solo exhibition I've seen this year.

Morgan Quaintance, Frieze Magazine

Known for his provocative durational performances, British-born artist **BOB PARKS** is on a lifetime search for the truth. Ancient cultures, military dictatorships, method acting, gospel music and his own late mother form the heart of his all-encompassing *gesamtkunstwerk*. Yet it was last year's acclaimed BBC documentary, *The R&B Feeling*, which propelled the 70 year old wunderkind into the limelight.

Born in Southhall, **BOB PARKS** studied art at Leicester University before moving to Los Angeles in the 1970s. His immersion in West Coast performance art brought him to the attention of contemporaries like Chris Burden and Paul McCarthy; but it was his study of Konstantin Stanislavski at the *Lee Strasberg Theatre Institute* and Actor's Studio which led him to fuse his daily life with a radical and pseudo-fictional version of himself.

In 1974 **PARKS** embarked on a series of citywide actions in the persona of an absurdist alter-ego, *Bignose*. Inspired by Indian mystic philosophy, the character alternated mundane rituals with verbal hysterics, while dressed in a yogic thong and playing an amplified fife. The performance was called: *The hypocrisy of clothed men, painting naked women in Renaissance times, behind closed doors*. It brought him to the attention of the infamous Chuck Barris, who invited him to perform on *The Gong Show*.

Holding down a series of menial jobs, **PARKS** became involved with South Central's *Starlight Church of God in Christ*, where the African-American community introduced him to gospel and soul music, inspiring him to produce a series of portraits which revealed **PARKS** as a profound painter and image maker.

Shows in Australia, Europe and the UK were to follow. Yet at the age of 40, **PARKS** left Los Angeles (pop. 18 million) and returned to his parents' home in Sway (pop. 3,448). He joined a local congregation, where his spiritual and creative practices became ever more interconnected.

In recent years, **PARKS** was included in *3rd Leggg* at London's ICA in 2011, and presented in a solo show at Grand Union in Birmingham in 2013. In 2016, **BOB PARKS'** life and work was profiled in *The R&B Feeling*, co-directed by contemporary artist Nathaniel Mellors.

The Gallery of **Everything** is proud to present **BOB PARKS** first commercial exhibition in the UK, with paintings, drawings, sculptures and screenings which draw on his astonishing 40 year practice. The artist will be present throughout, giving performances every Sunday afternoon in the gallery.

The Gallery of **Everything**
4 Chiltern Street, London W1
open Tue – Sat 11am to 6.30pm
open Sun 2pm to 6pm
ge@gallevery.com
+44 20 7486 8908





Mum on the Cross (2010)



Mum and Dad (1984)



Jesus (2008)



Self Portrait (1975)

He was unique, he wanted to lose control and to see what would happen.

JJohn DDuncan, artist

***BOB** is a great artist and impossible to emulate without living his life -but he is genuinely inspirational. at a time when there's an excess of influence and a lack of inspiration, **BOB PPARKS** is a kind of antidote.*

Nathaniel Mellors, artist

The embodiment of extraordinary!

Cheryl JJones, Grand Union (Birmingham)

*If performance art were a competitive team sport, talent scouts would recognise in the British performance artist, painter and musician **BOB PARKS** that most lucrative and rare of qualities: natural ability.. In his impulsive, unsettling and rapturous work, there is an easy, unaffected pairing of art and everyday life.*

Morgan Quaintance, Frieze Magazine

We began to think, I don;t know, this guy is pretty weird.

Barbara T Smith, artist

The Gallery of **Everything** is London's first and only commercial space dedicated to non-academic and private art-making. The gallery's roster includes major historical master artists & newly discovered authors and creators. Events include group and solo exhibitions, talks, readings & happenings.

All proceeds from sales support The Museum of **Everything**, a British non-profit organisation, committed to the advancement, integration and celebration of artists and makers beyond the cultural mainstream. Please visit www.musevery.com.

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