



Bill Schenck, "Ride off the Mesa," oil on canvas, 30 x 36 in. Maxwell Alexander Gallery

Western and Pop Art Collide in the Paintings of Bill Schenck

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Whether sensitive celebrations of the American West or irreverent satires of its dark history, the paintings of Bill Schenck express a love for Western life that transcends traditional boundaries of genre.

For the first time in more than 20 years, original Pop artist Bill Schenck will feature in a solo exhibition of new paintings. Maxwell Alexander Gallery in Culver City, California, will host "**Western Dialogue**," a show of 15 new works by Schenck. The exhibition opens May 11, with an opening reception at 7 p.m.



Bill Schenck, "Cassidy by the Canyon State II," oil on canvas, 24 x 30 in. Maxwell Alexander Gallery



Bill Schenck, "Geronimo," oil on canvas, 38 x 32 in. Maxwell Alexander Gallery

The art of Bill Schenck marks the intersection between the seemingly disparate genres of Western and Pop art, similarly bridging traditional and contemporary art forms. Schenck, a contemporary of Andy Warhol and a former employee in Warhol's factory, has navigated this unique position for his past 43 years as an artist. Famed for incorporating cinematic imagery from B Westerns into his compositions, Schenck has played an important role in the development of Pop art. He has also used this format to articulate his own love for the people, landscape, and culture of the American West.



Bill Schenck, "In the Land of Warriors," oil on canvas, 24 ½ x 19 ½ in. Maxwell Alexander Gallery

Schenck employs a flattened, linear style with heavy outline. Patches of color are laid down side-by-side rather than blended, resulting in clean, reductivist pictures. Several featured works include a textual caption above the image that lends a humorous or satirical voice to the image, in some cases serving to remind the viewer that Schenck's work is heavily socially invested. Paintings like "Geronimo" satirize the historical treatment of Native Americans in this country using the quintessentially American form of Pop art.



Bill Schenck, "Pioneers Barrelled," oil on canvas, 35 x 45 in. Maxwell Alexander Gallery



Bill Schenck, "The Big Valley." oil on canvas, 25 x 50 in. Maxwell Alexander Gallery

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