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Today, Two Exhibitions Celebrating Local Artists with National Appeal Open at The Peale

POSEN x POSEN x POSEN, Barbara Dale Retrospective Highlight The Depth of Baltimore's Art Legacy

Baltimore, MD (June 15, 2023)—Today, The Peale launches two important exhibitions that highlight the artistic talent resident in Baltimore's art community— [POSEN x POSEN x POSEN](#) and [Barbara Dale Retrospective](#). The Peale is located at 225 Holliday Street in downtown Baltimore.

From 4:00 PM until 7:00 PM, The Peale will host a [FREE opening reception](#) for *POSEN x POSEN x POSEN*, which brings together the artistic endeavors of the Posen and Peale families—two remarkable lineages that have left an indelible mark on the art world across different periods.

The Posen family—consisting of Stephen Posen, Alexandra Posen, and Zac Posen—has made significant contributions to the realms of art and fashion. Stephen Posen's abstract paintings capture his creative essence on canvas, while Alexandra Posen expresses her artistic vision through captivating sculptural and encaustic paintings; and Zac Posen, known for his distinctive designs, has made a lasting impact on the fashion industry.

While the Posen and Peale families diverge in terms of medium and historical context, their artistic legacies share an undeniable impact on the art world. This exhibition aims to draw parallels and explore the connections between these two extraordinary families. By celebrating their diverse artistic achievements, the exhibition delves into the profound and lasting influence they have had on the artistic and cultural fabric of their respective eras.

“Join The Peale on this captivating journey as we uncover the vibrant tapestry woven by the Posen and Peale families and appreciate the enduring contributions they have made to the artistic landscape,” said **Dr. Nancy Proctor, The Peale's chief strategy officer and founding executive director**.

Also opening today, the *Barbara Dale Retrospective* documents the extraordinary world of a nationally known Baltimore-based cartoonist. The Peale will host a [FREE opening reception](#) on Saturday, June 17 from 1:00 PM until 4:00 PM.

Rejecting the notion of a clear distinction between commercial and fine art, Barbara Dale firmly asserts that both hold equal value. In this exhibition, visitors will embark on a thought-provoking exploration of ten themes, each approached in a distinct manner that ignites profound conversations while evoking laughter.

“As I stepped into Barbara's studio, I was instantly captivated by the seamless fusion of diverse mediums that shape her artistic practice—pastel chalk, lithographs, ceramics, paint, pencil, ink, and the list goes on—revealing the depths of her artistic versatility,” said **Jeffrey Kent, The Peale's chief curator**.

During a recent visit to The Peale, Barbara Dale stumbled upon a book titled *Mermaids, Mummies, and Mastodons: The Emergence of The American Museum* at the museum's shop. Intrigued, she immersed herself in its contents that very night, discovering a long-standing debate between "how-much-education" and "how-much-entertainment" exists within the museum world—exemplified by the historical disagreements between early American artists Charles Willson Peale and his son Rubens Peale.

This revelation reinforced Barbara's conviction that The Peale is the ideal venue for her retrospective exhibition, as she has deftly navigated both the commercial and fine art realms for over four decades.

In her show, she juxtaposes two objects expressing the same theme—one commercially sold and the other a fine art creation. For example, alongside her fine art pieces, Barbara Dale showcases the thousands of manufactured mugs she has sold through various companies, creating an intriguing dialogue between commerce and artistic expression.

This exhibition includes explicit material, encompassing nudity, explicit sexual content, and strong language. In honoring the artist's vision, we have made a conscious decision not to censor any of these elements throughout the exhibition.

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About The Peale

Based in the oldest purpose-built museum building in the Western Hemisphere, The Peale is Baltimore's community museum. Once Baltimore's first city hall and the first public school for Black students in Maryland, the national treasure underwent a complete renovation after a 20-year vacancy. Together with creators and storytellers of all kinds, The Peale is actively redefining the role of museums in society. It now serves as a space for storytellers, griots, performers, artists, architects, historians, students, educators, and culture-keepers to share authentic Baltimore stories. The Peale is located at 225 Holliday Street and is open to the public Thursday and Friday from 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM and Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Learn more about The Peale by visiting www.ThePeale.org.