

# ROBERT SANDELSON

MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY INTERNATIONAL ART

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## **Mel Ramos** ***Works from the 1960s*** **15 June to 28 July 2007**

Robert Sandelson gallery is delighted to present its second exhibition by acclaimed Californian Pop artist, Mel Ramos. The exhibition will focus on his early 1960s paintings, including his renowned commercial nudes and costumed comic book heroes and heroines.

Mel Ramos (born 1935) is an important figure of the American Pop art movement. In the 1960s Ramos developed a specific kind of Pop art iconography by combining nude pin-up girls from American magazines and advertisements with branded products such as Coca Cola and Colgate as in *Lola Cola* and *Gloria Gardol* (illustrated top right).

A contemporary, but working independently of Warhol and Lichtenstein, Ramos initially began to work with cartoon images as subject matter for his painting and his comic book series of 1961-64 of costumed heroes and heroines such as *The Flash* (illustrated above) triggered his breakthrough as a Pop artist.

Following his cartoon series, Ramos went on to explore the idealisation of the female nude within advertising and pin-up magazines like *Playboy* and *Penthouse*. His female nudes - many of whom have the faces of Hollywood actresses - are set against banal, everyday consumer products or spied upon through a keyhole as in his peek-a-boo series (illustrated top left) to give us a repertoire of intriguing and provocative images.

Ramos doesn't wish to shock. He conceives of himself as an observer who presents selected phenomena of his time, albeit an exaggerated perspective of the advertising world of product placements.

Ramos's paintings have been shown in major exhibitions of Pop art both in the USA and in Europe. He is also widely collected throughout the world. A major retrospective of his work is currently on display at the Stadtgalerie Klagenfurt, Austria (13 June to 16 September 2007).