ALMINE RECH

Kenny Scharf
Emotional

Mar 31 — Jun 21, 2026 | Hubei Museum of Art, Wuhan, China

In mid-spring 2026, a season of renewal and vitality, the special exhibition titled Kenny Scharf: Emotional arrives in Wuhan, being guided by the Department of Culture and Tourism of Hubei Province and jointly presented by Hubei Museum of Art and Hubei Cultural Tourism Group. Following the American artist's debut solo exhibition in China at the Modern Art Museum Shanghai, Kenny Scharf now brings five decades of creative output to the Hubei Museum of Art. Featuring over 140 artworks, encompassing painting, sculpture, and installation, this exhibition initiates a profound new dialogue with the Chinese audience.

As one of the first national key art museums in China, Hubei Museum of Art upholds a vision of connecting the globe with Chinese cultural roots and focusing on the present while honoring the past. The museum actively practices the mission to stimulate the cultural innovation and creativity of the whole nation. Whether through the exploration of local art, the expansion of international perspectives, the scholarly mapping of art history, or the presentation of the contemporary art scene, the museum aims to facilitate cultural exchange with aesthetic expression, continuously innovate its operation mode. In addition, the museum is dedicated to providing high-quality exhibitions and services that fulfill people's ever-growing needs for a better life.

In the 1980s, driven by the enduring influence of Pop Art, the East Village art movement flourished in New York City. As a follower of Pop Art representative figure Andy Warhol, Kenny Scharf is hailed alongside Jean-Michel Basquiat and Keith Haring as the "three musketeers" of New York's East Village. Using spray cans and paintbrushes, they disrupted the established order of contemporary art, bringing graffiti from the streets into art museums. Kenny Scharf's artistic practice often transcends the boundaries of the canvas, extending onto home appliances, furniture, and even automobile surfaces, thereby bridging the gap between art and daily life. This spirit——that "art is within reach" and "art belongs to every ordinary person" ——aligns perfectly with the art museum's mission of being people-centered. The exhibition is structured around six major emotions, namely anger, disgust, fear, happiness, sadness, and awe, highlighting key stages of the artist's career from early experimentation to stylistic maturity. The Beach Club installation at the Shanghai exhibition brought California coastal vibes to the banks of the Huangpu River, completing a transoceanic dialogue centered on the topic "water." Now, the pink beach meets Wuhan, a metropolis where two rivers converge, brimming with the vibrant hustle and bustle of life. From the east coast of the Pacific to the middle reaches of the Yangtze, this narrative concerning emotions, the ordinary, and the integration of art into daily life continues to unfold.

For the art museum, fostering deep dialogue between premium domestic and international art resources and local cultural contexts, revitalizing masterpieces through creative curation, and ensuring exhibitions resonate deeply with the audience are essential pathways to achieving high-quality service, high-standard opening up, and high-quality development. We aspire to drive cultural innovation through exceptional exhibitions, empower urban development by integrating culture and tourism, and make art an intrinsic part of a better life.

We cordially invite you to embark on a journey through the kaleidoscopic, emotional universe of Kenny Scharf. Here, amidst his infectious emojis and radiant visual lexicon, we hope you will discover something that mirrors your own emotion.