



THE SUNDAY TIMES

18 May 2014

CULTURE


Trash, bang, wallop

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Where *Comics Unmasked* groans with darkness as it seeks, and fails, to be taken seriously, **Everything Falls Faster Than an Anvil**, a selection of artworks inspired by comics at the Pace Gallery, glows with bright cartoon sunshine. It's by far the better show.

Taking its title from one of the guiding rules of cartoon action – that Bugs Bunny will always reach the ground before the anvil – the exhibition celebrates comics as a positive and witty influence on art. Installed beautifully in a set of galleries painted two-tone pink by Carl Ostendarp, the show mixes old with new.

Two atmospheric Claes Oldenburgs, a giant cigarette butt and a fabulous head of Mickey as a red doll's house, take us back to the pioneering days of pop. More recently, a hilarious sculpture by Peter Wächtler from 2013, influenced by those singing instruments

you see in early Disney films, has a set of large organ pipes wonkily wailing Simon and Garfunkel's version of *El Condor Pasa*: "I'd rather be a hammer than a naiill..." What relief. Comic art you can smile at. 

Comics Unmasked, British Library, London NW1, until Aug 19. Everything Falls Faster Than an Anvil, Pace Gallery, London W1, until June 18

