

# THE GOSS-MICHAEL FOUNDATION

## JAMES WHITE: NEW PAINTINGS



Studio View of British Gas, 2007, Oil and varnish on birch-ply in Perspex box frame, 39 3/8 x 37 3/8 inches

**Exhibition 21 September – 15 October, 2007**

The Goss-Michael Foundation is pleased to present an exhibition of new work from respected British artist, James White.

White is best known for his photorealistic images in high contrast black and white values in which he captures, in minute detail, the seemingly dull moments of everyday life. White's subject matter of non-specific events ranges from empty bottles to a crunched up gas bill to the drain plug of a bath tub, all lovingly executed in order to bring a trivial photograph "into the realms of "high art"-painting," according to an article by *Sue Hubbard, The Independent*

Carefully rendered, each painting is inspired by an impulsively-taken snapshot from his life, and great emphasis is placed on the process and physicality of the work as these suddenly captured snapshots are transformed into paintings through meticulous efforts.

The new body of series, *Dark Thoughts*, which will also be exhibited, consists of portraits of friends painted with their eyes closed to express their withdrawal into an intimate space, that of the mind. White asked his friends to think of the first and worst thing they could imagine, a thought which becomes the subject of the paintings.

The mood of his body of work is altogether darker than in White's previous pieces, alluding to the reconciliation of viewpoints relating to negative events that surround us and circulate in the media.

White describes his work as, “a deliberate return to more traditional modes of artistic production with reference to small scale Dutch 17<sup>th</sup> century oil painting and the black and white American street photographers of the 1940s and 1950s, such as Weegee....I think that often the banal can be more insightful than attempting to construct a false subject.”

White lives and works in London. Since 1991 he has participated in several exhibitions worldwide and in the UK. Exhibitions include The Saatchi Gallery (New Blood, 2004), Casey Kaplan Gallery NY (solos in 1997 & 2000) and Max Wigram Gallery (April, 2007). He was also a prize winner of this years prestigious John Moores 24 Painting Prize.

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**The Goss-Michael Foundation** was founded by George Michael and Kenny Goss in June 2007. The Foundation offers the public a rotating schedule of exhibitions derived from Goss and Michael's private collection as well as other institutions. These exhibitions serve as a challenge to preconceived art notions and strive to set a new standard in artistic awareness by providing visitors with fresh and fascinating art experiences. Through these experiences, the Foundation hopes to generate new perspectives and conversations on the creative methods of contemporary artists. Locally, the Foundation is dedicated to contributing to Dallas's thriving artistic community and enhancing the public's familiarity and interaction with mid-career and emerging international artists.

**The Goss-Michael Foundation Hours:** Tuesday-Friday 10:00am-6:00pm, Saturday 11:00am-4:00pm, Monday by appointment only.