

THE GOSS-MICHAEL FOUNDATION

DAMIEN HIRST



Saint Sebastian, Exquisite Pain, 2007

Exhibition October 25, 2007 – April 30, 2008

The Goss-Michael Foundation is pleased to announce an exhibition of work from the private collection of Kenny Goss and George Michael featuring work by world-renowned British artist, Damien Hirst. The exhibition will be on display from October 25, 2007 through April 30, 2008.

Shocking and at times controversial, Hirst is widely regarded as the world's most successful living artist and the most prominent of Young British Artists also known as YBAs. His work examines the nature of human experience at its most basic levels such as love, life and death, all the while blending the boundaries of science, religion and art to create a multifaceted body of work exhibited in both subject matter and medium. Works currently on display at The Goss-Michael Foundation range from formaldehyde-preserved animal sculptures from *The Natural History Series* to diamond-dusted prints of the infamous *For the Love of God* platinum and diamond encrusted skull.

The Natural History Series, an ongoing body of work begun in the 1990's, is among Hirst's most extreme and significant contributions to the world of art. Formaldehyde-filled tank pieces containing dead animals serve as direct reminders of the inevitable mortality of all living things. Works from the Goss-Michael collection, such as *Saint Sebastian, Exquisite Pain*, touch on religious and social themes. The centerpiece of the exhibition, *Saint Sebastian* is Hirst's twist on the classical images of the martyred saint, who is also considered one of the earliest gay icons.

In addition to *Saint Sebastian*, the Goss-Michael collection also includes another famous *Natural History Series* piece, *The Incomplete Truth*, a white dove suspended in formaldehyde.

The exhibition is well-rounded with works from *The Cancer Chronicles*, *Pharmacy* and his famous spin and butterfly paintings. Hirst's wide ranging practice of painting, drawing and sculpture are fully demonstrated in this special exhibition curated by the artist himself.

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.