

BEN BROWN

- *Press Release for immediate release* -

7th June – 5th August 2005

Preview 6th June 2005 6 – 9 pm

Ben Brown Fine Arts is pleased to announce the exhibition of works by Keith Haring.

Haring's work has not been exhibited in Central London since his last show at the Robert Fraser Gallery in 1983. This show took place in the same building on Cork Street where Ben Brown Fine Arts is currently located. The exhibition will comprise sculptures, painting and drawings which represent the culmination of Keith Haring's tragically short life and are some of his finest pieces. The colourful and light-hearted subjects of his pieces and the straightforward design and simplicity of his sculptures ensure that they are enjoyed and appreciated by all. Keith Haring's ability to transcend boundaries of age, class and race adds another dimension to his works and therein lies the genius of the artist.

Haring emerged in the late 1970's as part of a sub-culture in New York City. His work can be traced back to Dubuffet and similar artists who focused on the self expression of outsiders or underdogs, children or the mentally ill. Haring has chosen Graffiti as means to express his thoughts and feelings. Interestingly enough, Graffiti was only accepted as an art form in the art world in the early 1970's. Starting out as a graffiti painter in New York's subways, Haring was able to transcend his underground image into the fine art world without losing any of the spontaneity and freshness in his work. His diverse output is nowadays universally recognizable remaining as poignant as during his lifetime. Haring was very much interested in the role of chance in situations rarely preparing sketches for his paintings or preplanning his murals. He left the interpretation of his art to the public and the art critics. In his tragically short life (1958-1990) he has been able to leave his mark on the art world.

The gallery will show a mixture of sculptures, drawings and paintings all completed in the 1980's. Julia, a portrait of his studio assistant, is a dancing sculpture in yellow. Apart from drawing inspiration from general or sociological critical aspects, Haring had a deep interest in dance which he reinterpreted in his paintings and sculptures. Julia is a delicate piece that shows Julia Gruen in a classical dance pose wearing a tutu depicted as two rings around her hips.

Haring gave equal importance to sculptures as to his paintings and drawings. He enjoyed working with new materials and proving his ability as a sculptor. Not only can this be seen in the works exhibited in the gallery but also in the five monumental sculptures that are concurrently shown at Somerset House on its River Terrace.

There will be seven works on paper from the Estate on show, none of which were ever available on the market before. They were all shown in the Robert Fraser exhibition in 1983. These drawings deal with homosexuality where being gay is being punished or regarded as something coming from outer space. The painting has been lent by a private collection and has been included in major retrospectives of Haring's work.

Catalogue available.

On 2 June 2005 there will be a round table discussion on Keith Haring at the Courtauld Institute of Art at 6pm. The participants are Jeffrey Deitch, Julia Gruen, Julian Stallabrass and Samantha McEwen.

Next Show: Caio Fonseca

For further details contact: Raana Hosseinpour or Ben Brown

BEN BROWN FINE ARTS LTD 21 CORK STREET FIRST FLOOR LONDON W1S 3LZ

T: +44 (0)20 7734 8888 **F:** +44 (0)20 7734 8892 **E:** INFO@BENBROWNFINEARTS.COM **W:** WWW.BENBROWNFINEARTS.COM

BEN BROWN FINE ARTS LTD REGISTERED OFFICE: 1 REEF HOUSE, CORAL ROW, PLANTATION WHARF, LONDON SW11 3UF REGISTERED IN ENGLAND AND WALES COMPANY NO: 493119