

BEN BROWN

- Press Release for immediate release -

This October fine art dealer Ben Brown is opening Ben Brown Fine Arts, a new space on Cork Street in London, which he will use to showcase major international artists. Ben started Ben Brown Fine Arts in January 2004 and is delighted to be taking over the gallery space, which has been designed by architect John Pawson.

At his new gallery Ben Brown will be exhibiting both Modern and Contemporary art: "I am excited about this opportunity. I am pleased to be exhibiting art that I have chosen personally; I feel that with my experience with the world's leading auction house as well as one of the leading international galleries, I am well positioned to work both with important international artists and to give clients the best advice as to how to put together great collections.

Ben has extensive experience in the art world, in both the auction house and gallery environment. He joined Sotheby's directly upon graduating from Oxford University in 1991 and advanced quickly to become director of the contemporary art department. In 2001 he left Sotheby's to accept the invitation to join Waddington Galleries as co-managing director.

While at Sotheby's in the late 1990's Ben and his Italian counterparts Elena Geuna and Claudia Dwek helped to pioneer Sotheby's highly successful Italian sales. He was instrumental in marketing Sotheby's to Italian clients with the result of securing many collections which were sold at these sales. The ensuing auctions achieved record prices for artists such as Giorgio Morandi, Lucio Fontana, Piero Manzoni and Alighiero Boetti. This extensive interest in Italian art is reflected in his choice for his second show entitled " Lucio Fontana; works from the 1950's".

Ben had substantial influence in pushing Sotheby's into offering younger generations of artists at its auctions. He initiated important sales of works by Damien Hirst, Gary Hume and Maurizio Cattelan for example. Thanks to his long standing friendship with James Kirkman, he was instrumental in securing the Kirkman collection of works by Lucian Freud, (one painting from the collection still holds the world record for the artist at auction). The sale of these works dramatically transformed the market for Freud's work in the late 1990's.

At Waddington Galleries, he curated a groundbreaking show which included photographs by Bernd and Hilla Becher alongside their five most successful students. The show was hugely influential and confirmed Ben as a prime mover in the market for German photography in England. Furthermore, he curated a Peter Halley show and a show of Anglo-American Pop Art which brought greater recognition to British Pop Art.

Ben Brown Fine Arts opening exhibition will be by the eminent German photographer Candida Höfer entitled "Libraries" which will open on 14th October 2004. The next show will be of early works by Lucio Fontana.

He intends to continue to work with important international artists who are underrepresented in English collections, while at the same time dealing in modern and contemporary masterpieces

Ben Brown Fine Arts works in stock at the moment include pieces by Andy Warhol, Dan Flavin, Sol Lewitt, Damien Hirst, Gary Hume, Chris Ofili, Bridget Riley, Bernd and Hilla Becher, Candida Höfer, Andreas Gursky, Thomas Struth, Axel Hütte, Thomas Ruff, Lucio Fontana, Giorgio Morandi, Alighiero Boetti, Piero Manzoni, Jean Michel Basquiat, Miquel Barceló, Juan Muñoz, Marlene Dumas, Cindy Sherman, Wolfgang Tillmans, Antony Gormley and Anish Kapoor. He also represents the estate of Keith Haring in the UK.

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