

GAGOSIAN GALLERY

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PRESS RELEASE

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VANESSA BEECROFT: VB43

Tuesday May 9, 6-9 PM

The first thought is that...Beecroft's work... its use of real time, real space and real flesh, would have to be invented if it didn't already exist.

Roberta Smith, New York Times May 6th, 1998

Yet for all the images in art that these girls may be related to, Beecroft does something no one else does - she does images live.

Jan Avgikos, Parkett #56, 1999, page 107.

Gagosian Gallery is pleased to announce the presentation of **VB43**, a performance by Vanessa Beecroft. The one evening event will be the first solo project by Beecroft in the U.K.

The primary material in Beecroft's work is the live figure, which remains ephemeral, separate and unmediated by any device we normally accept as artform, such as painting or photography. The selected group of figures denotes a hyper-real *type*; their installation in the space creates an image that moves very slowly and gradually over time. In the case of **VB43** influences come from an iconic British *look* and yet in Beecroft's presentation a little accentuated. In **VB43** there is a heightened relationship to the usual undercurrent reference to the use of the figure in classical painting and sculpture.

Beecroft is Italian, born in 1969. She grew up in Italy and moved to the U.S. five years ago. Her museum performances include: VB42 a performance with the U.S. Navy on the flight deck of the Intrepid in New York as part of the 2000 Whitney Biennial; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney 1999; Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego 1999; Moderna Museet, Stockholm 1998 and the Guggenheim Museum, New York 1998, which Roberta Smith described as "twenty Venus's in a conch shell by Botticelli". Later this year she will produce a performance for the opening of the new wing of the Vienna Kunsthalle and in Naples Beecroft will complete the third and final performance involving the US Navy.

For more information please contact the gallery.