

GAGOSIAN GALLERY

February 17, 2004

PRESS RELEASE

GAGOSIAN GALLERY

456 NORTH CAMDEN DRIVE
BEVERLY HILLS CA 90210
GALLERY HOURS:

T. 310.271.9400

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Tuesday – Saturday: 10:00am–5:30pm



ANDY WARHOL: *Late Paintings*

Friday, February 27 – Saturday, April 17, 2004

Opening reception: Thursday, February 26th, 6 – 8pm

Gagosian Gallery is pleased to announce the exhibition of Andy Warhol's *Late Paintings* – primarily the stark black-and-white ad paintings from the mid-1980s.

For this group of works, Warhol returned to his scrapbooks of ads from the 1950s and chose those with hand painted illustrations and lettering. The works – which feature images that have been enlarged and screened on blank white canvases – are both brash and icy. While the images are made by hand, the paintings seem totally blank and disembodied.

In fact, the paintings are so emphatically dry in appearance they seem to suggest that, if pushed any farther, they might simply vanish. In short – to mimic one of the slogans – the paintings are just “one breath away” from returning to their abstract essence.

Around the same time, Warhol was making his *Camouflage* paintings – vivid designs that are really about the notion of making things disappear, and his black and white *Rorschach* works – inky blotches intended to communicate with “the other world” of our deepest psyche.

The black and white ads and illustrations must be considered in the light of Warhol's impulse, as the year of his death drew near, to fiddle with the beyond as it is transmitted to us through the odd cultural phenomena of the human world.

The exhibition is accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue, with a 1985 interview with the artist by Benjamin Buchloh.

For more information please contact the gallery.

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