GAGOSIAN GALLERY

January 13, 2005

PRESS RELEASE

GAGOSIAN GALLERY 980 MADISON AVENUE NEW YORK NY 10021 GALLERY HOURS:

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RICHARD WRIGHT

Wednesday, January 26 – Saturday, March 5, 2004 Opening reception on Tuesday, January 25th, 6–8 pm

Gagosian Gallery is pleased to announce the opening of Richard Wright's first major solo exhibition in the United States. The climax of the exhibition focuses on a major installation painting where the artist paints incredibly detailed and graphic work directly onto the gallery walls. This exhibition also highlights new works on paper by the artist.

Richard Wright has developed his own language through painting within which a wide spectrum of motifs and shapes create rhythms and phrases. His installations have covered large scale walls with fine parallel lines or grids, then interrupted that graphic with perfect circles or other punctuation blocks against the grain. Every inch painted by hand in these installations makes a kaleidoscopic picture plane. In other works Wright uses a specific area in space to intense effect, making elaborate repeats and curly tracks develop to a kind of emblem. Wright uses a range of pictorial patterns and signs with reference to paintings, and wall decorations.

Richard Wright lives and works in Glasgow where he is a central figure in the vibrant art scene. Beginning with his personal exhibition at Kunstverein für die Rheinlande und Westfalen, Düsseldorf and subsequently at the Dundee Contemporary Arts in Scotland, Wright escalated the scale of his paintings so that they dwarfed the viewer; creating images too large to see in total up close, but too detailed to completely decipher at a distance.

Wright has appeared in many group shows including *Drawing Now: Eight Propositions* at Museum of Modern Art in New York and *Painting at the Edge of the World*, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis and the touring *The British Art Show 5*. Wright has been commissioned to make works for private, corporate and museum collections including the Jumex Foundation in Mexico City and he will be developing a work for the new building of the San Diego Museum. He has a solo show this spring at Domaine de Kerguéhennec, Centre d'art contemporain, Bignan, Brittany.