December 14, 2011

PRESS RELEASE
GAGOSIAN GALLERY

DAMIEN HIRST:
The Complete Spot Paintings 1986–2011
Opening Thursday, January 12, 2012

GAGOSIAN GALLERY HOLDS WORLDWIDE EXHIBITION OF TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF SPOT PAINTINGS BY DAMIEN HIRST

I was always a colorist, I’ve always had a phenomenal love of color... I mean, I just move color around on its own. So that’s where the spot paintings came from—to create that structure to do those colors, and do nothing. I suddenly got what I wanted. It was just a way of pinning down the joy of color.
—Damien Hirst


The exhibition will take place at once across all of Gagosian Gallery’s eleven locations in New York, London, Paris, Los Angeles, Rome, Athens, Geneva, and Hong Kong, opening worldwide on January 12, 2012. Most of the paintings are being lent by private individuals and public institutions, more than 150 different lenders from twenty countries. Conceived as a single exhibition in multiple locations, “The Complete Spot Paintings 1986–2011” makes use of this demographic fact to determine the content of each exhibition according to locality.

Included in the exhibition are more than 300 paintings, from the first spot on board that Hirst created in 1986; to the smallest spot painting comprising half a spot and measuring 1 x 1/2 inch (1996); to a monumental work comprising only four spots, each 60 inches in diameter; and up to the most recent spot painting completed in 2011 containing 25,781 spots that are each 1 millimeter in diameter, with no single color ever repeated.

In conjunction with the exhibition will be the publication of The Complete Spot Paintings 1986–2011, a fully illustrated, comprehensive and definitive catalogue of all spot paintings made by Hirst from 1986 to the present. Published by Gagosian Gallery and Other Criteria, The Complete Spot Paintings 1986–2011 includes essays by Museum of Modern Art curator Ann Temkin, cultural critic Michael Bracewell, and art historian Robert Pincus-Witten as well as a conversation between Damien Hirst, Ed Ruscha and John Baldessari.

The third issue of the Gagosian App for iPad will also launch January, providing an interactive, in-depth look at the series that features more than ninety spot paintings.

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Hirst lives and works in London and Devon, United Kingdom.

Press Enquiries:
Bolton & Quinn
Erica Bolton
E. erica@boltonquinn.com T. +44.207.221.5000

FITZ & CO.
Meg Blackburn
E. meg@fitzandco.com T. +1.212.627.1455, ext. 225

Claudine Colin Communication
Dorelia Baird-Smith
E. dorelia@claudinecolin.com T. +33.1.42.72.60.01

Exhibition details for each gallery is listed below:

**New York**
980 Madison Avenue
January 12–February 18, 2012
Opening Reception: 6–8pm

555 West 24th Street
January 12–February 18, 2012
Opening Reception: 6–8pm

522 West 21st Street
January 12–February 18, 2012
Opening Reception: 6–8pm

**Beverly Hills**
456 North Camden Drive
January 12–February 10, 2012
Opening Reception: 6–8pm

**London**
6–24 Britannia Street
January 12–February 18, 2012
Opening Reception: 6–8pm

17–19 Davies Street
January 12–February 18, 2012
Opening Reception: 6–8pm

**Paris**
4 Rue de Ponthieu
January 12–February 18, 2012
Opening Reception: 6–8pm

**Rome**
Via Francesco Crispi 16
January 12–March 10, 2012
Opening Reception: 6–8:30pm

**Geneva**
19 Place de Longemalle
January 12–March 17, 2012
Opening Reception: 6–8pm

**Athens**
3 Merlin Street
January 12–March 10, 2012
Opening Reception: 6–8pm

**Hong Kong**
7/F, 12 Pedder Street
January 12–February 18, 2012
Opening Reception: 6–8pm