

GAGOSIAN GALLERY



# The Show Is Over

*Freire Barnes*



**Gagosian Britannia St. ► Nov 30.**

In case you were unaware, painting's been dead for a century – since the birth of photography and film. So it warmed the cockles of my 'art to walk into this museum-scale show featuring 35 internationally renowned artists – all gallantly coming to the maligned medium's rescue.

Curator Mark Francis has used painting's supposed death to create an ode to the age-old process of applying pigment to canvas. All the works seem to cry 'Long Live Painting!'

Abstraction features heavily ('Untitled Fire-Colour Painting', 1962, by Yves Klein, pictured). Sombre colour-ground



experimentations by Richard Serra and Gerhard Richter are juxtaposed with the likes of Robert Rauschenberg's sublime 'White Painting (Two Panel)' (1951), a pair

of canvases painted white which, paradoxically, appear to represent a primed canvas waiting to be painted. There are pop art takes by Roy Lichtenstein, and even pisstakes, like Andy Warhol's 'Oxidation' (1978), which was made by weeing on to copper.

The exhibition ripples along the gallery walls with such vitality that it makes you wonder where the cynicism towards painting came

from in the first place. The show is far from over. *Freire Barnes*

**THE BOTTOM LINE** Painting is dead. Long live painting.