

PRESS RELEASE

In the darkest hour there may be light
Works from Damien Hirst's murderme collection

25 November 2006 – 28 January 2007
10am – 6pm daily. Admission free

In association with Hiscox plc
Supported by Outset Contemporary Art Fund

"As a human being, as you go through life, you just do collect. It was that sort of entropic collecting that I found myself interested in, just amassing stuff while you're alive." Damien Hirst, 2006

Damien Hirst's groundbreaking and controversial work has made him one of Britain's best-known living artists. Since the start of his career, Hirst has adopted the role of curator, co-organising a series of exhibitions with a group of young British artists who came to define cutting-edge art in the 1990s. It began with the now legendary *Freeze* exhibition of 1988, organised when he was still a student at Goldsmiths College and followed by *Modern Medicine* and *Gambler*, both in 1990. In 1994 he curated the highly-acclaimed exhibition *Some Went Mad, Some Ran Away...* at the Serpentine Gallery. *In the darkest hour there may be light* will be the first time that Damien Hirst's *murderme collection* has been publicly exhibited.

Hirst is also a passionate and obsessive collector of art and has amassed a significant collection that he calls the *murderme collection*. It began with the works he received from exchanges with his artist friends, such as Tracey Emin, Angus Fairhurst and Sarah Lucas, which subsequently developed into a wide-ranging collection reflecting the development of his artistic interests. It spans several generations of international artists, including Francis Bacon, Andy Warhol, Jeff Koons and Richard Prince. Damien Hirst is also a supporter of artists in earlier stages of their careers such as Roger Hiorns, Rachel Howard, Nicholas Lumb and Tom Ormond.

The exhibition will feature over 60 works by 24 artists including painting, sculpture, photography and installation, displayed both inside and outside the Gallery. It offers a fascinating insight into Hirst's collecting acumen and personal interests, as well as representing a cross section of the most interesting contemporary art today.

Artists in the Exhibition

Francis Bacon, Banksy, Don Brown, Angela Bulloch, John Currin, Tracey Emin, Angus Fairhurst, Steven Gregory, Marcus Harvey, Rachel Howard, John Isaacs, Michael Joo, Jeff Koons, Jim Lambie, Sean Landers, Tim Lewis, Sarah Lucas, Nicholas Lumb, Tom Ormond, Laurence Owen, Richard Prince, Haim Steinbach, Gavin Turk, Andy Warhol.

For more press information please contact:
Tom Coupe 020 7298 1528, tomc@serpentinegallery.org
Recorded Information 020 7298 1515. www.serpentinegallery.org

Limited Edition Print Portfolio

A specially commissioned Limited Edition Print Portfolio, featuring works by all 22 living artists in the exhibition, well as by Damien Hirst, will be published by the Serpentine Gallery/Other Criteria to coincide with *In the darkest hour there may be light: works from Damien Hirst's murderme collection*. The portfolio is an edition of 50, each print is 420 x 297mm and the set comes in a unique presentation box. The Portfolio will be sold exclusively at the Serpentine Gallery and proceeds from the sale directly support the Exhibition Programme.

Catalogue

In the darkest hour there may be light: works from Damien Hirst's murderme collection will also be accompanied by a fully-illustrated catalogue published by the Serpentine Gallery/Other Criteria. It features a text by artist and writer Harland Miller and an interview with Damien Hirst by Hans Ulrich Obrist, Co-Director, Exhibitions & Programmes and Director of International Projects at the Serpentine Gallery.

Hardback, 152 pages, 280 x 230mm.

Hiscox: Lead Sponsors

Hiscox is delighted to be sponsoring *In the darkest hour there may be light: works from Damien Hirst's murderme collection*, enabling the Serpentine Gallery to bring the personal art collection of one of the world's greatest artists to the general public for the first time. The sponsorship is a natural association for Hiscox. As a specialist insurer, it was one of the first in the UK to offer cover for artworks as a stand-alone insurance class. Driven by the passion of its chairman, Robert Hiscox, the company began collecting art over forty years ago. Hiscox believes in supporting initiatives that encourage and inspire collectors of all levels to build their own unique collections.

The Hiscox collection now features over 50 artists including Damien Hirst, Richard Billingham, Marc Quinn, Mat Collishaw, Keith Coventry, Gregory Crewdson, Mark Wallinger and Cecily Brown. The collection is on permanent display in Hiscox offices around the world and is regularly updated.

In addition to this, Hiscox has its own exhibition space, Hiscox Art Projects, situated within the café on the ground floor of its London office and open to the public during the day, making contemporary collections and exhibitions readily accessible to those living and working in the City and the wider art community. Hiscox is also dedicated to uncovering and encouraging emerging talent and sponsors degree shows at the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris and the Master of Fine Art Degree Show at the Glasgow School of Art.

In association with



Supported by

outset.

Media partner

theguardian

With love from

 othercriteria.com