

For Immediate Release:

Katherine Bernhardt

29 November through 26 December 2001

Team will present a solo exhibition of new paintings by Katherine Bernhardt from the 29th of November through the 26th of December 2001. A concurrent solo of new paintings will be held at Modern Culture At The Gershwin Hotel. Both exhibitions will remain on view through the 26th of December.

Katherine Bernhardt's show is being divided between two venues. The show at Team will primarily be made up of six-by-eight-foot paintings in a number of vernacular styles, both figurative and abstract. The show at Modern Culture At The Gershwin Hotel will consist of a wide variety of works that represent a variegation of scale, image and material.

Bernhardt's paintings are much more than kitsch, than arrogance, than disruption. Although her practice is stridently irreverent, her investment in the material hybridity of contemporary painting marks her's as an earnest voice. Bernhardt puts it on, laying down paint accurately with both economy and aggression, fully exhausting the possibilities of artmaking over the rainbow and beyond the Golden Arches. We are clearly in a place of pleasure.

Bernhardt's work is clumsy but its exuberance is catchy. She attacks the canvas with expressive gesture in the service of cataloguing a world of interest. Her personal iconography includes (but is not at all limited to) such disparate images as corporate logos, Versace and Gucci fashion models; the pop singer Bjork, Nike promotional materials, E.T., travel posters and acne relief ads. Using stencils, spray paint, synthetic fashion stripes, and almost any other materials at hand, Bernhardt turns McDonalds Golden Arches into heaving breasts; inverting the image yields up juicy buttocks. Bernhardt transforms Saul Bass' AT&T logo into an abstract signature of fluid expression and, in so doing, renders a painting that looks as if it was made last week by a boy in Dresden. Something of a disc jockey, K.B. samples culture, mixing a keen contemporary eye with an antiquated handling of paint. Her manipulation of materials -- the thick pictorial quality of her brushstrokes, the transparency of spray paint -- all form a repertoire that endears as much as it repels. Ms. Bernhardt's paintings suggest something new while allowing us to take pleasure in old-fashioned painterly excess. Long live the new Expressionism.

Modern Culture At The Gershwin Hotel is located at 3 East 27th Street (between Fifth and Madison Avenues) in the Madison Square District, on the ground floor.

Team Gallery is located at 527 West 26th Street (between Tenth and Eleventh Avenues) in the West Chelsea District, on the ground floor.

Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10am to 6pm. For further information and/or photographs, please call the gallery at 212.279.9219.