KEITHHARING1978-1982

February 26 - September 5, 2011

Keith Haring was born in Reading, Pennsylvania in 1958, but spent most of his childhood in Kurztown, Pennsylvania. It was through an early fascination with cartoons that Haring discovered how a simple line could have the power to convey motion and even a sense of emotion. In 1978, when he enrolled in the School of Visual Arts in New York, he left his cartoon characters behind and began exploring what he described as "the most exciting city in the world." Haring quickly became a fixture in New York's art scene and gay community. After he discovered the gestural brushwork and symbolic forms of the abstract expressionists, he began investigating patterns made of geometric forms. During his years in New York, his style changed as he experimented with formal elements such as shape, line and media—often carefully outlined in his journals. In the 1980s he reintroduced the simple cartoon-like forms, which he is best known for today. Up until his death in 1990 from AIDS complications, Haring lived the philosophy "art is for everyone" by creating murals, group exhibitions, buttons for mass distribution and artwork in the subways. Keith Haring: 1978-1982 traces the development of Haring's unique visual language and his artistic evolution from abstracted forms to a more figurative style. It also displays his interest in diverse media, explores his role as a curator and illuminates the energy that permeates his work.

Co-organizers: Contemporary Arts Center, Kunsthalle Wien Curated by Raphaela Platow

A special thank you to the sponsors:

James A. and Mary Miller

Allan Berliant and Jennie Rosenthal Berliant; Susan and Bill Friedlander

Public artworks sponsor: The Carol Ann and Ralph V. Haile, Jr./U.S. Bank Foundation

ArtsWave Corporate Partner: P&G











