

P R E S S R E L E A S E
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**AN EXHIBITION OF NEW PAINTINGS BY JULIAN SCHNABEL OPENS AT
PACEWILDENSTEIN, 142 GREENE STREET, ON FEBRUARY 15, 1996**

The Conversion of St. Paolo Malfi, a new series of large-scale paintings by Julian Schnabel, will be on view at PaceWildenstein, 142 Greene Street, New York from February 15 through March 23, 1996. A public opening will be held for the artist in the gallery on Thursday, February 15 from 6- 8 p.m.

The Conversion of St. Paolo Malfi consists of twelve paintings, measuring from 96 x 96" to 120 x 108", made with gesso, oil, resin, and print on canvas or tarpaulin. The words "The Conversion of St. Paolo Malfi" or "Adieu" are painted across the surface of each support.

The series was painted by Schnabel in 1995 in memory of Paolo Malfi, an Italian artist and friend of his who was tragically killed in Rome. Malfi, who met Schnabel over thirteen years ago, worked for Sandro Chia and Francesco Clemente as well as painting his own work. In the past Schnabel has frequently alluded to religious figures in his work and when the artist was painting this summer he initially wanted to address the conversion of St. Paul. The end result, however, was a pictorial response to the death of his friend.

"He has reduced his vocabulary to a few arbitrary essentials: a tremulous line, a large glossy stain, a cloud of vivid color, a hard-edged stick shape, a few words. Calmly he says, this is all: an illusionistic surface, precious and unflawed if seen from afar, puritanical and raw close up; colors in clear and bold contrast; few lines (only if they augment the sense of largeness); and other forms (only if borrowed and enlarged so as to lose their meaning)," remarked Francesco Clemente on the new series.

A full color catalogue, with text by Bernice Rose, accompanies the exhibition.

PACEWILDENSTEIN

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