

76 GRAND STREET NEW YORK NY 10013



PHONE (212) 343 7300 WWW.DEITCH.COM

KEITH HARING

HOUSTON STREET AND BOWERY MURAL

MAY 4 – DECEMBER 31, 2008

The Keith Haring Foundation, Goldman Properties and Deitch Projects announce the recreation of Keith Haring's celebrated Houston Street and Bowery mural. The mural became an instant downtown landmark after Keith painted it in the summer of 1982. The mural was up for only a few months in the summer of 1982 before it was painted out but its image remains imprinted in the memory of many people who were part of the downtown artist community in the early 1980s.

The mural is being repainted by Gotham Scenic using the extensive photographic documentation of the original work. The work will be unveiled on May 4, 2008 the day that would have been Keith Haring's 50th Birthday. Keith Haring described the project to his biographer John Gruen as follows:

When I was still living on Broome Street and my studio was in the 611 Broadway building I walked past this wall on the corner of Houston Street and the Bowery almost every day to go to the studio from the apartment. It used to be a handball court so it was a free-standing concrete wall with an accumulation of about three feet of garbage in front being held in place by a small fence. It was pretty disgusting, rat infested, almost a garbage dump and an eyesore in a neighborhood where an eyesore wasn't a problem. We're talking about the corner of Houston and the Bowery which was a desolate area to begin with so we decided that we didn't have to ask permission because the wall was covered with garbage and we thought that if we cleaned up the garbage then no one was going to ask us whether we had permission to paint it. So me and Juan together shovel the garbage into the bags and fill, literally forty or fifty bags full of garbage that are lined up there on the street. We then proceed to use a ladder and paint the wall entirely white with fluorescent Day-Glo enamel on top. I did this mural in two

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days or something. The first day was spent just putting the color on and then the next day doing the black lines. The fluorescent paint was so bright that when the sun hit the wall it was glowing and it was just this incredible monolith. – **Excerpted from the original transcripts of John Gruen’s interviews with Keith Haring conducted in 1989 for *Keith Haring: the Authorized Biography* (1991).**

The property on which the mural wall is located is owned by Goldman Properties. Tony Goldman has given his enthusiastic support to this project.

The mission of the Keith Haring Foundation is to sustain, expand, and protect the legacy of Keith Haring, his art, and his ideals. The Foundation supports not-for-profit organizations that assist children, as well as organizations involved in education, research and care related to AIDS.

The Estate of Keith Haring is represented by Deitch Projects.

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT SUZANNE GEISS AT
212 343 7300 WWW.DEITCH.COM**