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JULIAN SCHNABEL CHRIST'S LAST DAY ATTO II
23 April – 22 May 2008

R+V

PRESS RELEASE



Press and private view Tuesday, 22 April, 6-9pm

Gallery hours Monday - Friday 10am-6pm

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MILANO

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JULIAN SCHNABEL CHRIST'S LAST DAY ATTO II 23 April – 22 May 2008

Robilant + Voena is pleased to announce an exhibition of new works by Julian Schnabel, Christ's Last Day ATTO II.

In seven new paintings Schnabel extends the vocabulary of his recent pictures – combining found early 20th century hospital x-rays and 21st century poetry.

Employing printed x-rays as a ground, with added deliquescent lines and marks in ink, the artist has created works that map the soul. The intervention on these panels makes visible a corporeal landscape that serves to describe the interior and exterior, making a physical record of invisible physical reality. Non-existent in the skeletal interior, the soul is brought back into the paintings by the artist's mark; their essence lies in the area between ground and intervention and the dissolution of their boundaries.

Julian Schnabel first came to the attention of the British public when *Saint Francis in Ecstasy*, 1980 - an early plate-painting - was included in the groundbreaking exhibition *New Spirit in Painting* curated by Norman Rosenthal, Nicholas Serota and Christos Joachimedes at the Royal Academy, London in 1982. With supreme conviction Schnabel's work echoed the title of the exhibition; a young artist taking on the dictum of "the death of painting".

Schnabel's pathos, evidenced in monumental paintings on support already imparted with the patina of previous use (military tarpaulin, velvet, curtains) is grand and eloquent. Tackling subjects from the cannon of western art as well as simple everyday passions, Schnabel uses paint, collage, ink and resin with heroic flair. His paintings are intense, dreamy and romantic.

The works in this exhibition were created from early 20th century hospital x-rays that Schnabel found in an abandoned house at Berck-sur-Mer when filming his third movie *Le Scaphandre et le Papillon* (The Diving Bell and the Butterfly), 2007. In the Gesamtkunstwerk of Schnabel there is no differentiation between the paintings and the movies – the one informs the other in an *oeuvre* that tenderly combines strands of bravura and insight into our humanness.

A fully illustrated catalogue with an essay by Sir Norman Rosenthal will be available.

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Julian Schnabel was born in New York in 1951 and studied at the University of Texas (1969-73) and the Whitney Museum Independent Study Program (1973-74).

Schnabel's work has been exhibited world-wide. His paintings, sculptures and works on paper have been the subject of retrospective exhibitions at: Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, 1982; Tate Gallery, London, 1983; Whitechapel Gallery, London, 1987; Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, 1987; Städtische Kunsthalle, Düsseldorf, 1987; Whitney Museum of American Art, 1987; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, 1987; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, 1987; Museum für Gegenwartskunst, Basel, 1989; Musée d'Art Contemporain, Nîmes, 1989; Staatliche Graphische Sammlung, Munich, 1989; Palais des Beaux-Arts, Brussels, 1989; Fruitmarket Gallery, Edinburgh, 1989; Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, 1989; Museo De Monterrey, Mexico, 1994; Tamayo Museum, Mexico City, 1994; Foundation Joan Miró, Barcelona, 1995; Galleria d'Arte Moderna di Bologna, Italy, 1996; Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt, 2004; Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia, Palacio de Velazquez, Madrid, 2004; and Mostra d'Oltremare, Napoli, 2004.

His work is included in the public collections of the Museum of Modern Art, New York; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; The Guggenheim Museums, New York and Bilbao; Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; Tate Gallery, London; Metropolitan Museum, Tokyo; Reina Sofia Museum, Madrid; National Gallery, Washington D.C.; National Gallery of Australia, Canberra; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco; Kunstmuseum, Basel; and the Foundation Musée d'Art Moderne, Luxembourg.

In 1996 Schnabel wrote and directed the feature film *Basquiat* about fellow New York artist Jean-Michel Basquiat. The film was distributed world-wide by Miramax Films and was in the official selection of the 1996 Venice Film Festival. Schnabel's second film, *Before Night Falls*, based on the life of the late exiled Cuban novelist Reinaldo Arenas, won both the Grand Jury Prize and the Coppa Volpi for best actor for Javier Bardem at the Venice Film Festival 2000. In 2007, Schnabel directed his third film, *The Diving Bell and The Butterfly*. He was awarded "Best Director" at the Cannes Film Festival and the Golden Globes. *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly* was nominated for four Oscars, including "Best Director". Schnabel also directed a feature-length documentary of Lou Reed's performance of his 1973 album Berlin (2007).

Most recently, Julian Schnabel has exhibited his paintings and sculpture at the Met Life building, New York, December, 2006; Julian Schnabel. Summer Pinturas 1978 – 2006, International Contemporary Culture Centre of San Sebastián, San Sebastián, Spain, July-October, 2007; Julian Schnabel. Paintings 1978 – 2006, Palazzo Venezia, Rome, Italy, May-June, 2007; Rotonda della Besana, Milan, Italy, June-September, 2007; Versions of Chuck and Other Works, Schloss Derneburg, Derneburg, Germany, June, 2007; Schnabel Asia, Beijing World Art Museum, Beijing, China, September-October, 2007; 10 Chancery Lane Gallery, Hong Kong, November, 2007; The Shanghai Zendai Museum of Modern Art, Shanghai, China, January-February, 2008; Gallery Hyundai, Seoul, Korea, March-April, 2008; Navigation Drawings, Sperone Westwater Gallery, New York, January-February, 2008; Christ's Last Day, Gagosian Gallery, Los Angeles, California, February-March, 2008, The Conscious Gaze of Frightened Young Nuns, Museum of Contemporary Art, Kiasma, Finland, March, 2008.

Julian Schnabel lives and works in New York, as well as in Montauk, Long Island, and San Sebastián, Spain.

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	<p>JULIAN SCHNABEL <i>Christ's Last Day ATTO II</i>, 2008 Ink, oil on polyester 269.2 x 340.3 cm (106 x 134 in) P08.0005</p>
	<p>JULIAN SCHNABEL <i>Christ's Last Day ATTO II</i>, 2008 Ink, oil on polyester 282.5 x 223.5 cm (111.25 x 88 in) P08.0006</p>
	<p>JULIAN SCHNABEL <i>Christ's Last Day ATTO II</i>, 2008 Ink, oil on polyester 269.2 x 190.5 cm (106 x 75 in) P08.0007</p>
	<p>JULIAN SCHNABEL <i>Christ's Last Day ATTO II</i>, 2008 Ink, oil on polyester 269.2 x 183 cm (106 x 72 in) P08.0008</p>
	<p>JULIAN SCHNABEL <i>Christ's Last Day ATTO II</i>, 2008 Ink, oil on polyester 223.5 x 157.5 cm (88 x 62 in) P08.0009</p>
	<p>JULIAN SCHNABEL <i>Christ's Last Day ATTO II</i>, 2008 Ink, oil on polyester 223.5 x 151.1 cm (88 x 59.5 in) P08.0010</p>
	<p>JULIAN SCHNABEL <i>Christ's Last Day ATTO II</i>, 2008 Oil, gesso ink on polyester 381 x 295 cm (150 x 116 in) P08.0021</p>

For more information please contact xenia@dirobilant.com.

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