

# A British accent

**ART:** Goss changing its name and its mission

By **CHARISSA N. TERRANOVA**  
Special Contributor

After two years of hosting glam traveling exhibitions, Goss Gallery is going institutional.

Kenny Goss, the owner, and George Michael, his pop-music-star partner, have created the Goss-Michael Foundation to encourage Americans to learn about contemporary British art.



Kenny Goss  
McCartney.

They've also rechristened the Uptown venue the Goss-Michael Collection. It will rotate displays of their holdings quarterly. That means no more works-for-sale shows by the likes of David LaChapelle, Kobi Israel and Mary

The initiative includes a collection valued at \$200 million, philanthropic support of the arts in Dallas and a lecture series. The non-profit organization already has given two \$5,000 scholarships, the George Michael Music and Kenny Goss Art scholarships, to students at Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts.

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# Focus on Young British Artists

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The Goss-Michael Collection emphasizes what's known as the Young British Artists, or YBAs, a group that includes Damien Hirst, Fiona Rae, Richard Patterson, Sarah Lucas, Rachel Whiteread and Tracey Emin. Many of them graduated from Goldsmiths College and showed at the Saatchi Gallery in London beginning in 1992.

Never mind that the YBAs are fast getting a little long in the tooth; their work, for the most part, continues to provoke and entertain.

Ms. Emin, who is representing Britain at the Venice Biennale, will be the subject of a tribute exhibition at the gallery, starting Tuesday.

Mr. Goss doesn't see himself as

mirroring the renowned Charles Saatchi. "Saatchi was a pioneer in collecting young British art and, in a sense, also in creating the market around them," he said. "My interest is more personal and intimate. I collect the art of my generation, the art that speaks to me and resonates with mine and George's life experience."

That said, Mr. Hirst's work with formaldehyde, shark taxidermy and maggots has something of a high-end Ripley's Believe It or Not cachet that's a good fit with Dallas. Mr. Goss plans to send all of the Hirst pieces in the collection to Dallas in the fall and host Mr. Hirst and Ms. Emin in a visit to the city, perhaps to give lectures.

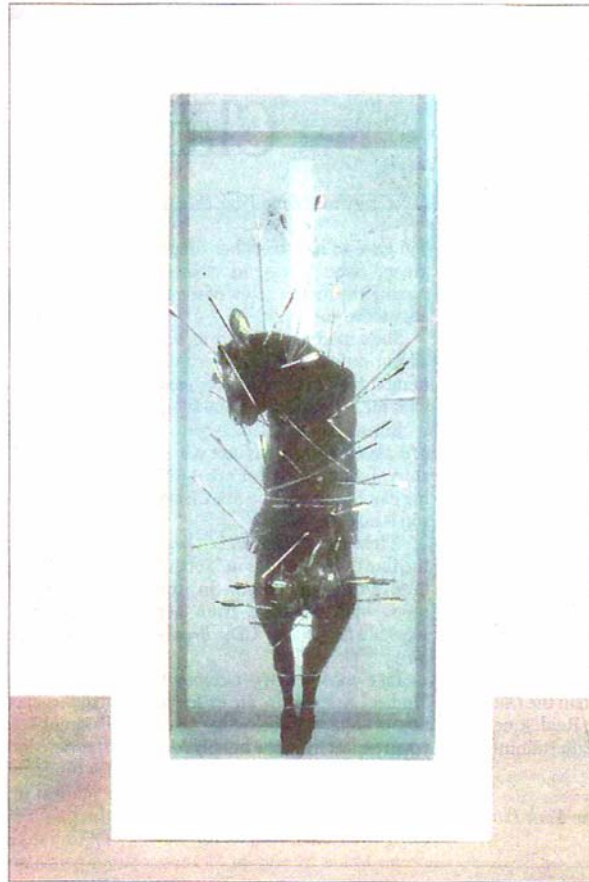
While in London recently, Mr. Goss and Mr. Michael privately viewed Mr. Hirst's breathtakingly

garish \$100 million, 8,601-diamond encrusted platinum skull. After a visit to Ms. Emin's studio, Mr. Goss jetted off with her to the Venice Biennale.

The YBAs aren't the whole collection. David Hockney and Bridget Riley, from the previous generation, are represented. "We also want to foster the future of British art and have begun collecting works from artists just out of college," Mr. Goss said.

The Cedar Springs Road space will remain the main exhibition venue, while Mr. Goss and Mr. Michael look to acquire a second space to store the collection. They will also open a private office to consult collectors.

Charissa N. Terranova is a Dallas freelance writer.



Goss-Michael Collection

Damien Hirst's *Saint Sebastian, Exquisite Pain*