

# THE FOUNDATION

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## **KENNY GOSS AND GEORGE MICHAEL FUSE THEIR SEXUALLY CHARGED \$200 MILLION PRIVATE ART COLLECTION AND UNRIVALED PASSION FOR THE ARTS TO UNVEIL THE GOSS-MICHAEL FOUNDATION**

### **Extensive, Sexually-Provocative Contemporary British Art Collection Will be on Display and Rotate in Dallas Gallery**

**DALLAS, TX (August 1, 2007)** – Musical luminary **George Michael** and his partner **Kenny Goss** are determined to evoke sexual frenzy in the art world with **The Goss-Michael Foundation**, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting and inspiring young artists. In addition to supporting numerous charity organizations, one facet of the Foundation will be **The Goss-Michael Collection**. After two years of successful exhibitions showcasing the works of international contemporary artists, Goss Gallery will undergo a radical transformation that will launch the extensive and sexually provocative collection of Michael and Goss to the public. The Goss-Michael Collection will be housed at 2500 Cedar Springs, the site of the former Goss Gallery and will rotate on a quarterly basis.

Consisting solely of 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century art by both established and emerging British artists, The Goss-Michael collection includes works by two of the most prominent visionaries of our time, **Damien Hirst** and **Tracey Emin**, with whom they befriended early on in their acquisitions. Through this friendship, they will offer a more personal and intimate view of these astounding works of art. Recently in London, Goss met with both artists privately, looking to expand their sexually charged collection, he looked at Hirst's most talked about work, a \$100 million diamond encrusted skull. Both artists have expressed excitement about Goss and Michael's efforts to showcase cutting edge British artists in Dallas.

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Opening in late-June, the premiere exhibit of The Goss-Michael Collection will be “A Tribute to Tracy Emin.” Featuring neon pieces, paintings, prints, sketches, video installations and one of her famous blankets, The Goss-Michael Collection represents one of the most comprehensive collections of Emin’s work in the world. The exhibit in Dallas will coincide with Emin’s display at the Venice Biennale as the selected British artist for the British Pavilion. Future plans for The Goss-Michael Collection include exhibitions by Damien Hirst, best known for his *Natural History* series, in which dead animals are preserved in formaldehyde; Banksy, an avant garde stencil graffiti artist and sculptor duo Sue Webster and Tim Noble.

This collection also includes the legendary piano on which John Lennon composed the song “Imagine.” As part of their vision, Kenny and Michael have spearheaded a campaign in which the piano would embark on an unprecedented peace tour to serve as a beacon of hope to various communities nationwide that have endured horrific tragedies, most recently the devastation in New Orleans from Hurricane Katrina and the site of the VA Tech shootings. In doing so, their goal has been to capture the strength and ease the healing hearts of those within them.

Goss and Michael will debut their private collection to the Dallas public and visitors in late June 2007. The modern space, formerly reserved for visiting exhibitions, will now be the exclusive home to the couple’s acclaimed art. Building on the foundation laid by notable Dallas art collectors, The Goss-Michael Collection will further solidify Dallas’ prominence in the modern art world.

“Goss Gallery has exceeded my expectations in every way; success, visibility and popularity,” said Goss Gallery founder Kenny Goss. “The Goss-Michael Collection is a way for George and I to give back to the community by sharing something that is very special to us.”

The goal of The Goss-Michael Foundation is to educate and create a passion for art, with a global reach. The Foundation will host lecture series and seminars featuring recognized art personalities speaking on the art itself as well as the art of collecting. These forums will be presented to the public domestically as well as abroad. The Foundation will also offer the opportunity for young artists to see all of the different mediums created by fellow emerging artists, adding to the educational value of The Goss-Michael Collection.

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One of the first outreach efforts of The Goss-Michael Foundation included awarding two \$5,000 scholarships in May, 2007 to graduating seniors from Booker T. Washington Arts Magnet High School. The **George Michael Music Scholarship** and the **Kenny Goss Art Scholarship** are given to students based on scholastic achievement and dedication to their art. Through charitable donations, The Goss-Michael Foundation will leave an indelible mark on the global art community. With various fundraiser and scholarship offerings the Foundation will provide unique opportunities to promising artists, art, HIV/AIDS and other health organizations. The Foundation will reach the global community through its charitable programs.

Dallas and Fort Worth are both destinations for art enthusiasts. With the Renzo Piano-designed Nasher Sculpture Center rounding out the Dallas Arts District and the Tadao Ando designed Modern Art Museum in Fort Worth, the area is attracting exhibitions from some of the world's most acclaimed artists. According to an article published in the Spring 2005 issue of *Town & Country Travel*, "Art lovers have figured out that Dallas and Fort Worth have a collection of some of the finest art institutes in the country." The Goss-Michael Collection hopes to enhance the already-thriving art scene by creating a welcome environment for public appreciation of contemporary art.

Goss and Michael continue to expand their unique collection and capture the attention of major art dealers worldwide for their dedication and commitment to enhancing their art pieces.

#### **The Goss Michael Foundation:**

The goal of The Goss-Michael Foundation is to provide a forum for British Contemporary art by presenting exhibitions, programs and resources to educate, engage and inspire youth and adult audiences in the Dallas area and abroad. Founded by George Michael and Kenny Goss in June 2007, the Foundation showcases the couple's private collection of British contemporary art by offering the public a rotating schedule of exhibitions. Through these exhibitions, The Goss-Michael Foundation challenges preconceived art notions and strives to set a new standard in artistic awareness by providing visitors with a fresh and fascinating art experience, as well as an opportunity to interact with the ground-breaking international artists that are responsible for the direction of today's most influential art trends.

**The Goss-Michael Foundation Hours:** Tuesday-Friday 10:00am-6:00pm, Saturday 11:00am-4:00pm, Monday by appointment only.

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