SKARSTEDT



NEW YORK

Fire and urine may seem more like destructive forces than inviting ones, but for Skarstedt gallery's May 9 opening of its third location, a large Annabelle Selldorfdesigned space on West 21st Street in Chelsea, the blue-chip dealer has chosen to pair "Oxidation" paintings by Andy Warhol with works from Yves Klein's "Fire" series. Both series were regarded as being essentially outside these two modern masters' practices—Klein's blue monochromes and Warhol's portraits dominated the public's perception of the artists at the time—and thus mark the beginning of their forays into abstraction. Klein's "Fire" works, made in the 1960s, were experiments with burning canvas in which the resulting pieces are a product of chance; Warhol's 1977–78 "oxidation" technique investigates what can happen when piss and metal combine as a catalyst for imagemaking.