

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

George Condo

Drawing Paintings

November 4-December 17, 2011

Skarstedt Gallery is pleased to announce the exhibition of new paintings by George Condo, which will open Friday November 4th and be on view through December 17, 2011. This exhibition is comprised of eleven new paintings from George Condo's continued series of *Drawing Paintings* which he began in 2009. In his *Drawing Paintings*, Condo explores the relationship between drawing and painting by combining the improvisational aspects of drafting and the controlled methods of painting. In doing so, Condo eliminates the distinction between the two mediums and continues to explore what he calls abstract figuration.

Referring to the *Drawing Painting* series, Condo says,

“They are about freedom of line and color and blur the distinction between drawing and painting. They are about beauty and horror walking hand in hand. They are about improvisation on the human figure and it's consciousness.”

Condo's preoccupation with the figure and recurring imaginary characters is continued in these new works. Bow-tied butlers and leering nudes make fragmented appearances among the charcoal lines and patches of pastel and acrylic. On floor two, Condo continues to expand the *Drawing Paintings* with a series of works known as *Compressions*. In this series, the compositions are concentrated towards one corner; figures forms and colors are compressed to the extent that they become sculptural in their appearance. Condo's visions are compacted into a massive block of gestures and brushwork.

Born in New Hampshire in 1957, Condo has occupied a prominent position in the art world for close to three decades. Along with Basquiat and Haring, Condo was instrumental in the international revival of painting in the 1980s. He has since stood as an example to younger practitioners through his commitment to his personal vision. Condo's work is in the permanent collections of The Museum of Modern Art, The Metropolitan Museum and the Whitney amongst numerous other museums throughout Europe. Currently, his mid-career retrospective which debuted at the New Museum last winter, is currently on view at the Hayward Gallery in London.

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