

# LUXEMBOURG & DAYAN

64 EAST 77TH STREET NEW YORK NY 10075



Jeff Koons. Fingers between Legs, 1990. Oil inks on canvas.

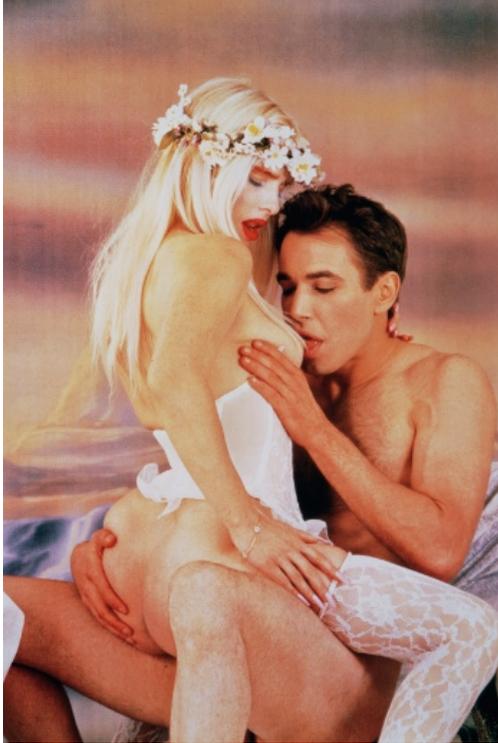
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## **ON 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF JEFF KOONS' "MADE IN HEAVEN" SERIES, MAJOR PAINTINGS TO GO ON VIEW IN NEW YORK**

Jeff Koons: Made in Heaven, Paintings  
Luxembourg & Dayan  
October 6, 2010 — January 21, 2011  
Opening Reception October 5, 6 — 8PM

**New York, NY...**When first shown at the Venice Biennale in 1990, the paintings, sculptures and installations of Jeff Koons' "Made in Heaven" series captured the public's imagination to such an extent that a solo show of the works at Sonnabend Gallery in New York the following year generated lines around the block. With "Made in Heaven," Koons celebrated, in explicit sexual terms, his union with wife Ilona Staller, the Italian porn star and politician known as La Cicciolina. Depicting the pair as a contemporary Adam and Eve, works with such titles as *Dirty Ejaculation* and *Ilona's Asshole* generated immediate controversy that overshadowed their complex dialogue with the history of art and provocative, and Koons' exploration of the established values of traditional painting and photography. To this day, "Made in Heaven" remains the most debated work in the career of this celebrated artist.

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Jeff Koons. Ponies, 1991. Oil inks silkscreened on canvas.

On October 6<sup>th</sup>, and in conjunction with the 20th anniversary of the original Venice presentation of this landmark series, Luxembourg & Dayan will unveil “Jeff Koons: Made in Heaven Paintings,” an exhibition of nine major canvases and one glass sculpture from the artist’s most renowned body of work. The exhibition will remain on view at the gallery through January 21, 2011.

“Jeff Koons: Made in Heaven Paintings” will be accompanied by a new book featuring an essay from curator and critic Alison M. Gingeras, as well as an extensive interview by artist Francesco Vezzoli with Riccardo Schicchi, the Italian photographer and pornographic film producer who collaborated with Staller in the 1980s and is widely credited with shaping her signature Heidi-like persona of La Cicciolina.

If Jeff Koons’ work over the past four decades has been devoted to the aestheticization of contemporary desire, “Made in Heaven” represents a moment of apotheosis. The paintings of the series reference art from the Baroque and Rococo periods – Bernini’s expressions of physical ecstasy as portal to the realm of the sublime, and the carefully staged, allusive love scenes of Fragonard and Boucher that titillated audiences of the day – and also draw upon the breakthroughs of such early modern painters as Courbet and Manet.

### About the Artist

Jeff Koons was born in 1955 in York, Pennsylvania. He studied at the Art Institute of Chicago and received a BFA from the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore, and honorary doctorates from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and Corcoran College of Art + Design in Washington, D.C. Since the 1970s, the artist has received acclaim and stimulated debate with works that pluck images and objects from popular culture, framing questions about taste and pleasure in contemporary society. He has transformed banal items into sumptuous icons in work that acquires a psychological dimension through dramatic shifts in scale, plays with spectacularly engineered surfaces, and offers subliminal allegories of animals, humans and anthropomorphized objects. The subject of art history is a constant undercurrent in Koons’ work. Among the awards he has received are Officer of the French Legion of Honor; the Artistic Achievement Award from Americans for the Arts; and the Skowhegan Medal for Sculpture. His work has been exhibited in solo and group exhibitions at foremost museums and galleries internationally and is included in leading private collections. Jeff Koons lives and works in New York City.



Jeff Koons. Exaltation, 1991. Oil inks silkscreened on canvas.

### About the Gallery

Launched in 2009, Luxembourg & Dayan is a private gallery located in a townhouse at 64 East 77th Street, between Madison Avenue and Park Avenue in New York City. Recent exhibitions have included historical surveys of important works by Marcel Duchamp and Alberto Burri.

For additional information about “Jeff Koons: Made in Heaven Paintings” or to request images for publication, please email [info@andreaschwan.com](mailto:info@andreaschwan.com).