

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Robert Longo: “*nights bright days*”

at Margo Leavin Gallery

22 November 2008 – 24 January 2009

Margo Leavin Gallery is pleased to announce an exhibition of new work by Robert Longo, on view from 22 November 2008 through 24 January 2009. This will be Longo's second solo exhibition at the gallery.

For this exhibition, whose title is taken from a Shakespearean sonnet, Longo continues working on a monumental scale, creating meticulous charcoal renderings that expand across multiple panels. Exhibiting extreme contrasts of light and dark, his subjects take on a sculptural quality within the drawings' saturated, velvety surfaces.

Longo isolates his subjects in a deep black space, depriving them of any real-world setting and transforming them into universal symbols that resonate in our collective unconsciousness. The artist heightens the psychological drama of these emblematic subjects through the use of extreme scale and hyperrealism, creating powerful images that elicit universal reactions such as primal fear and hopeful compassion. Longo's signature black-and-white charcoals imbue his subjects with a haunting and potent emotional resonance, turning a representation of a shark or an impassive face into a timeless commentary on the mythological struggle between humankind and nature.

Robert Longo's work has been exhibited extensively throughout the United States, Europe and Asia. The Los Angeles County Museum of Art mounted a major retrospective in 1989. His work is in numerous private collections and major museums, including the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; the Los Angeles County Museum of Art; Centre George Pompidou, Paris; the Tate Modern, London; and the Albertina, Vienna. Longo was the 2005 recipient of the Goslar Kaiser Ring, Germany's leading award for contemporary art. The Albertina in Vienna is currently organizing a retrospective of the black-and-white charcoals, scheduled for 2010.

Margo Leavin Gallery is located at 812 North Robertson Boulevard in Los Angeles.
Gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday.

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