

Nicholas Robinson Gallery presents *Steven Gregory: Bone Stone Bronze***Exhibition runs 21 September – 3 November 2007**

Nicholas Robinson Gallery is proud to introduce the work of British-based artist Steven Gregory – his exhibition *Bone Stone Bronze* is the inaugural exhibition at 535 West 20th Street, the new 8,000 sq. ft ground floor premises occupied by the gallery as of September 2007.

Gregory's work consists of several media, as the title of the show succinctly states, but is unified by subject and theme. The principal constituent element, common to all the works, is human remains – quite literally skulls and bones sourced from a supplier of medical antiques, and then skillfully mediated by the artist in a variety of ways. A master craftsman, Gregory employs breathtaking facility in the application of precious and semi-precious materials to his works – lapis lazuli, gold, ruby, jet, glass, amongst others, are all meticulously applied in dazzling and seamless mosaics that adorn surface and add detail.

The works rely on both morbidity and laughter to invoke the most original and basic premise for art making of all – death...and its relationship to life. The work refers principally to the *vanitas*, traditionally a preserve of the painted still-life, and perhaps the most prevalent leitmotif in all of Art's lengthy and distinguished history. Recalling Dutch genre painting of the seventeenth century, Warhol's Skulls of 1976, and much else besides, Gregory's works intentionally mine the received wisdom and established pictorial conventions of these tropes. He utilizes the literalness of the materiality in a manner that is surely unique in the theatricality of its impact, but softens this starkness with jewel-like beauty, and through the use of ribaldry and pun in the titles he applies. The resulting works are shocking and compelling - visceral in their impact but baptized with tongue-in-cheek mischief.

Gregory has achieved significant acclaim in Europe – most recently with his inclusion in the important 2007 Serpentine Gallery exhibition, *In the darkest hour there may be light: Works from Damien Hirst's murderme collection*. Through the display of the seven skulls he acquired, explicit public acknowledgment was made by Hirst of his regard for the work, and his indebtedness to it. Exhibited alongside seminal works by Francis Bacon, Andy Warhol, Jeff Koons, Richard Prince, the Chapman Brothers, Tracy Emin, Sarah Lucas and others, Gregory's works largely monopolized the public attention.

He has also recently completed a monumental sculptural commission for the Berardo Museum in Lisbon – part of one of the largest sculpture purchases in British history, and including works by other British luminaries Anthony Caro, Lynn Chadwick, and Tony Cragg. This is Gregory's first solo exhibition in New York, and it is accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue with essay by Christian Viveros-Faune.

For further information:

Please visit www.nrgallery.com
or contact Bettina Prentice, Gallery Director – bettina@nrgallery.com - 212 560 9075