

JACK RUTBERG FINE ARTS

357 N. La Brea Avenue · Los Angeles, CA 90036 · Tel (323) 938-5222 · www.jackrutbergfinearts.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Jack Rutberg, tel. (323) 938-5222

jrutberg@jackrutbergfinearts.com

Major Exhibition “JEROME WITKIN: SITE & INSIGHT” JUNE 4TH - SEPTEMBER 30, 2004

Los Angeles, CA - Increasingly compared to the pantheons of art including Lucien Freud, Manet, Ingres, Goya and Courbet, N.Y. contemporary painter, Jerome Witkin, is featured in a major exhibition entitled “**JEROME WITKIN: SITE & INSIGHT**” at Jack Rutberg Fine Arts in Los Angeles beginning June 4 and extending through September 30, 2004.

This exhibition of recent and select paintings and drawings offers provocative works that put the viewer into intimate contact with the dense interior landscapes of both people and places. The works range from moody urban landscapes and penetrating portraits to intimate figure studies and vivid, psychologically-charged tableaux, often referencing seminal moments in history.

Exhibited for the first time outside a museum is the enormous six-panel exploration of Dachau’s 1945 liberation (“Entering Darkness”, 2001). This work is the culmination of a 20 year-series Witkin has produced on the Holocaust, regarded by critics as among the most compelling paintings made on the subject. Also on view is Witkin’s 2001 painting entitled “9/11,” an expressionist tour de force which conjures the World Trade Center search and rescue site at a distance, where poignant gestures are telegraphed against the tower of rubble and debris under an eerily phosphorescent night sky.

Previous Witkin exhibitions in Los Angeles have drawn critical raves. **The Los Angeles Times** hailed Witkin’s “*indelible, pungent force*”, and cited his work to be “... *a breakthrough in post-Cold-War art.*” **Art in America** declared: “*Jerome Witkin charges the realism of his paintings with Action-Painting technique, tour-de-force draftsmanship and emotionally loaded narration.*” Art historian **Donald Kuspit**, in a his review, called Witkin’s work “*dreams in the grand visionary manner of the Old Masters*” . . . *painted with “the rhapsodic abandon of pure sensation” . . . “unequivocal masterpieces.”* The Jewish Journal calls Witkin “*perhaps the greatest figurative painter alive.*” Indeed, art critic **Kenneth Baker** has declared that “Witkin’s only peer is Lucien Freud”...and that Witkin ranks among the most underestimated artists today.

Witkin’s work, not surprisingly, is found in many of the permanent collections of major art museums worldwide, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Hirshhorn, and the Uffizi.

The **opening reception** for “**JEROME WITKIN: SITE & INSIGHT**” with the artist in attendance at Jack Rutberg Fine Arts will be held on **Friday, June 4, from 7 PM till 9:30**. Jack Rutberg Fine Arts is located at 357 N. La Brea Ave., and is open Tuesday - Friday 10 - 6 and Saturday 10 - 5. For further information, please phone (323) 938-5222.

A separate special evening event with Jerome Witkin will be announced at a later date.

IMAGES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST