

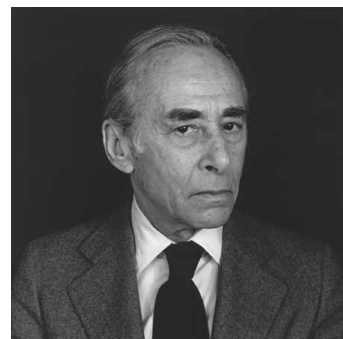
Sean Kelly Gallery

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## ROBERT MAPPLETHORPE

### *Certain People*



February 9 – March 15, 2008

Sean Kelly is delighted to announce a major exhibition of photographs by Robert Mapplethorpe. The opening will take place on Friday, February 8th from 6pm to 8pm.

The exhibition *Certain People* consists of a specific selection of photographs that provides a remarkable opportunity to view portraits of artists, dancers, writers and art world personalities from the period spanning the mid 70s through the mid 80s. Individuals such as Laurie Anderson, Louise Bourgeois, William Burroughs, Francesco Clemente, David Hockney, Annie Leibovitz, Joseph Kosuth, Norman Mailer, Lisette Model, Ileana Sonnabend, Sam Wagstaff and Andy Warhol are depicted, alongside many of their contemporaries. The inspiration for the exhibition comes from the book *Robert Mapplethorpe Certain People: A Book of Portraits*, published in 1985.

The exhibition explores the fascinating relationship the artist nurtured over a period of more than a decade with his sitters. Mapplethorpe had a unique ability to capture the essence of his subjects – his gift is clear in these diverse and revealing portraits. In 1985 Susan Sontag noted in the preface of the book: “Being photographed by Mapplethorpe was different from being photographed by anyone else. He reassures differently, encourages differently, is permissive differently...” Indeed these intimate portraits convey a strong sense of the trust and complicity that existed between Mapplethorpe and his subjects, as well as his ability to capture their different personas in a striking manner. However, as a group, the photographs constitute a unique document attesting to the vibrancy and dynamism of a generation of individuals who were vital presences on the New York art scene in the late 20th century and represent a virtual who’s who/ time capsule of the art world at a particularly complex and historic moment.

Since Mapplethorpe's untimely death in 1989, his work has been the subject of numerous exhibitions in museums throughout the world, including several major traveling retrospectives. He is unquestionably considered to be one of the most important photographers of the twentieth century. Mapplethorpe's work is in the collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; The Museum of Modern Art, New York; Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris and the Ludwig Museum in Cologne amongst many others.

Please contact Maureen Bray at the gallery (212.239.1181) or [maureen@skny.com](mailto:maureen@skny.com) for more information. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Friday from 11am until 6pm and Saturday from 10am until 6pm.