

For Immediate Release

Willie Birch

Free To Be: In Black and White and Color

Willie Birch's life-size paintings of real people in his native New Orleans both capture their unique individuality and transcend it. Birch endows his subjects with an inherited confidence and cool; they are linked by a common, enduring legacy of pride and dignity. These powerful paintings are insightful glimpses of community by an artist who fulfills the roles of eyewitness and storyteller.

A striking outfit, a demeanor, a smile will frequently inspire his sensibility. Sometimes the subject is known to him, other times unknown. Initially drawn in charcoal, the surface is laced with an underlying, linear pattern, then color is added to complete an interplay of dynamic abstract forms.

Birch's paintings have been exhibited widely throughout the country and he has completed many public projects. This is his third individual exhibition at Luise Ross Gallery.

Dates: 28 October - 22 December 2000

Reception: Saturday, 28 October 5 - 8 pm