

For Immediate Release

Willie Birch

Portraits of a New Orleans Majority

This latest phase in Willie Birch's continuing series of life-sized paintings of his New Orleans neighbors is a tour de force in grisaille, complemented by Birch's ingenious ability to integrate every part of his compositions - background and foreground - into one complex, but harmonious narrative. These large charcoal and acrylic portraits - a street preacher, chess players, a little girl playing jacks - are loving tributes to his community by an artist whose unerring eye informs the viewer of its dignity and cultural richness.

Dates: 1 November - 21 December 2002

Title: Portraits of a New Orleans Majority

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