

JPMorgan Chase sponsors artist Jean-Michel Basquiat national tour

March 2005 - JPMorgan Chase is sponsoring the national tour of the works of Haitian-Puerto-Rican artist Jean-Michel Basquiat -- an artist whose career coincided with the emergence of the hip-hop movement, and who contributed to the revival of painting in the U.S. The exhibition, which is open to the public, will display more than 90 works by Basquiat and will run from now through June 5 at the Brooklyn Museum, travel to the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles from July 15 to October 10, then move on to the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston from November 18 to February 12, 2006.

"We are proud to sponsor the national tour of Jean-Michel Basquiat and are pleased to be associated with the Brooklyn Museum. This sponsorship offers a great opportunity to entertain clients and show them our dedication to supporting the arts. It also allows us to continue our commitment to art education and exposing children to art and museums," said Lewis Jones, president of the JPMorgan Chase Foundation. "In conjunction with the national tour, we are sponsoring a Web site for teen audiences called, *Street to Studio: The Art of Jean-Michel Basquiat presented by JPMorgan Chase*. This site will give the children an in-depth look at Basquiat and his work."

The art of learning

The *Street to Studio: The Art of Jean-Michel Basquiat* (www.basquiatonline.org) Web site was developed to support arts education and to provide opportunities for youth to experience museums. By seeing and actively discussing the issues and ideas raised by artists like Basquiat, youth are encouraged to develop their critical thinking skills by learning how to talk and think about things differently, to accept different points of view, and to articulate their own views and ideas.

The site also includes a biography on Basquiat, online chat rooms for teen-to-teen discussions about the art and in-depth explorations of six works by Basquiat.

Art in our communities

As a longstanding supporter of arts and cultural programs, JPMorgan Chase's involvement with the world of art has evolved over the past four decades to any one of these roles: curator, educator, corporate sponsor or exhibition host.

The firm is inspired to make the arts accessible to as wide an audience as possible by creating opportunities for individuals and their families to participate in experiences that otherwise might not have been available to them.

In addition to major sponsorships worldwide, the firm supports arts and culture at the local level. It also enriches the cultural life of our communities with programs that support:

- the visual arts such as museums, galleries and exhibition spaces, which promote the work of living artists;
- art centers and community-based arts institutions that contribute to economic vitality, civic enhancement and quality of life; and
- art service organizations that advocate for the arts and are the voice for both the field and the communities they serve.

The JPMorgan Chase Collection consists of nearly 30,000 pieces in more than 350 locations worldwide. The collection is diverse and eclectic, with works ranging from modern and contemporary paintings, drawings and prints to sculpture, photography and textiles. It is an international art collection known for its commitment to supporting contemporary artists who shape the future through their innovation and creative vision.

About Jean-Michel Basquiat

Born on September 22, 1960, the New York native began making drawings inspired by television cartoons at an early age, though he never received formal art training. Most often associated with the graffiti movement of embellishing New York City walls with graffiti, poetry and street tags in the 1970s, Basquiat is now considered one of the most interesting artists of his generation.

His work from the beginning consisted of conceptual, enigmatic combinations of words and symbols, executed with curt child-like simplicity. One critic has called Basquiat's style "the child's urgent drawing made before the conventions are learned... [He existed] being "out there" in the wild, living on the streets, on nerve." His style propelled him to the forefront of the Neo-Expressionist movement, which was characterized by intense subjectivity of feeling and aggressively raw handling of materials.

Basquiat's career spanned barely a decade and culminated with his untimely death at the age of 27. He is one of only a small number of Hispanic-African-American artists to have achieved international recognition.