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PRESS RELEASE:

Newport Street Gallery to present Gavin Turk solo exhibition

'Who What When Where How and Why'
23rd November 2016 to 19th March 2017

Newport Street Gallery will host the first major solo exhibition of work by British artist Gavin Turk since 2002 (opens 23rd November 2016).

Spanning almost three decades, 'Who What When Where How and Why' will showcase works from throughout the artist's career, many exhibited together for the first time.

Turk's work focuses on the anti-hero, the recycling of art history, waste and refuse, the signature and the painted bronze. Tracing his early interest in themes pertaining to authorship, identity and the artist, the show features 'Cave', the now iconic blue plaque installation that was exhibited in Turk's Royal College of Art degree show in 1991. Works from the artist's *Signature* series also feature alongside four life-sized figure sculptures, as well as painted bronze *Rubbish* pieces. Drawn entirely from Damien Hirst's collection, other highlights include Turk's re-imagining of Warhol's Elvis screen prints, his 'recycled' Magritte self-portrait, *Godot* (1996), and the bronze *Ariadne* (2006–2014), which is based on de Chirico's series of paintings of the statue.

Hirst first saw Turk's work at his Royal College degree show in 1991 and began acquiring his work in 1998.

On the occasion of the exhibition, Turk said, *"It is a massive compliment to have Damien as an artist, collect my work on this scale, with such intelligence and then show it to the public in this beautiful new gallery."*

Hirst stated, *"I started collecting Gavin's work twenty years ago. He's an incredibly powerful artist, his work is about language and the spaces between things – about identity and being somebody and nobody, he plays with our preconceptions of what's there and not there, of what art is and how it functions. He's had a major impact on British art so it's great to be able to show such an extensive collection of his work at Newport Street."*

Newport Street Gallery is the realisation of Hirst's long-term ambition to share his extensive collection of art – which includes over 3,000 works – with the public. The gallery was recently shortlisted for the RIBA Stirling Prize, the UK's most prestigious architecture prize.

Newport Street Gallery's current exhibition of work by Jeff Koons – 'Now' – will run until the 16th October 2016, at which time the gallery will close until 22nd November. Pharmacy 2 restaurant will also close on Sunday 16th October then re-open as usual one week later on Tuesday 25th October. Entry to all exhibitions is free.

Notes to editors:

About Gavin Turk

Gavin Turk (b. 1967) is a British born, international artist. He has pioneered many forms of contemporary British sculpture now taken for granted, including the painted bronze, the waxwork, the recycled art-historical icon and the use of rubbish in art.

Turk's installations and sculptures deal with issues of authorship, authenticity and identity. Concerned with the 'myth' of the artist and the 'authorship' of a work, Turk's engagement with this modernist, avant-garde debate stretches back to the ready-mades of Marcel Duchamp.

His work has been exhibited in over 50 solo shows internationally as well as many major curated exhibitions from the Tate and the Royal Academy to Museum shows in America, Asia, Australasia and Europe.

Turk was the recipient of the Royal Academy of Art's Charles Wollaston Award in 2007 and the Jack Goldhill Sculpture Prize in 2001. In 2010 he received an Honorary Doctorate in Arts from the University of East London.

About Newport Street Gallery

Newport Street Gallery opened in Vauxhall, south London, in October 2015. Spanning five buildings, the gallery presents solo or group exhibitions of work drawn from Damien Hirst's extensive art collection, which he has been building since the late 1980s.

Hirst's interest in curating dates back to the beginning of his artistic career and his organisation of the groundbreaking 'Freeze' exhibition in south London in 1988.

On the opening of the gallery, Hirst said: *"I've always loved art and art deserves to be shown in great spaces, so I've always dreamed of having my own gallery where I can exhibit work by the artists I love. I believe art should be experienced by as many people as possible and I've felt guilty owning work that is stored away in boxes where no one can see it, so having a space where I can put on shows from the collection is a dream come true."*

Newport Street Gallery is open on bank holidays. Please see website for details.