



## **KEITH HARING (1958-1990)**

### **Untitled**

acrylic on cotton tarp

89 1/4 x 90 1/2 x 1 in. (91 1/4 x 92 1/2 x 2 3/8 in.)

1984

32810

### **PROVENANCE:**

Left Panel:

Artist Bill T. Jones

Private Collection, New York

Private Collection, Rotterdam

Private collection, New York

Galleria Seno, Milan

Private Collection

Sotheby's, May 15th 2013, Contemporary Art Day Sale, Lot 287 Private collection, New York

Right Panel:

Artist Bill T. Jones

Private collection, New York Private collection, Switzerland Private collection, New York

Private collection, New York

### **EXHIBITION:**

Secret Pastures, Bill T. Jones / Arnie Zane Dance Company, Brooklyn Academy of Music, November, 1984

### **LITERATURE:**

Exh. cat., Castello di Rivoli, Museo d'arte contemporanea, Keith Haring, February – April, 1994, ill. 239

Haring created this double-paneled canvas as a central set piece for "Secret Pastures," a critically acclaimed dance performance by Bill T. Jones and Arnie Zane at the Brooklyn Academy of Music in 1984. The performance was one of multiple artistic collaborations between Haring and Jones's team, which include the iconic body-painting sessions that led to the sensational Tseng Kwong Chi photographs that landed in museum collections around the world.

Between 1976 and 1978, Haring dropped out of commercial art school and moved to New York, quickly ingratiating himself in the 1980s downtown arts scene. In its nascent days, the downtown arts community was notable for its multidisciplinary approach. Artists were frequently self-taught and engaged in performance art, experimental music, graffiti, and unplanned happenings. Haring is best known for a graphic style with rapid rhythmic lines and a recognizable vocabulary of images.

This large-scale work from 1984 presents Haring's most celebrated and sought-after forms. It was produced within a few years of Haring's most notable murals and museum exhibitions. Shortly before creating "Untitled," he was featured in "documenta 7" (1982) and the Whitney Biennial (1983), and a couple of years after, he produced the iconic "Crack is Wack" (1986) mural. 1984 is Haring at the height of his career.

Click here for photos of this piece in the 1984 dance performance by Bill T. Jones and Arnie Zane: <http://levyarchive.bam.org/Detail/occurrences/15>

Born in Pennsylvania in 1958, Keith Haring studied graphic design at The Ivy School of Professional Art in Pittsburgh. After moving to New York at age nineteen, Haring attended the School of Visual Arts and developed a unique aesthetic inspired by the New York Street culture. He was first recognized for his subway chalk drawings, and his “radiant baby” became emblematic of his work. His style was extended across continents with wall murals everywhere from Melbourne to Rio de Janeiro. His works on canvas and sculptural pieces further cultivate the pervasiveness of Haring’s imagery. He became an integral part of 80s New York culture, and counted Andy Warhol and Madonna among his friends. Continuing his legacy of donating to children’s organizations, the artist established the Keith Haring Foundation in 1989. Haring exhibited in galleries and museums around the world, while continuing his contributions to public projects, before his AIDS related death in 1990. Despite his brief career, Haring produced a complete collection of original imagery, characters that would come to be a universally recognized visual language of the 20th century.

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