

# LEO CASTELLI

*for immediate release*

## SILVER

*December 4, 2001 – February 2, 2002*

**Leo Castelli Gallery  
59 East 79<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10021**

“Silver” is an exhibition that presents works by Cesar, Jeff Koons, Yayoi Kusama, Jackson Pollock, Andy Warhol and Robert Watts. Realized in different times and locations, and through different mediums, all works in the show share one element: the use of silver color and silver surfaces.

In the history of art, silver and gold traditionally had been used mostly as decorative elements. The precious metal surface of silver or gold is flat and does not allow for shadows and perspective. It was after World War II that silver started to become an element in the artists palette. When aluminum paint became available on the market artists began to take advantage of this accessibility. In the exhibition a drip painting by Jackson Pollock testifies of this moment.

During the years of pop art, silver was employed in a new interesting way by Andy Warhol, as well as by his contemporaries in Europe and Japan. The silver background of Warhol’s silkscreen paintings transformed everyday images taken from newspapers and magazines into something highly sophisticated and beautiful. In the same years Robert Watts realized sculptures of everyday objects in life dimensions. Executed in chrome plate, this work, as the artist said, “implies direct definition of the object by light.”

Robert Watts chrome plate is substituted, in the work of Jeff Koons, by stainless steel. However, Koons moves away from everyday objects and turns his attentions to the art of the past. His copies in stainless steel of marble statues of centuries ago show a rather post modern sensibility.

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