

Pioneer sets a new PACE and the art world on its ear

ART NEWS

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Julian Schnabel, the New York artist who pioneered the neo-expressionist trend in this country, has split from his SoHo origins with the Mary Boone Gallery for the blue-chip, uptown PACE Gallery. The news has the art world humming. Boone and Schnabel rose to fame and fortune with the speed of a meteor in 1981, and were celebrated in the media for their mutually flamboyant styles of behavior. Boone, especially, gained attention for commanding prices of \$15,000 to \$40,000 per painting for her artists who were barely 30, and exhibiting jointly with Leo Castelli, paterfamilias of New York's contemporary art world. Schnabel was at the top of that price heap, commanding up to \$60,000 for a painting and last year setting a record price for a young artist at Sotheby's auction: \$93,500.

Along with Schnabel, Boone represents other artists considered "hot," such as David Salle, Troy Brauntuch, and more recently, Jean-Michel Basquiat. Since her recent merger with the prestigious Michael Werner Gallery in Cologne, Germany, however, she's been showing more of the German neo-expressionists such as Jorg Immendorff and Anselm Kiefer, leading to speculation that Schnabel may be feeling that he's getting insufficient attention.

PACE is a more established gallery, representing part of the Picasso estate, the estates of Rothko, DuBuffet, Reinhardt, and most recently, Calder, as well as modern masters such as Brice Marden, Jim Dine, Lucas Samaras, Louise Nevelson, and Chuck Close. Schnabel is considerably younger but a gallery representative claimed his case is unique and does not imply a decision to show other younger artists.

Schnabel's move has brought floods of phone calls to both galleries. Boone and Schnabel were not available for comment. Arnold Glumcher, president of PACE, has issued the official statement: "We are

extremely pleased and honored that Mr. Schnabel has become associated with the PACE gallery."

Remember the 5-Minute Performance Olympics held at the Orwell Memorial Performance Space? Thirty-two artists competed in four heated sessions judged by a dog. Michael Peppe, from San Francisco, won the title of "Best Artist in the World," by getting twice as many barks as anyone else. His



Schnabel's 1982 "Some Bullfighters Get Closer to the Horns II"

prizes included a one-way train ticket to San Diego, with \$5 spending money, which proved convenient since he was already scheduled for a performance there, at the gallery Sushi. The second runner-up was Stuart Miller, and third place was given to Kathe Burkhart. To judge Peppe's performance for yourself, hie over to the LHASA Club, 1110 N. Hudson, in Hollywood, tonight at 8:30 p.m. He'll perform "43 Characters," and "T.B.A.," to be followed by a 10 p.m. performance by Weba Garretson called "Weba The IIIrd." Admission is \$5 for each. Call 461-7284 for information.

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