



GEMINI G.E.L. AT JONI MOISANT WEYL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ROBERT GOBER: NEW LITHOGRAPHS

Exhibited at GEMINI G.E.L. AT JONI MOISANT WEYL
March 9 – April 22, 2000

Three new lithographs by ROBERT GOBER will be on view from March 9th to April 22nd at GEMINI G.E.L. AT JONI MOISANT WEYL. These prints mark Gober's first collaboration with the Los Angeles-based artists' workshop, Gemini G.E.L., and the beginning of his in-depth exploration of the printmaking medium.

Gober is considered to be one of America's most prominent artists of the younger generation that emerged in the early 1980's. Known for his sculpture and installation art, his drawings, and now prints, play an integral role. Gober's art is largely autobiographical; his imagery gives the viewer a glimpse of his personal life, focusing on his family, childhood memories and sexuality. Nevertheless, while deeply personal, it draws from a psychological landscape common to us all. His work is a unique blend of surrealism, minimalism and conceptualism, and gives familiar and ordinary objects a surrealistic twist, allowing them to coexist in the conscious and subconscious.

Images of drains, body parts and a prison window are the visual motifs evident in two of Gober's new lithographs. These motifs are part of his established iconography, and are laden with meaning. According to Gober, "one looks into the drains and sees only darkness. I thought of the drains as metaphors functioning in the same way as traditional paintings, as a window into another world". The power of *Untitled* (hand/drain) depends on Gober's exploitation of the viewer's instant recognition of the objects, and on the realization that they are not what they appear to be. *Untitled* (prison window) is a haunting, lonely image, and the viewer's isolation from the outside world is enhanced by the thickness of the wall and the mysterious blue sky visible through the barred window. A drawn and erased power outlet in the foreground further enhances the sense of capture and powerlessness.

Gober examines the meaning of betrayal in a third poignantly autobiographical print. Drawing directly onto limestone, and working in reverse as required by the lithographic medium, Gober exactly recreates a dictionary page defining the word "betray", which ironically is followed by the word "betrothed". Rather than mechanically transferring these words onto the stone, by going to the considerable effort of direct drawing, Gober emphatically explores and perhaps exorcises a painful, personal memory.

Coinciding with this exhibition is a traveling survey of Gober's sculpture and drawing, now on view at the Hirshhorn Museum in Washington, D.C. Internationally well respected and collected, Gober's previous exceptional one-person exhibitions seen in the United States include his 1993 site-specific installation at the Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art, and a 1992 installation at the Dia Center for the Arts in New York City.

For further information, please contact the gallery. In addition to regular gallery hours (Tuesday to Saturday, 10 am to 6 pm), the gallery will be open each Thursday evening for an informal reception from 6 to 9 pm for the duration of the exhibition.