

JEAN-MICHEL BASQUIAT EXHIBITION

Epic Collection of Drawings at Acquavella Galleries

By: Maggie Maloney | **Photographer:** Courtesy of Acquavella Galleries/Schorr Family

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From May 1-June 13, the [Acquavella Galleries](#) featured a unique and compelling collection of [Jean-Michel Basquiat's](#) drawings. Basquiat, the Brooklyn-raised, prodigy of an artist whose work was acclaimed around the world by the time he was 23, amassed a collection of over 1000 works on paper between 1980 and 1988, all speaking to his own fundamental view of societies' major failings. Basquiat was a talented artist at an early age and got his start in the art world through graffiti. Since his death in 1988, he has been the subject of multiple major museum exhibitions, including a retrospective in 2005 at the Brooklyn Museum of Art and in public collections at the Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris and The Museum of Modern Art in New York.

The exhibition at Acquavella Galleries consist of Basquiat's work from the Schorr Family collection, on loan from Herbert and Lenore Schorr who began collecting Basquiat's work in 1981, prior to his first major exhibition in New York. Curated by Fred Hoffman, who worked closely with Basquiat and has curated a number of exhibitions featuring his work, Acquavella Galleries features a wide range of Basquiat's work in the two intimate rooms of the exhibition.

One of the largest pieces, "Untitled" (1982), is a colorful, busy highlight of the show featuring a king, dog-like figure in the center. Another highlight is "Leonardo da Vinci's Greatest Hits," painted in 1982, an even larger work created with acrylic, oil paintstick and paper collage on canvas.

Basquiat's range as an artist is also evident: some drawings are simply black oil paint stick on paper, others feature an abundance of colors but all evoke the sense that Basquiat worked with a complex narrative with social injustices in mind.

The exhibition is a must-see as it is primarily on loan from a private collection but if you miss it, Basquiat's work is also found at The Museum of Modern Art, The Whitney, the Gagosian Gallery and the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles.

The Acquavella Gallery is located at 18 East 79th Street in New York and is open Monday-Saturday from 10am-5pm. Visit [Acquavella Gallery](#) for more information. ©