## HAUNCH OF VENISON LONDON

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Press Release

## Haunch of Venison Appoint Robert Fitzpatrick as Senior Director

Under Embargo Until 31 January 2008

Haunch of Venison is delighted to announce that Robert Fitzpatrick, former Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Chicago Museum of Contemporary Art, is to join the gallery as International Managing Director.

Working alongside the co-founding directors Harry Blain and Graham Southern and Haunch of Venison's international exhibitions team, Fitzpatrick will develop and further expand Haunch of Venison's leading exhibition programme throughout the gallery's spaces in Berlin, London and Zurich. Fitzpatrick will also oversee the opening this autumn of Haunch of Venison New York, a new gallery space at Rockefeller Center.

Haunch of Venison Co-founding director Harry Blain said, "We are delighted to have someone with Bob's experience in leading a top arts school and subsequently a major contemporary art museum join the leadership of Haunch of Venison. His breadth and depth of experience will help us to further expand on the role of the gallery - supporting and presenting the work of some of the world's most exciting and important contemporary artists."

Of the move Fitzpatrick states, "Galleries are an integral part of the art world. Having been involved in the training of young artists at the beginning of my career, and most recently directing a museum of contemporary art, it is a joy to be working in the third important sector, for galleries are an essential first link between artists and the public. I am delighted to join Harry Blain and Graham Southern in expanding Haunch of Venison's artists' representation and outreach to the public."

Haunch of Venison New York, scheduled to open early autumn of 2008, will afford a new and vital dimension to the Haunch of Venison exhibition programme and its international presence. The two storey, 20,000ft² newly redeveloped gallery space at Avenue of the Americas, will present a programme with a dual focus; presenting unique historical survey shows from respected international curators, concentrating on unexplored territories and the bringing together of key works from important historical moments, as well as shows from younger, emerging artists previously unseen in New York. Further details on the exhibition programmes are to be announced later in the year.

Fitzpatrick spent the last ten years as Director and CEO of the Museum of



Contemporary Art in Chicago, completing his directorship this January. He is known for his exceptionally broad experience in the arts including his roles as Dean of the School of the Arts, Columbia University, New York, 1995-98, President of CalArts (California Institute of the Arts), 1975-87, creating the Los Angeles Festival, 1985, Vice President of the Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee and Director of the 1984 Olympic Arts Festival. From 1987-93, Fitzpatrick served as CEO of Euro-Disney, overseeing the creation of the \$4 billion theme park and resort.

Robert Fitzpatrick joins Haunch of Venison, based at Haunch of Venison New York, on 1 February 2008, working alongside Co-founding Directors Harry Blain and Graham Southern and their directorial teams in Berlin, London, New York and Zurich.

Founded in 2002 by Harry Blain and Graham Southern, contemporary art gallery Haunch of Venison works with some of the most important and excited artists working today. The gallery presents a broad and critically acclaimed programme of exhibitions, exhibiting exciting new work and historically significant shows to a large public, through international gallery spaces in London, Zurich and Berlin.

Haunch of Venison was acquired in early 2007 as a wholly-owned subsidiary company of Christie's International; a move which has enabled the gallery to substantially increase the level of support it provides to its roster of major artists on a long-term basis, as well as to facilitate important artists' projects.

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