



**Sean Kelly Gallery Organizes Panel on
“New Directions in Curatorial Models”
As Part of NY Gallery Week and In Conjunction With the Exhibition
*Robert Mapplethorpe: 50 Americans***

New York, May 3, 2011—Sean Kelly Gallery will host a panel discussion on **Saturday, May 7th from 3:00 to 5:00 pm** focusing on curatorial models in the 21st century. Panelists will debate the evolving definition of the role of the curator. Representing different curatorial perspectives, members of the panel will include the following types: the Corporate Curator (Liz Christensen of Deutsche Bank); the Independent Curator (Isolde Brielmaier); the Collector as Curator (Amy Goldrich). The panel will be moderated by Sean Kelly. The Public as Curator will be represented by participants from *50 Americans*, as each of the fifty participants chose a Mapplethorpe photograph to be displayed in the exhibition.

Curators occupy a preeminent role in the landscape of art history through their position as scholarly figures within institutions. Recently, the practice of “curating” has expanded beyond the borders of institutions and has given rise to a new understanding of curating that does not fall strictly within institutional demarcations.

This panel discussion will take place within the context of the exhibition, *Robert Mapplethorpe: 50 Americans* (May 7 - June 18, 2011). The gallery has invited fifty Americans, one from each state in the Union, to select a single artwork from over 2,000 images in the Mapplethorpe archive that particularly resonates with them. The exhibition offers a unique opportunity to see two portraits emerge. The first is a fresh look at the work of Robert Mapplethorpe, curated not by museum or art-world professionals, but

rather by a cross-section of the American public. The second portrait is of American itself, a demographic snapshot that reminds us of what a uniquely diverse environment the United States really is, with room for countless differing opinions and tastes. A few members who participated in the exhibition will be present in the audience for the panel discussion.

The panel will be held Saturday, May 7th from 3:00-5:00 pm at Sean Kelly Gallery.

Sean Kelly Gallery is located at 528 West 29th Street, New York City
It is free and open to the public but an RSVP is requested:
RSVP to info@skny.com

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