

Damien Hirst's Medicine Cabinets

1:59 pm Monday Nov 22, 2010 by [Paul Laster](#)

Among the most iconic pieces in artist [Damien Hirst](#)'s controversial body of work — a bizarre mix that includes dissected animals, a pickled shark, dot paintings, spin paintings, butterfly assemblages, a rotting cow's head, and diamond-encrusted skulls — are the *Medicine Cabinets*.

The first two cabinets, which were made in 1988 by the then 23-year-old Hirst in his London kitchen, contained pharmaceutical packaging from his recently deceased grandmother's medicine cabinet. He followed these sculptures, *Sinner* and *Enemy*, with a suite of twelve cabinets that were titled after the tracks on the [Sex Pistols](#) debut album, *Never Mind the Bollocks, Here's the Sex Pistols*. Four of the medicine cabinets from the series were exhibited in Hirst's degree show at Goldsmiths College of Art in 1989, but the whole group has never been shown together — that is, until now.

New York's [L & M Arts](#) has assembled the artist's *Sex Pistols* medicine cabinets, along with *Sinner* and *Enemy*; a monumental four-part cabinet, titled *The Sex Pistols*, from 1996-97; and a cache of actual Sex Pistols' memorabilia into a comprehensive overview of this important chapter in Hirst's dynamic career. The gallery also collaborated with the artist's publishing company, [Other Criteria](#), to produce a catalogue that includes an essay by art scholar [Arthur Danto](#), some punk prose by the notorious [James Frey](#), a catalogue raisonné of the complete medicine cabinets, and a hilarious conversation between Hirst and former Sex Pistols guitarist [Steve Jones](#), who's an outspoken radio disc jockey in Los Angeles.

Damien-Hirst: *Medicine Cabinets* is on view at *L & M Arts* through *December 11*.



Damien Hirst, *God*, 1989, Glass, faced particleboard, ramin, plastic, aluminum and pharmaceutical packaging, 54 x 40 x 9 inches



Damien Hirst, *Liar*, 1989, Glass, faced particleboard, ramin, plastic, aluminum and pharmaceutical packaging, 54 x 40 x 9 inches



Installation view, *Damien-Hirst: Medicine Cabinets* at L & M Arts, Photo Credit: Tom Powel Imaging, Inc.



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