



NEW YORK

taking the plunge

Nathan Bernstein may have just opened his first public gallery, at 21 East 65th Street, but the Israeli-born New Yorker is hardly a newcomer to the art world. A private dealer for over 30 years, his face is familiar to everyone in the fields of French Impressionist, German Expressionist and modern paintings.

But, he says, the increasing difficulty of finding top material made him consider working differently and widening his expertise to include contemporary art. When he mentioned the idea of opening a gallery to his wife, Katharina, she responded, "Either you retire now or you go all the way with the gallery." It didn't take long for Bernstein to make up his mind: "I decided to take the plunge," he says, "with all the consequences, such as organizing shows, publishing catalogues—things I never had to do before."

Bernstein's inaugural exhibition in March covered a

Nathan Bernstein, above left, has opened his first public gallery in New York. Right: A 1991 fiberglass sculpture by **Yoshitomo Nara**

whole century of artists, from Picasso to Andy Warhol to Marlene Dumas. His second show, "Pop Art: East Meets West," combines American icons such as Roy Lichtenstein, James Rosenquist and Warhol with younger, Asian artists like Takashi Murakami and Yoshitomo Nara. The exhibition runs from

May 1 through late July.

For his fall show, which features images of children by modern masters such as Max Beckmann, George Grosz and Edvard Munch, Bernstein plans to include a 1964 Picasso portrait of a young boy. Although most of the works will be for sale, the Picasso canvas, *Buste de jeune garçon*, won't be. The Bernsteins bought it at a recent Christie's sale in Paris for their private collection; they are continuing a long art-collecting tradition in both of their families.

"Life is all about change, and art is a reflection of change," says Bernstein. "I think my gallery is the perfect symbiosis of the two."

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