

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Gary Simmons**

**If Memory Serves**

to be presented at Margo Leavin Gallery

30 May – 3 July 1998

Margo Leavin Gallery is pleased to present an exhibition of new work by Gary Simmons. The exhibition, which will be Simmons' first one-person show at Margo Leavin Gallery, will include 20 new drawings and a large site-specific chalkboard drawing to be executed on a gallery wall. The exhibition will be on view at the Robertson Boulevard gallery from 30 May through 3 July 1998.

Simmons' work addresses issues such as memory, social structure and race in an accessible format, through drawings in white chalk on chalkboard-primed surfaces. Abstracting from images found in cartoons and film, Simmons employs a unique visual language as he selectively erases portions of his residue of a performance. Combining this technique with his selection of marginal characters, images and details from cartoons laden in racial stereotypes, Simmons' work questions the larger, open-ended concerns of institutional and cultural hierarchies.

The works in this exhibition explore concepts and images from old time train travel. Conceived specifically for this space, an image of two trains racing towards one another will be drawn directly onto the large wall of the main gallery. The drawings on paper further develop the railway theme, depicting images of train parts and train workers, as well as the deserted buildings and boarded up windows, which surround old train stations.

Simmons has been the subject of recent one-person exhibitions at the Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego; the Lanna Foundation in Los Angeles; and The Hirshhorn Museum in Washington, D.C. His work has been included in group exhibitions at The Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; The Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; The San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; and several exhibitions at the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, including the 1993 Biennial.

Margo Leavin Gallery is located at 812 North Robertson Boulevard in Los Angeles.  
Gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday.

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