For Immediate Release:

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GONZALEZ-TORRES MONUMENT AT SHERIDAN SQUARE

The Public Art Fund Inc. is pleased to announce the installation of a billboard by Félix González-Torres in Sheridan Square. The work measures 18' x 40' and will be sited above the Village Cigar Store on the corner of Seventh Avenue and Christopher Street from March to September 1989. The billboard is in celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion.

González-Torres' billboard was developed for this site and for exhibition during this anniversary year. Two lines of white type run across the bottom of a black rectangle and read:


The Stonewall Rebellion took place in June 1969 at the Stonewall Bar on Christopher Street. This event was the first civil uprising in response to police harassment and raids on gay bars and triggered further activism and the modern gay movement. Other references mark both tragic and empowering events that are significant in gay history. For instance, González-Torres refers to Oscar Wilde's courageous decision in 1895 to stay in England and face trial on charges of sodomy, as well as to the formation of the People With AIDS (PWA) Coalition in 1985, which the artist thinks has substantially strengthened the gay movement in recent years.

González-Torres calls his billboard, "a visual reference, an architectural sign of being, a monument for a community that has been 'historically invisible'." The work operates on an abstract level, yet the dates are keys to a complex content. The white date lines activate the viewer's historical knowledge and may stimulate various responses which the observer "projects" onto the empty black space.

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Contact: Emily Dominianni, Publicity Director (212) 541-8423
In conjunction with the billboard exhibition, a signed, limited edition, silkscreen print of the artwork is available to supporters of the project. For more information contact the Public Art Fund at: 212-541-8423.

González-Torres was born in Cuba, and lives and works in New York City. He recently had a one person exhibition at The New Museum of Contemporary Art titled, "The Workspace," and a show of new work at INTAR Gallery. González-Torres currently has work in a group show, "After the Gold Rush," at the Milford Gallery. In June, he will have a public sculpture in Petrosino Park sponsored by the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council.

This installation is sponsored by the Public Art Fund Inc. The Public Art Fund is supported in part by funds from the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.

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