**PRESS RELEASE**

MILES DAVIS

*Drawings*

**Opening Wednesday 17th January 1996**

from **7.00 pm**

**cocktail from 7.00 pm**

**from 18th January to 25th February 1996**

Tuesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday 10.30 am – 7.30 pm

Wednesday and Thursday 10.30 am – 9.00 pm

Monday 3.30 pm – 7.30 pm

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MILES DAVIS

*Drawings*

When his health started to get worse in the mid-70s, Miles Davis put down his trumpet and picked up his paintbrush. When he started playing in public again in the early 80s, he took a sketchpad with him wherever he went.

In a long interview in 1982, on the eve of his moving attempt to perform again at the Hammersmith Odeon in London, he continued sketching, "scribbling" the outlines of a sinuous black woman with a variety of hard-tipped coloured pens, as if to tell the story of his days with Charlie Parker on 52nd street in an intense idiom packed with humour.

The roots of his ecstatically contorted figures lie in the drawings of Abdul Mati Klarwein, whose haunting stylised erotic figures decorated the covers of two key albums of the 70s, Davis’ historic “Bitches Brew” and Santana’s famous “Abraxas”.

His drawings were successfully exhibited in an exhibition entitled “The Hidden Years” held in London in March 1995, when they were assessed as being worth between 1000 and 20,000 pounds. These drawings reveal a more severe “street” style clearly influenced by the graffiti of Jean-Michel Basquiat, the great New York artist of the 80s. (Basquiat died in 1988, three years before Davis).

There is no danger that his drawings may overshadow his great musical inheritance, but they do cast light on some important aspects of Davis' sensibility.

The drawings on exhibition here were made between 1983 and 1989.