



Tagliatella Galleries is pleased to present *The Art of Friends*, an exhibition by Burton Morris in association with Warner Bros Inc., paying tribute to the artist's creative contributions to the television show that became a pop culture phenomenon.

Since *Friends* premiered in September, 1994, more than a dozen of Morris' original pop art paintings and designs were featured on set in the colorful Central Perk coffee shop throughout the sitcom's ten seasons. Now, twenty-five years later, the artist reimagines pop icons like the steaming *Coffee Cup*, *Statue of Liberty*, *King Kong* and *Uncle Sam*, which became an integral part of the world of *Friends*. The millions of fans generated through the admiration of the show, therefore, directly associated the bold, bright aesthetic of Morris' artwork with the characters, set and storylines of the beloved series.

The Art of Friends exhibition aims to honor the influential presence of Burton Morris' artwork in more than fifty episodes throughout the long-enduring series. Morris remembers the chance beginnings of his relationship with the iconic series, when his sister called him from California to say she saw an actor on a new television show called *Friends* wearing a tee shirt featuring his artwork of a big hitter baseball player. "The person wearing the tee shirt happened to be David Schwimmer (Ross), who, I was later told, grabbed the shirt from a staff member right before filming the scene and wore it during the taping of the third episode," recalls Morris. "Call it luck or good timing, but the next day I made a call to Warner Brothers Studios and was able to reach Kevin Bright, one of the creators of the show."

Over the course of its many seasons *Friends* became a universally loved television show, which continues to inspire generations of viewers. As the show continued to blossom, so too did Morris' art career, gaining fans from around the world in-part through the continued exposure afforded to him by the series' wide-reaching influence. *The Art of Friends* offers an immersive experience for both the show's and Morris' many fans, featuring the iconic couch from the Central Perk set, where visitors can sit in exactly the same place that the cast members shared countless coffees upon themselves. The exhibition will display many of the readily familiar images hung on the *Friends*' set along with new works inspired by the show itself, including original paintings, prints and multi-dimensional works.

The Art of Friends by, Burton Morris will be on view exclusively at Tagliatella Galleries flagship location at 229 10th Avenue, from September 19 through October 16, 2019. An opening reception will be held Thursday, September 19, 2019 from 6 pm to 8 pm.

For more information on the exhibition, the Press Preview or to RSVP to the opening event, please contact us at info@djtf.com.

NEW YORK

229 Tenth Avenue
New York, NY 10011

p 212.367.0881
f 212.367.0806

PALM BEACH

313 ½ Worth Avenue-Via Bice
Palm Beach, FL 33480

p 561.833.4700
f 561.832.5050

PARIS

117 rue de Turenne
75003 Paris

p +33.1.42.718.772

TORONTO

99 Yorkville Avenue
Toronto, ON M5R 1C1

p +1 416-864-3850

www.tagliatellagalleries.com
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