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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## **Jan Vercruysse**

### **PLACES**

11 March - 27 April, 2005

Tracy Williams, Ltd. is pleased to present an exhibition of new sculptures by Belgian artist Jan Vercruysse. One of Western Europe's most celebrated artists, Vercruysse's extensive exhibition history includes the 1993 Venice Biennale, Documenta VIII, the Van Abbemuseum in Eindhoven, Castello di Rivoli, the Kunsthalle Bern, Haus Lange & Haus Esters, Krefeld, Palais des Beaux Arts, Brussels and, most recently, Dhondt – Dhaenens Museum outside Ghent in 2003. In his first solo show in New York since 2002, Jan Vercruysse exhibits his most recent group of works entitled PLACES.

The PLACES series deals with the notions of *absence/presence*, *loss*, and *memory*, combined with the exploration of the meaning of "place," and the possibility of rendering this philosophical concept into a work of art. In this sense, these new works relate closely to Vercruysse's previous works from the 'Atopies' series, the 'M' works and, in particular, the TOMBEAUX works. Compared to these previous series, the PLACES works seem to be more conclusive-- they concentrate 'meanings,' 'things that happened,' 'parts of lives'...

The PLACES series includes both wall-works and floor-works, all of which are constructed out of steel.

The series of wall compositions, entitled PLACES (I), makes reference to the image of ex-votos as they can be seen on the walls of European churches. Historically, ex-votos served as votive offerings to saints and exist in one of two forms-- either as small marble plates with an engraved text or picture, or as miniature reproductions of body parts, which a saint is supposed to have healed. The artist "replaces" these small objects with the suits of playing cards and constructs each work based on the five card composition of a poker hand, using only the figures of hearts, clubs, spades and diamonds.

In the series of floor-works, entitled PLACES (II), Vercruysse's stacks of steel plates refer to the image of tomb plates, which are often embedded in the floors of churches and found in archeological sites. The artist alters these burial or commemorative markers by "replacing" the traditional inscriptions with the figures of playing cards, using only the hearts, clubs, spades and diamonds.

For more information, please contact the gallery at 212.229.2757.

Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 11 – 6, or by appointment.

**Join us for the opening on Friday, March 11<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 8 p.m.**