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News

Robert Dex

Arts Correspondent

ONE of Damien Hirst's trademark sharks suspended in formaldehyde is the centrepiece of a new exhibition of work inspired by the sea.

Heaven, which dates from 2008-09, is one of a long line of similar artworks by Hirst following his 1992 piece *The Physical Impossibility Of Death In The Mind Of Someone Living*, which created waves when it was shown in the Young British Artists show at the Saatchi Gallery in 1992.

It joins paintings by Francis Bacon and Pablo Picasso in *The Big Blue*, which opens tomorrow at Ordovas gallery in Savile Row.

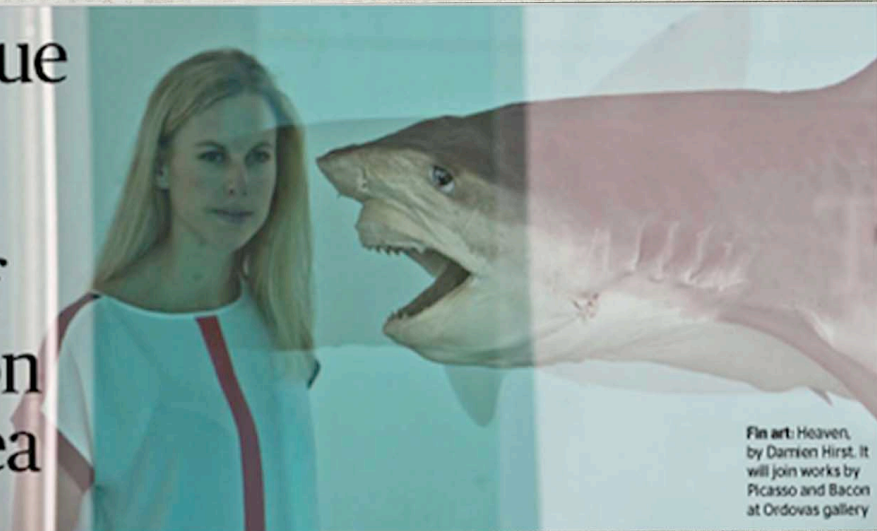
Bacon's apparently unfinished *Figure In Sea* is thought to date from 1957, but was only discovered following the painter's death in 1992.

The oldest item in the exhibition is a fragment of a Roman sarcophagus, covered in carvings of mythical sea creatures, which is believed to date from the second half of the second century AD.

More up-to-date work includes Japanese artist Hiroshi Sugimoto's photograph of the Pacific, from 2002.

Gallery owner Pilar Ordovas said she approached Hirst to collaborate on the

Hirst's blue period... shark is centre of exhibition on the sea



Fin art: Heaven, by Damien Hirst. It will join works by Picasso and Bacon at Ordovas gallery

show after working with him on another one last year. "We embarked on a series of conversations, from which Damien conceived the idea of an exhibition, curated by Ordovas gal-

lery, on the theme of the sea," she added. "The Big Blue is the result of this new collaboration.

"In it we explore some of the ways in which the sea influences art, by looking

at works that span many centuries from Roman times until today. Our intention is to offer an original and penetrating glimpse into a universal theme."

The exhibition also features two 1926

seascapes by Max Ernst and a couple of nudes by Picasso.

■ *The Big Blue* runs until December 12, at Ordovas Gallery, 25 Savile Row W1. Visit ordovasart.com