

# Aria

## BASQUIAT

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

**Believe it or not, I can actually draw.**

— Jean-Michel Basquiat

What identifies Jean-Michel Basquiat as a major artist is courage and full powers of self-transformation. That courage, meaning not being afraid to fail, transforms para-

lyzingly self-conscious 'predicaments of culture' into confident 'ecstasies of cultures recombined.' He had the guts, what is more, to confront

New York art challenge number one: can you transform self and heritage into something new and named?  
— Robert Farris



...Since he had an enormous appetite for drugs, expensive clothing, fancy restaurants and first-class travel, this meant that he was tempted to work around the clock. Stoked by cocaine and marijuana, he'd often paint 18 hours in a row and then use heroin to get to sleep. When he awoke, he'd start off where he left off.

