

RRFA 01: Robert Rauschenberg papers

Interviews: Graieb, Carlos / Questions Related to the São Paulo Bienal / Caderno 2, 1994

Robert Rauschenberg

P.O. Box 54, Captiva, Florida 33924

September 17, 1994

CADERNO 2

FAX TO ...

CARLOS GRAIEB

O ESTADO de S. PAULO

Dear Mr. Graieb,

Following are responses to your questions, using your question numbers. Mr. Rauschenberg is not available for a telephone interview.

- #1. The support is the idealism that only an artist can afford.
- #2. I don't look over my shoulder while I'm working. It's important to keep your eyes straight ahead. As far as New York is concerned, it's filled to the brim with unpredictability that still excites a contemporary mind.
- #3. Generosity is a major contribution to the world.
- #4. The absorption of every experience you have, whether local or exotic, is important to the artist's mind...as it should be to everyone's.
- #5. Ecological thought needs to be important to the Earth and to ourselves.
- #6. I don't randomly like to discuss intimacies.
- #8. I've always preferred working in collaboration with other expertise, such as in printmaking and with dancers and writers. Universal Limited Art Editions, Gemini G.E.L., Paul Taylor, Merce Cunningham and most recently Trisha Brown have been part of my most adventuresome explorations in these areas.
- #9. As to the future, if I knew what I would like to do most, I'd do something else.

Cordially,



Ms. Bradley Jeffries, Assistant to Robert Rauschenberg

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*THIS FROM CARLOS, whom we called
Fr. nite*

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SÃO PAULO, SEPTEMBER 16TH., 1994.

TO ROBERT RAUSCHEMBERG
FROM CARLOS GRAIEB
O ESTADO DE S. PAULO - BRAZIL
RE: INTERVIEW

DEAR MR. RAUSCHEMBERG:

NO
FOLLOWING TO OUR TELEPHONE ARRANGEMENT, I'M SENDING BELLOW SOME QUESTIONS FOR AN INTERVIEW. WOULD YOU AGREE IN HAVING A SHORT TELEPHONE CONVERSATION NEXT WEEK, AFTER YOU HAVE SENT ME THE WRITTEN ANSWERS? IT WOULD HELP ME TO GATHER SOME IMPRESSIONS AND PERHAPS EXPAND A LITTLE THE SUBJECTS. IF YOU AGREE, PLEASE LET ME KNOW BY FAX. I'M VERY THANKFULL FOR YOUR ATTENTION.

1) THE BIENAL IN SÃO PAULO IS FOCUSED ON THE PROBLEM OF THE "SUPORT" IN VISUAL ARTS (I'M NOT SURE ABOUT THE MEANING OF "SUPORT" IN ENGLISH; WHAT I MEAN, FOR INSTANCE, IS THE STONE, FOR SCULPTURE; OR THE CANVAS, FOR PAINTING). THE DESTRUCTION OF THE WORK OF ART (SOMETHING YOU MADE WITH A DRAWING BY DE KOONING IN 1953), AND RELATED SUBJECTS ARE IN DISCUSSION. WHAT DO YOU THINK TODAY ABOUT THESE MATTERS?

2) IN SÃO PAULO, WE HAVE NOW AN EXIBITION WITH SIX YOUNG ARTISTS WHOSE CAREERS DEVELOP IN NEW YORK. THEIR WORKS ARE STILL DEALING WITH THE PROBLEMS AND TENDENCIES THAT YOUR GENERATION FIRST TOUCHED: MINIMALISM, POP, CONCEPTUAL ART, ETC. IN GENERAL TERMS, HOW DO YOU SEE THE VISUAL ARTS IN THE US NOWADAYS? AND WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE FACT THAT STRONG CONTEMPORARY ARTISTICAL TRADITIONS - THE BRAZILIAN, FOR INSTANCE - ARE STILL IGNORED IN THE "INTERNATIONAL" AMBIENT OF AMERICAN ART?

3) ONE OF THOSE ARTISTS, VISITING SÃO PAULO FOR THE OPENING OF THE EXIBITION, SAID THAT A FEATURE OF YOUR WORK THAT STILL INFLUENCED HIM WAS ITS "GENEROSITY". HOW DO YOU INTERPRET THIS?

4) TRIPS - TO INDIA, FOR INSTANCE - INFLUENCED YOU A LOT. YOU VISITED BRASIL IN 1992. WHAT IMPRESSIONS YOU STILL KEEP FROM THE COUNTRY?

5) YOU CAME TO BRASIL FOR ECO-92. ARE YOU STILL INVOLVED WITH ECOLOGY? DO YOU THINK THAT ART HAS A POLITICAL FUNCTION IN CONTEMPORARY WORLD?

6) COULD YOU DRAW YOUR PORTRAIT AS A YOUNG MAN AND ARTIST, AND TALK ABOUT THE TIME WHEN YOU WERE A COSTUMER OF THE CEDAR BAR WITH DE KOONING, ROTHKO, REINHARDT AND OTHERS?

7) YOU HAVE BEEN CALLED FATHER AND GRANDFATHER OF POP ART. WHAT WOULD BE YOUR

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POSITION NOWADAYS?

8) FROM THE 60'S ON, YOU WORKED IN VARIOUS AREAS. COULD YOU TALK ABOUT YOUR PARTNERSHIPS WITH JOHN CAGE AND MERCE CUNNINGHAM (WHOSE COMPANY IS ALSO COMING FOR THE BIENAL)? YOU STILL HAVE AN INTEREST IN MUSIC AND DANCE?

9) WHAT DIRECTIONS ARE YOU EXPLORING FOR YOUR FUTURE WORK? WHAT WOULD YOU WOULD LIKE MOST TO DO?

OUR FAX NUMBERS ARE (5511) 856-2940, 856-2941 OR 856-2257. PLEASE, PUT ON TOP OF THE PAGE "CADERNO 2".

I THANK YOU AGAIN FOR YOUR ATTENTION.

SINCERELY,


CARLOS GRAIEB

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O ESTADO DE S. PAULO

CADERNO 2

COMUNICAÇÃO VIA TELEFAX (Telefax Message)

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(To)

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DE: Carlos GRATIER

(From)

Nº DE PÁGINAS: 2

(Pages)
