

Unique IDStorage LocationYearCreatorA145RRFA-01: Box WN6undatedRobert Rauschenberg

Description

Robert Rauschenberg's handwritten draft of a statement about Rauschenberg Overseas Culture Interchange (ROCI) in China

Physical Details

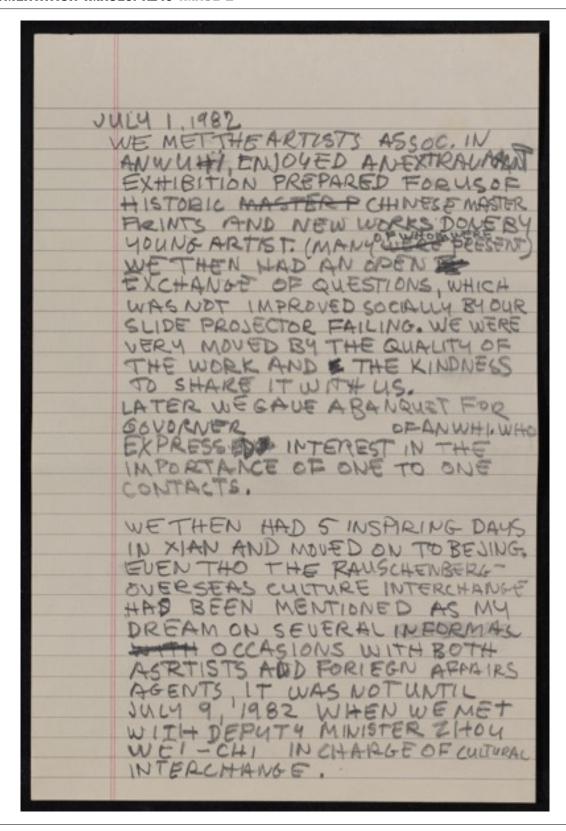
graphite and ink on paper, 4 sheets, 13 x 8 1/2''

Rights

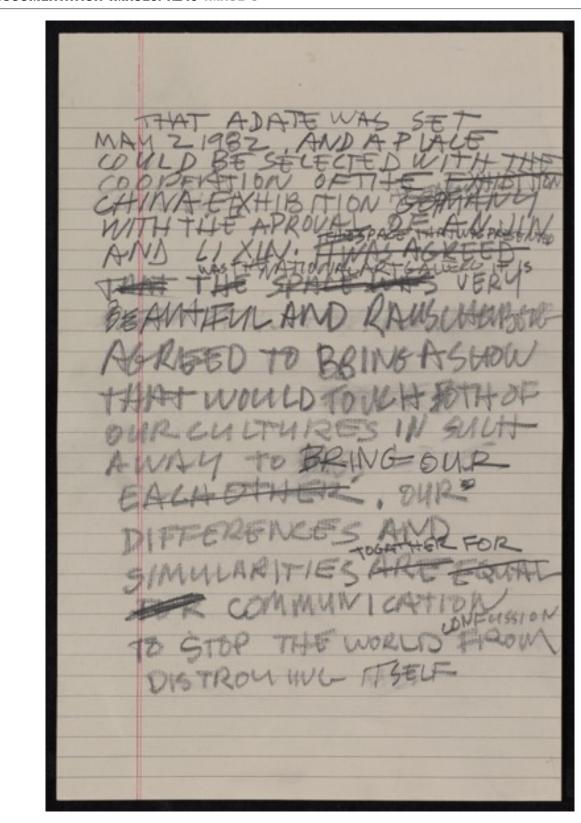
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Original Source

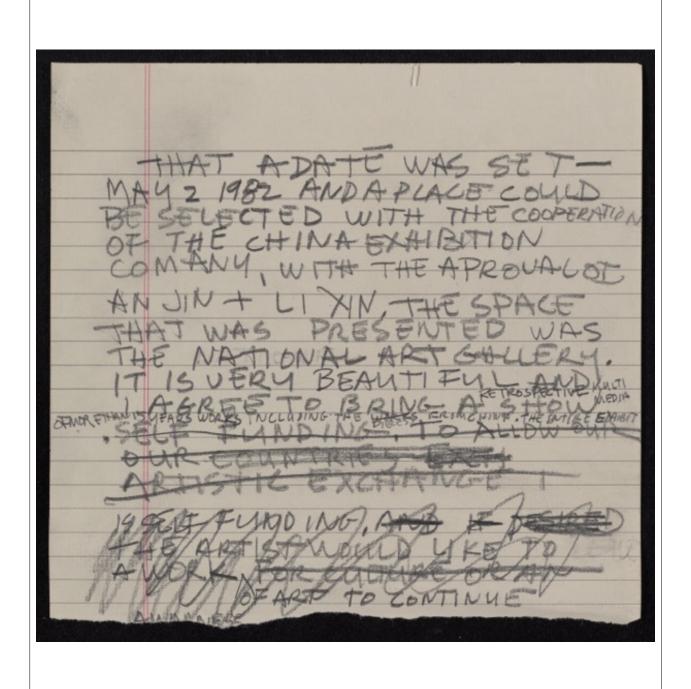




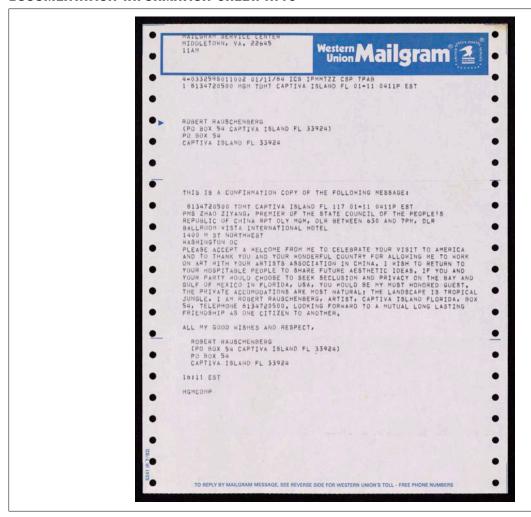












Unique IDStorage LocationYearCreatorA773RRFA-01: Box WN6January 11, 1984Robert Rauschenberg

Description

Copy of a telegram sent from Robert Rauschenberg to Zhao Ziyang, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, thanking Zhao for allowing him to work with the Arthists Association in China as part of the Rauschenberg

Physical Details

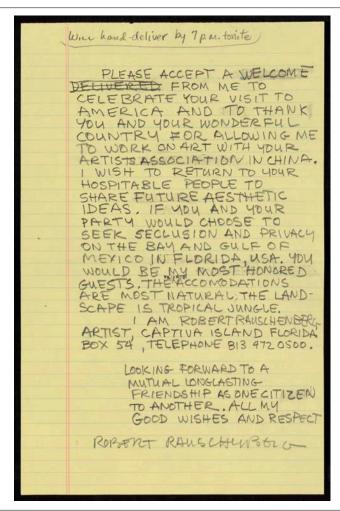
printed paper, 11 x 8 1/2"

Rights

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Original Source





Unique IDStorage LocationYearCreatorA774RRFA-01: Box WN6January 1984Robert Rauschenberg

Description

Robert Rauschenberg's handwritten draft of a telegram to Zhao Ziyang, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, thanking Zhao for allowing him to work with the Arthists Association in China as part of the

Physical Details

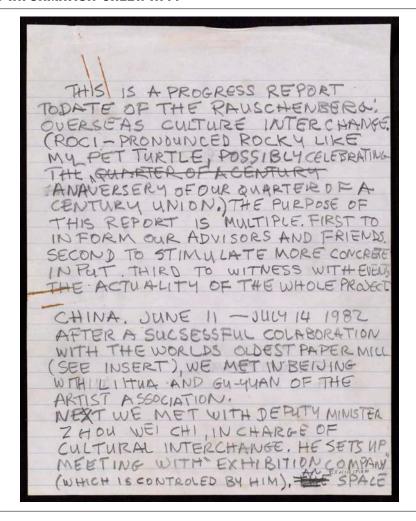
graphite on paper, 13 1/4 x 8 1/2"

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Original Source





Unique IDStorage LocationYearCreatorA777RRFA-01: Box WN6undatedRobert Rauschenberg

Description

Robert Rauschenberg's handwritten draft of a Rauschenberg Overseas Culture Interchange (ROCI) progress report

Physical Details

graphite on paper, 9 sheets, 11 x 8 1/2"

Rights

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Original Source



IS SUGESTED, HE INQUIRED AS EXHIBITION COMPANY EYHOWNERIN MAN SHOW, (PROVIDE FUNDED), WE WERE PROJECT THROUGH THE , C, OR WITH .C. WITH DON SAFF WHO RETURNS PRIVATLY TO CHINA IN OCT.) AND CHUN-WEI, OUR OFFICAL LAISON, TO



BEGIN THE PAPER WORK FOR THE 1 PHOTOGRAPHED EXTENSIVELY VAN BRUNT ANNOUNCE ON MAY 2, PROJECT (ZOF THE PIECES ARE APROX 16'X9'-



ALL ARE GUARATEED NOT TO CHANGE MUSEUM - YOSHIAKI POET+ CRITIC AND GUEST CURAT



HAS PROPOSED AND INGISTS THAT ROLI BE THE

MANUEL HIBITION OF THE NEW CONTEMPORARY

CONTEMPORARY WORK ONLY, HE STATES JUSTAS

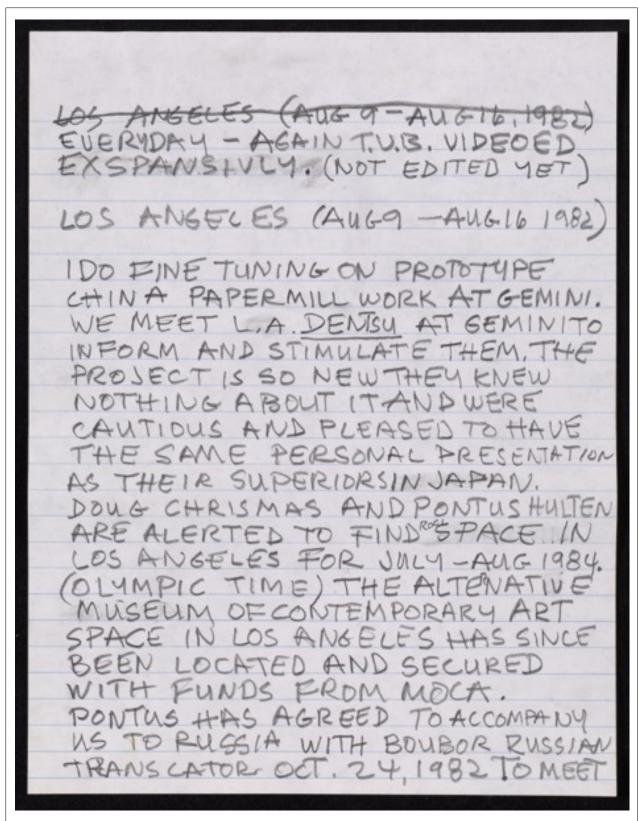
DUCHAMP WAS FORTHE OPENING OF THEIR SECOND

MUSEUM AT KARUIZAWA, SEIBWHAS IN ANY

CASE REQUESTED ANOPENING IN 1984.

JAPAN ROCIS ARTISTIC CO-ORDINATOR IS FUJIKO KAKAYA, A CREATIVE FOG ARTIST, WHOSE CURRENTASSIGNMENT 15 A COMMISSION FOR A FOG FOUNTAIN ATTHE IMPERIAL PALACE INTOKYO DUT SIDE THE EMPERORS BEDROOM APAN ROCI IS NEGOCIATING WITH THE JAPAN - US FRIENDSHIP AGSOCIATION FOR FUNDING UPTO 100 THOUSAND WHICH WILL BE USED BRING TRISHA BROWN DANCE TO PERFORM COLLABORATIONS AND RELATED F E SUPPORT FOR THE DA PERSONAL STA PHOTOGRAPHED EXTENSIV





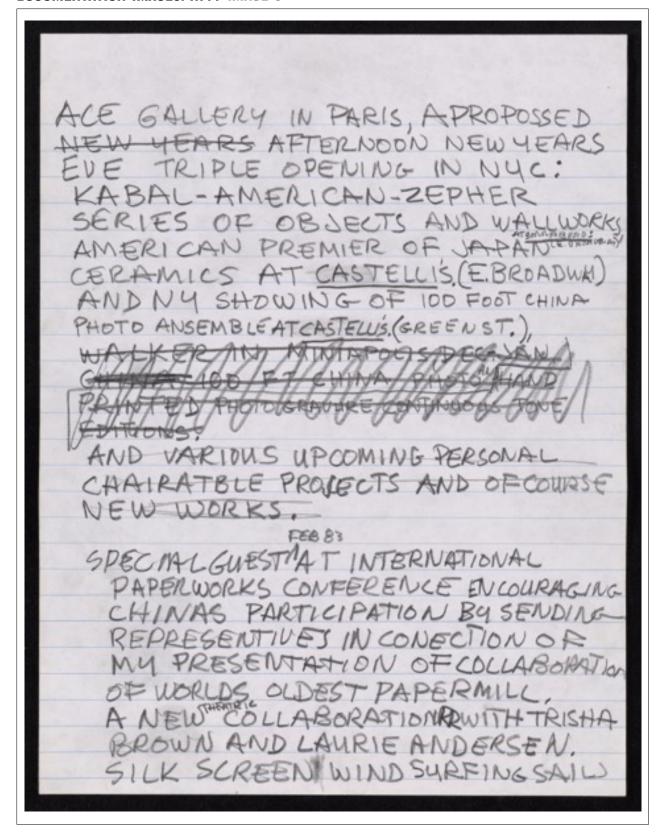


WITH OFFICIAL PERSONS TO PRESENT AND NEGOTIATE RUSSIAN ROCI. N.U.C. AUG 16 - AUG 25 ROCI MEETING WITH AVAILABLE ADVISOR AT 381 LAFAUETTE ST. FT WAS ISCOVERED THAT NOTHING HAD DEVELOPED IN N.Y.C. RANK SAUNDERS OF PHILLIPMORRIS PROMISED TO ARRANGE AMEETING + PHILIP MONTEBELLO AND LIBERMAN OF THE METROPOLITAN IM OF ART AFTER LABORDAY. HAS BEEN SUGGESTEN THAT SEED MONEY COULD COME FROM THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENTS FOR THE HUMANITIES. PIONEER INDUSTRIES, WHOSE VOICE IS MILES RUBIN (PERSONALLY UNAVAILABLE) HAS RUMDRED INTEREST ... WHITERESA R.R. AND BILL GOLDSTON, BE OF QUALITY AND URGENCY TOSEEK PRIVATE FUNDING FOR ROCI BOOKS AND INLANGUAGE CATALOGS. ALL ROCI PUBLICATIONS WILL BE DEDICATED

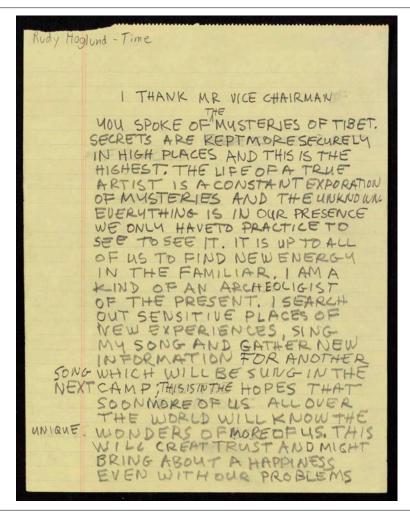


TO THE LIFE OF THE LATE TANYA GROSMAN. MARION JAVITS HAS INDEPENDENTLY CONTACTED OTIS SAFES SUCSESSFULLY. THEY REPORTED LY SHOW A GREAT INTEREST CHINA FRANCE AND GERMANY. MARION HAS VOLUNTEERED TO ASSIST JOHN HIGHTOWER TO WORK ON THIS LOCALIZED BUDGET. CAPTIVA ISLAND AUG 25 -FUGIKO NAKAMA-JAPAN ROCI-CALLED FROM JAPAN ON RETURNING FROM A PERSONAL ART INSTALLATION IN AUSTRAILIA THAT AUSTRAILIA WANTS FIVE SIMULTANIOUS EXHIBITS IN SPRING OF 84. MY OWN PERSONAL COMMITMENTS IN THE ARTS OUT SIDE ROCI INCLUDE THE COMPETION OF THE CERAMIC AND THE CHINA PHOTO COLLAGE PROJECTS, A LATE OCT. OPENING OF A SCULPTURE SHOW, EXHIBITING NEW WORKS AT THE OF THE FLO









Unique IDStorage LocationYearCreatorA782RRFA-01: Box WN61985Robert Rauschenberg

Description

Robert Rauschenberg's handwritten draft of his speech for the opening of the ROCI Tibet exhibition

Physical Details

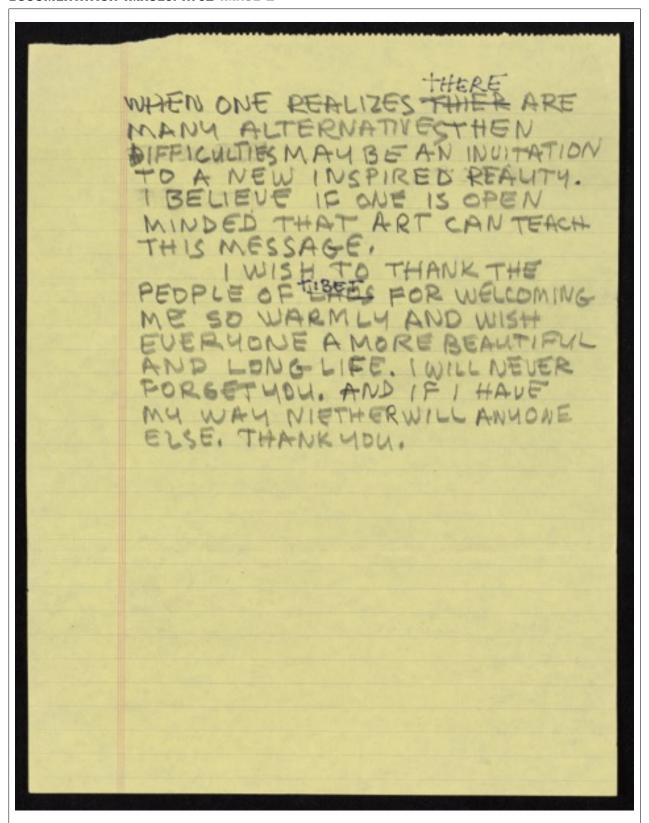
graphite on paper, 2 sheets, 11 x 8 1/2"

Rights

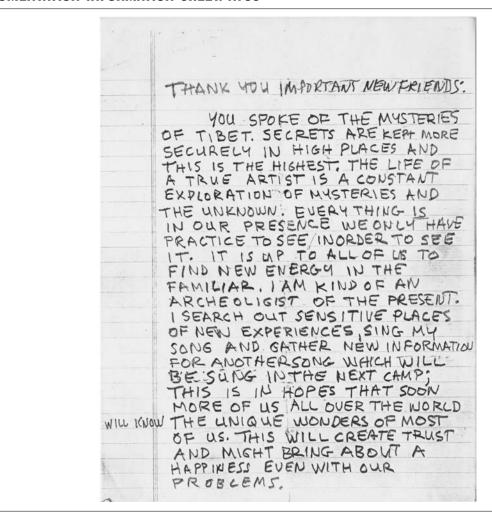
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Original Source









Unique IDStorage LocationYearCreatorA788RRFA-05: Box 1, Folder 171985Robert Rauschenberg

Description

Photocopy of Robert Rauchenberg's draft of his speech for the opening of the ROCI Tibet exhibition, version written for Chun-Wuei Su Chien and included in Chien's "Beijing and Lhasa Report"

Physical Details

photocopy on paper, 2 sheets, 11 x 8 1/2"

Right:

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Original Source

Chun-Wuei Su Chien papers. Robert Rauschenberg Foundation Archives, New York



WHEN ONE REALIZES THERE ARE MANY ALTERNATIVES, THEN DIFFICULTIES MAYBE AN INVITATION TO A NEW INSPIRED REALITY. I BELIEVE IF ONE IS OPEN MINDED THAT ART CAN TEACH THIS MESSAGE,
OF TIBET FOR WELCOMING SO WARMLY AND WISH EVERYONE A MORE BEAUTIFUL AND LONGER LIFE. I WILL NEVER FORGET YOU ANDIF I HAVE MY WAY, NEITHER WILL ANYONE ELSE.
THANK YOU
FOR CHUN WHET - THANKYOUS
BOB RAUSIAWSONE



RAUSCHENBERG: OVERSEAS CULTURE INTERCHANGE

381 LAFAYETTE STREET NEW YORK CITY 10003 Tel. 212 - 228-5283

SEPTEMBER 1, 1982

THIS IS A PROGRESS REPORT TO DATE OF THE RAUSCHENBERG OVERSEAS CULTURE INTERCHANGE (R.O.C.I.--PRONOUNCED "ROCKY" LIKE MY PET TURTLE, POSSIBLY CELEBRATING THE ANNIVERSARY OF OUR QUARTER OF A CENTURY UNION). THE PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT IS MULTIPLE: FIRST, TO INFORM OUR ADVISORS AND FRIENDS; SECOND, TO STIMULATE MORE CONCRETE INPUT; AND THIRD, TO WITNESS WITH EVENTS THE

ACTUALITY OF THE WHOLE PROJECT.

CHINA. June 11-July 14, 1982: After a successful collaboration with the world's oldest paper mill (see insert), we met in Beijing with Lihua and Gu-Yuan of the Artisis Association. Next we met with Deputy Minister Zhou Wei-Chi, in charge of cultural interchange. He sets up meetings with "Exhibition Company" (which is controlled by him). An exhibition space is suggested. He inquired as to when I would like to show my work. I said I thought May 2, 1983 would be a good time. He said that would be a good time because the Chinese have a holiday around then. The "Exhibition Company" shows us an extremely fine space. They admitted they honor institutionally sponsored exhibits, but saw no reason they could not do this privately sponsored one-man show (provided it is self-funded). We were told to finalize the

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Unique ID Storage Location Year Creator

A818 RRFA-05: Box 5 September 1, 1982 Robert Rauschenberg

Description

Robert Rauschenberg's progress report on Rauschenberg Overseas Culture Interchange (ROCI) sent to Chun-Wuei Su Chien

Physical Details

printed paper with handwritten annotations, 7 sheets, 11 x 8 1/2"

Rights

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Original Source

Chun-Wuei Su Chien papers. Robert Rauschenberg Foundation Archives, New York



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PROJECT THROUGH THE CHINESE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, D.C. OR WITH THE DEPUTY MINISTER. THE ARTISTS ASSOCIATION HAS WELCOMED OUR RETURN. ACCORDING TO THE DEPUTY, THEIR APPROVAL IS CLOSELY LINKED WITH THE MASSIVE POPULARITY OF THE EXHIBITION.

IN THE FIRST WEEK OF SEPTEMBER TERRY VAN BRUNT AND RR PLAN
TO MEET IN MASHINGTON, D.C. WITH DON SAFF (WHO RETURNS PRIVATELY
TO CHINA IN OCTOBER) AND CHUN-MUEI SU CHIEN, OUR OFFICIAL
LIAISON, TO BEGIN THE PAPER WORK FOR THE EXHIBIT.

I PHOTOGRAPHED CHINA EXTENSIVELY. VAN BRUNT VIDEOED AND WE HAVE BEGUN THE EDITING. I AM WORKING ON A 100-FOOT SINGLE SHEET COLOR PHOTO COLLAGE ON CHINA WITH INDIVIDUAL STUDIES. THIS PROJECT IS BEING EXECUTED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA GRAPHICS STUDIO. THIS WORK AND A SELECTION OF THE CHINA PAPER MILL WORKS WILL BE IN THE EXHIBITION WITH RR'S OTHER WORKS IN THE CHINESE NATIONAL GALLERY IN BEIJING. IN WASHINGTON, D.C. WE WILL PROPOSE THAT THEY HOST A GRAND PREMIER OF THE CHINA PAPER WORKS AND POSSIBLY AT THAT TIME ANNOUNCE THE OPENING OF THE R.O.C.I. IN CHINA ON MAY 2.

JAPAN. JULY 14--AUGUST 9, 1982: RR AND VAN BRUNT BEGIN THE CERAMIC PROJECT (TWO OF THE PIECES ARE APPROXIMATELY 16-FEET-BY-9-FEET; ALL ARE GUARANTEED NOT TO CHANGE ORGANICALLY FOR THREE THOUSAND YEARS) WITH OTSUKA-ONML, A COMPANY BELONGING TO THE OTSUKA GROUP, A 2.5 BILLION-DOLLAR-A-YEAR PRIVATELY OWNED



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CORPORATION, WHOSE CHAIRMAN MASAHITO OTSUKA SHARED THE EXCITEMENT BOTH WITH THE CERAMICS PROJECT AND R.O.C.I.

CHAIRMAN OTSUKA SET UP AN IMPORTANT MEETING WITH DENTSU, THE LARGEST ADVERTISING AGENCY IN JAPAN WITH WORLDWIDE OFFICES. WE MET, PRESENTED THE R.O.C.I. PLAN AND THEY AGREED THAT COLLECTING FUNDS FOR THE WORLDWIDE ADVENTURE WOULD TAKE SPECIAL IDEAS.

WE AGREED TO MEET AGAIN IN JAPAN IN SEPTEMBER WHEN I RETURN TO COMPLETE THE CERAMIC PROJECT. AT THAT TIME IT IS EXPECTED THAT THEY WILL HAVE A REALISTIC PROPOSAL.

SEIBU MUSEUM: YOSHIAKI TONO, CONTEMPORARY NUMBER ONE POET, CRITIC AND GUEST CURATOR, HAS PROPOSED AND INSISTS THAT R.O.C.I. BE THE INAUGURAL EXHIBITION OF THE NEW MUSEUM FOR CONTEMPORARY WORK ONLY, HE STATES, JUST AS DUCHAMP WAS FOR THE OPENING OF THEIR SECOND MUSEUM AT KARUIZAWA. SEIBU HAS, IN ANY CASE, REQUESTED AN OPENING IN 1984.

JAPAN R.O.C.I.'S ARTISTIC COORDINATOR IS FUJIKO NAKAYA, A CREATIVE FOG ARTIST, WHOSE CURRENT ASSIGNMENT IS A COMMISSION FOR A FOG FOUNTAIN AT THE IMPERIAL PALACE IN TOKYO, TO BE PLACED OUTSIDE THE EMPEROR'S BEDROOM. JAPAN R.O.C.I. IS NEGOTIATING WITH THE JAPAN-U.S. FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION FOR FUNDING UP TO ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS, WHICH WILL BE USED TO BRING TRISHA BROWN DANCE COMPANY TO JAPAN DURING R.O.C.I. EXHIBIT TO PERFORM T.B. AND RR COLLABORATIONS AND RELATED PIECES.



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THE SUPPORT FOR THE GRANT INCLUDES A PERSONAL STATEMENT FROM SENATOR JAVITS, ITS FOUNDER.

RR PHOTOGRAPHED EXTENSIVELY IN JAPAN EVEN THOUGH IT RAINED EVERY DAY; AGAIN T.V.B. VIDEOED EXPANSIVELY (NOT EDITED YET).

LOS ANGELES. August 9-16, 1982: I do fine tuning on prototype China paper mill work at Gemini. We meet L.A. Dentsu at Gemini to inform and stimulate them. The project is so new they knew nothing about it and were cautious and pleased to have the same personal presentation as their superiors in Japan. Doug Crismas and Pontus Hulten are alerted to find R.O.C.I. space in Los Angeles for July-August, 1984 (Olympics time). The alternative Museum of Contemporary Art space in Los Angeles has since been located and secured with funds from MOCA. Pontus has agreed to accompany us to Russia with Beaubourg Russian translator on October 24, 1982 to meet with official persons to present and negotiate Russian R.O.C.I.

NYC. AUGUST 16-25, 1982: R.O.C.I. MEETING WITH AVAILABLE ADVISORS AT 381 LAFAYETTE ST. DISCOVERED THAT NOTHING HAD DEVELOPED IN NYC.

FRANK SAUNDERS OF PHILIP MORRIS HAS PROMISED TO ARRANGE A
MEETING WITH PHILIPPE DEMONTEBELLO AND BILL LIBERMAN OF THE
METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART AFTER LABOR DAY. IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED



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THAT SEED MONEY COULD COME FROM THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENTS FOR THE HUMANITIES. PIONEER INDUSTRIES, WHOSE VOICE IS MILES RUBIN (PERSONALLY UNAVAILABLE) HAS RUMORED INTEREST, AND SINCE THEN HAS BEEN CONTACTED FOR A MEETING SEPTEMBER 9.

RR AND BILL GOLDSTON, PRESIDENT OF UNIVERSAL LIMITED ART EDITIONS, BECAUSE OF QUALITY AND URGENCY, ARE SEEKING PRIVATE FUNDING FOR R.O.C.I. BOOKS AND IN-LANGUAGE CATALOGS. ALL R.O.C.I. PUBLICATIONS WILL BE DEDICATED TO THE LIFE OF THE LATE TANYA GROSMAN.

MARION JAVITS HAS INDEPENDENTLY CONTACTED OILS SAFES SUCCESSFULLY.

THEY REPORTEDLY SHOW A GREAT INTEREST IN CHINA, FRANCE AND GERMANY.

MARION HAS VOLUNTEERED TO ASSIST JOHN HIGHTOWER TO WORK ON THIS

LOCALIZED BUDGET.

CAPTIVA ISLAND. AUGUST 25, 1982: FUJIKO NAKAYA--JAPAN R.O.C.I.-CALLED FROM JAPAN ON RETURNING FROM A PERSONAL ART INSTALLATION
IN AUSTRALIA TODAY TO SAY THAT AUSTRALIA WANTS FIVE SIMULTANEOUS
EXHIBITS IN THE SPRING OF '84.

MY OWN PERSONAL COMMITMENTS IN THE ARTS OUTSIDE R.O.C.I. INCLUDE: THE COMPLETION OF THE CERAMICS IN JAPAN AND THE CHINA PHOTO COLLAGE PROJECTS; A LATE OCTOBER '82 OPENING OF A SCULPTURE SHOW EXHIBITING NEW WORKS AT THE INAUGURATION OF THE FLOW ACE GALLERY IN PARIS; A PROPOSED AFTERNOON NEW YEAR'S EVE '82 TRIPLE OPENING IN NYC OF THE KABAL-AMERICAN-ZEPHYR SERIES OF OBJECTS AND WALLWORKS



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AT SONNABEND'S (MEST BROADWAY), AMERICAN PREMIER OF JAPAN CERAMICS AT CASTELLI'S (MEST BROADWAY), AND NYC SHOWING OF 100-FOOT CHINA PHOTO ENSEMBLE AT CASTELLI'S (GREEN ST.).

Special guest, February, 1983, at International Paperworks
Conference, hopefully encouraging China's participation by
THEIR SENDING REPRESENTATIVES IN CONNECTION WITH MY PRESENTATION
OF COLLABORATION IN WORLD'S OLDEST PAPER MILL.

A NEW THEATRIC COLLABORATION, RR WITH TRISHA BROWN AND LAURIE

ANDERSON; SILKSCREEN WIND SURFING SAILS FOR SPECIAL EVENT FOR

OLYMPICS; TAKE TRIP THROUGH THE EVERGLADES ON A COMMISSIONED

COLLABORATION WITH MARJORIE STONEMAN-DOUGLAS (92-YEAR-OLD POET

LAUREATE OF FLORIDA) SPONSORED BY THE CENTER FOR FINE ARTS, MIAMI.

A QUICKENING OF THE CONTINUATION OF THE QUARTER OF A MILE OR

TWO FURLONGS PIECE POSSIBLY IN CONNECTION WITH AN ANNIVERSARY

CELEBRATION SHOW FOR AN IMPORTANT NATIONAL MUSEUM; PLUS VARIOUS

UPCOMING PERSONAL CHARITABLE EVENTS AND OF COURSE, NEW WORK.

IT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL IF THE PERFECT INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE SECRETARY APPEARED BY ANY VEHICLE. WE HAVE AN EXCITING JOB, A BEAUTIFUL OFFICE AND SO FAR ALL FUNDINGS HAVE COME FROM MY POCKET. BUT WE ARE MOVING RIGHT ALONG. I REALIZE THAT THIS IS PROBABLY THE MOST DEMANDING AND EXPANSIVE ART PROJECT IN HISTORY, BUT I AM CERTAIN IT CAN MAKE A CONCRETE CHANGE IN OUR ONE-TO-ONE EXISTENCE.



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PEACE IS NOT POPULAR BECAUSE IT IS EQUATED WITH A STOPPAGE OF AGGRESSIVE ENERGIES.

ENERGY HAS NO STANDSTILL AND PEACE WILL NEVER COME ABOUT BY STOPPING.

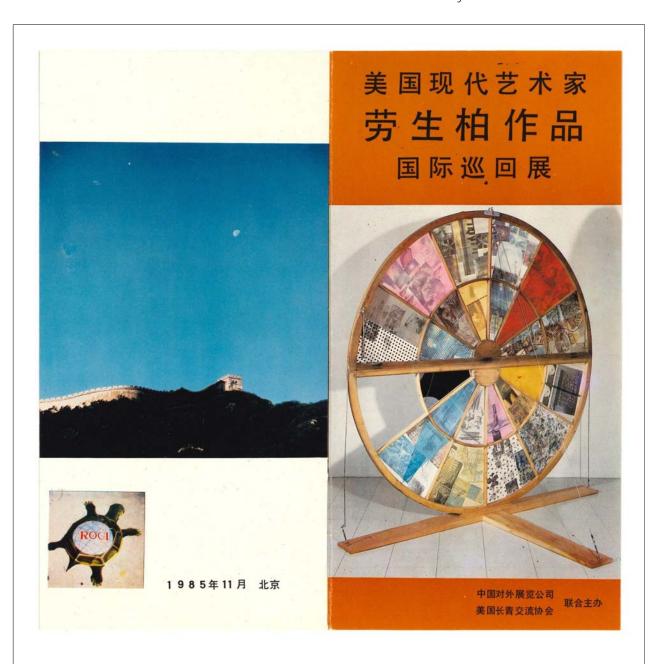
STARTING A NEW USE, AGGRESSIVELY, OF OUR UNIQUE CURIOSITIES, OUR IMPATIENCE WITH IGNORANT CRUELTY, AND ENCOURAGING THE MOST GENEROUS PERSONAL CONTRIBUTIONS WILL MAKE WAR A SHAME OF ITSELF.

BOB RAUSUHUB TOREN

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Select materials related to ROCI: China - low-resolution scans only





Select materials related to ROCI: China - low-resolution scans only





Select materials related to ROCI: China - low-resolution scans only

This was the speech Rob gove at the Thise 404 IMPORTANT NEW FRIENDS: Payslopion was taken by liked it very much . So I Bot copied this for me. SPOKE OF THE MYSTERIES UT IIDET. SECRETS ARE KEPT MORE SECURELY IN HIGH PLACES AND THIS IS THE HIGHEST, THE LIFE OF A TRUE ARTIST IS A CONSTANT EXPLORATION OF MYSTERIES AND THE UNKNOWN. EVERY THING IS IN OUR PRESENCE WE ONLY HAVE PRACTICE TO SEE INORDER TO SEE IT. IT IS UP TO ALL OF US TO FIND NEW ENERGY IN THE FAMILIAR. IAM KINDOF AN ARCHEOLIGIST OF THE PRESENT. I SEARCH OUT SENSITIVE PLACES OF NEW EXPERIENCES, SING MY SONG AND GATHER NEW INFORMATION FOR ANOTHERSONG WHICH WILL BE SUNG IN THE NEXT CAMP; THIS IS IN HOPES THAT SOON MORE OF US ALL OVER THE WORLD WILL KNOW THE UNIQUE WONDERS OF MOST OF US. THIS WILL CREATE TRUST AND MIGHT BRING ABOUT A HAPPINESS EVEN WITH OUR PROBLEMS.



Select materials related to ROCI: China - low-resolution scans only

THANK YOU IMPORTANT NEW FRIENDS:

YOU SPOKE OF THE MYSTERIES OF TIBET. SECRETS ARE KEPT MORE SECURELY IN HIGH PLACES AND THIS IS THE HIGHEST, THE LIFE OF A TRUE ARTIST IS A CONSTANT EXPLORATION OF MYSTERIES AND THE UNKNOWN. EVERY THING IS IN OUR PRESENCE WE ONLY HAVE PRACTICE TO SEE INORDER TO SEE IT. IT IS UP TO ALL OF US TO FIND NEW ENERGY IN THE FAMILIAR. IAM KIND OF AN ARCHEOLIGIST OF THE PRESENT. I SEARCH OUT SENSITIVE PLACES OF NEW EXPERIENCES, SING MY SONG AND GATHER NEW INFORMATION FOR ANOTHERSONG WHICH WILL BE SUNG INTHE NEXT CAMP; THIS IS IN HOPES THAT SOON MORE OF US ALL OVER THE WORLD WILL KNOW THE UNIQUE WONDERS OF MOST OF US. THIS WILL CREATE TRUST AND MIGHT BRING ABOUT A HAPPINESS EVEN WITH OUR

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PROBLEMS



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WHEN ONE REALIZES THERE ARE MANY ALTERNATIVES, THEN DIFFICULTIES MAYBE AN INVITATION TO A NEW INSPIRED REALITY. I BELIEVE IF ONE IS OPEN MINDED THAT ART CAN TEACH THIS MESSAGE,

OF TIBET FOR WELGOMING SO WARMLY AND WISH EVERYONE A MORE BEAUTIFUL AND LONGER LIFE. I WILL NEVER FORGET YOU AND IF I HAVE MY WAY, NEITHER WILL ANDNE ELSE.

THANK YOU

FOR CHUN WUET - THANKYOU & BOB RAWSLAWSONE



Select materials related to ROCI: China - low-resolution scans only

The Rauschenberg Overseas Culture Interchange....
....One Artist's Pilgrimage in Behalf of World Peace

For many artists, it is sufficient to gain, in one's lifetime, recognition as a master and artist of consequence. For others, recognition is secondary to other kinds of accomplishment. Robert Rauschenberg has enjoyed a special place in the world of art for nearly thirty-five years. Yet today, at a time in his career when his artistic powers continue to expand, his respect for life and his passion for cooperation, sharing and celebrating the human condition through world peace has dictated for him a course of action that transcends conventional definitions of artistic purpose.

Classical definitions and descriptions have never been applicable to Rauschenberg or his art. Rejecting artificial intellectual and elitist distinctions that separate art and life, Rauschenberg's purpose is to release unifying forces which make experience whole and worthwhile. In the same spirit, Rauschenberg rejects the idea that humankind should be alienated and fractured by cultural and social distinctions that tend to divide and separate humanity from itself. His art reveals the unifying power in the differences that now divide us. Through his art we are able to eradicate barriers to understanding created by differences in language and culture.

The Rauschenberg Overseas Culture Interchange is an exhibition conceived to bring to the peoples of the world an opportunity to develop a new vision of themselves and their relationship to each other. During the next five years this everchanging exhibition will travel to twenty countries presenting works produced by Rauschenberg based on his personal odyssey to countries covering a broad geographical and cultural spectrum of differences.

Cooperation and collaboration are at the center of Rauschenberg's working methodology. He continually seeks out and collaborates with local artists, writers, performers, fabricators, printers and technicians. His art is the unique product of a sharing with them of life's many offerings and opportunities.

The openness, integrity and respect characteristic of Rauschenberg's relationships with his collaborators extends to his attitude toward the very materials used in the making of his art. Each has its own special qualities to contribute. The cardboard box is as respected as the water lily or the most exquisite temple for all, in their diverse beauty, have a commonality in the fact that all can provide service as materials for art. One image collaborates with another; paint merges with the photographic image and found objects speak to us in a fresh way. Passions, insights and life burst forth in an unpredictable dynamism of change. Art becomes life.

As Oriental painting pays homage to the profoundness of Nature, Rauschenberg's art expands the concept of Nature to include society's by-products which, in their own way, evoke a sense of profundity when embraced by the artist's eye, mind, heart and hand. Like Li Bai's poetry, Rauschenberg's art steps out of confining boundaries and delights us at a new level of comprehension. As the art of Qi Baishi elevates common imagery to a high aesthetic level, revealing the beauty implicit in common objects, so the art of Robert Rauschenberg reaches into the ordinary world of things to work its magic for the soul.



Select materials related to ROCI: China - low-resolution scans only

Rauschenberg's contact with the people of China and their rich traditions has honed the incisiveness of his art. His work in 1982 at the Xuan paper mill in Jing Xian in Anhui Province produced objects acclaimed for the exquisite quality of the craft of the world's oldest paper mill and the high level of his artistic achievement. The seventy sets of paperworks titled "Seven Characters" and the 100-foot photographic piece titled "Chinese Summerhall" are prime examples of the culture interchange concept in action. Reflecting the paradox of uniqueness and similarity in all people, Rauschenberg images come together on a common format of canvas, paper or space in a manner not unlike "ji jin" in traditional Chinese art. Change is the only constant.

Literal descriptions of Rauschenberg's art are not particularly helpful in grasping its artistic, social and human content. However, the following anecdote may be useful in understanding the spirit and thrust of his life and work.

In 1972, during a three month collaboration at Graphicstudio at the University of South Florida in Tampa, Elorida, Rauschenberg was shocked to find that several cardboard boxes, carefully selected for use in his art, had been removed from the studio by university custodians. In their eyes, these objects were simply used and useless boxes ready to be consigned to the garbage dump.

Undaunted, Rauschenberg and his collaborators rushed to the dump in search of old friends. After all, he had already once saved these boxes from the trash pile; another effort seemed in order and worthwhile. Under the watchful and amused eyes of bulldozer operators at the dump, the Rauschenberg group probed the massive mountain of cultural throwaways. Once more, Rauschenberg rescued these objects from a fate of eternal oblivion, gave them new life and the work of making art continued.

As we look at the panorama of Rauschenberg's art, we marvel at the many times he has interrupted society's penchant for moments of thoughtlessness and waste. Reclaiming that which we condemn and discard and giving us, through his art, one more opportunity to experience important life and aesthetic values, Rauschenberg has contributed much to enlargement of all human consciousness.

Rauschenberg's growth as an artist has been filled with challenge and risk. He knows how easy it is to be misunderstood. But, for him, the pressing issues of art, life, love and peace are too important not to be addressed directly with courage, sensitivity and imagination. In a certain way, misunderstanding can lead to a kind of enlightenment. Rauschenberg's art allows us to determine for ourselves what it is we want to know. We are participants in the completion of a process initiated by the artist at the moment of the making of his art. In the end, each of us is personally responsible for what we permit ourselves to know.

The Rauschenberg Overseas Culture Interchange represents a natural extension of lifelong concerns. It stands as eloquent testimony in behalf of Rauschenberg's belief that differing cultural values, when exchanged through art, unleash potent forces hospitable to international understanding and world peace. Powerful symbols freed of parochial meanings that isolate and divide people now present themselves as images which testify to the beauty, unity and wholeness of all life. The works shown here do not represent the artist's view of the world, rather, they offer a new means for the world to present itself to itself. Through his art, Rauschenberg gives us perhaps a last opportunity to reclaim that which has been lost among men...an opportunity to share the uniqueness and sameness of various cultures within a framework of mutual caring, respect and dignity. We wish him well in his ambitious pilgrimage in behalf of world peace.

Donald J. Saff Distinguished Professor University of South Florida Tampa, Florida

August 16, 1985



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RAUSCHENBERG OVERSEAS CULTURE INTERCHANGE

The world tour exhibition of the art of Robert Rauschenberg is dedicated to the concept that art is the most eloquent international language that we have at our disposal and that the critical importance for people to communicate may be accomplished through artistic means. Art eradicates the barriers that language differences create.

The exhibition will travel through twenty countries on all continents, thereby representing various sociological differences. Though variation is important and enriches the fabric of life, the brother-hood of humankind makes us fundamentally related. Rauschenberg's perceptions of an individual country will help foster understanding by other countries by their experiencing his imagery, insights and reactions. The exhibition will be Rauschenberg's response to the beauty and character existing in dissimilar societies and is an effort to share those sensibilities. Works will be produced in each country in an attempt to capture the uniqueness of various cultures while demonstrating the kinship that is an essential part of society. Rauschenberg's aesthetic is devoted to this end.

Rauschenberg finds beauty in the relationship of disparate objects. His art is not the art of a caste system. Images are without hierarchy. He finds expressiveness, integrity, eloquence in objects and imagery that would normally be overlooked as inconsequential and elevates those images to a height of importance equal to objects which are considered, by tradition, beautiful. Therefore, Rauschenberg is imbuing value in everything and making us react to all aspects of life in terms of new relationships and new experiences that ultimately



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add to the richness of our being. The cardboard box is as respected as the water lily or most exquisite temple and all, in their diverse beauty, have a commonality. That recognition is expressed in Rauschenberg's art by placing disparate objects in the same context. Rauschenberg appeals to viewers because he has shown us that all of life is the material for art, thereby making the possibilities of art an infinite creative process. Like Li Bai's poem, Rauschenberg is willing to step out of confining boundaries so as to delight us with experiencing a new order of comprehension.

By Rauschenberg assembling his images as he does, the openness of the relationship and the integrity of the object allow viewers to expand their own understanding of the inter-relatedness of the world, its peoples, its objects. The viewer, therefore, participates in making the art. The art is the collective essence of Nature. Oriental painting pays homage to the profoundness of Nature. Rauschenberg interprets the scope of Nature to encompass society's by-products which are, in turn, recycled as art. One does not analyze a Rauschenberg work image by image but one should allow the work to enter the mind through the heart as one freely associates with it. The work is, at once, a celebration of life, a paradox of the uniqueness and similarity of all people. Rauschenberg's images come together on a common format of canvas, paper or sculpture like "jijin" in traditional Chinese art; society shares the common format of concerns, passions and insights. Life is unpredictable; art, in turn, must be unpredictable. Art, like life, is dynamic and always in a state of change. Change is the only constant.



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Rauschenberg's work opposes elitism by honoring all aspects of life as in the work of Qi Baishi whose art most strongly represents this philosophy and who has catalyzed public education through the visual image. Qi Baishi's work elevates common imagery to a high aesthetic level by sensitizing us to the beauty implicit in common objects. Our soul is the richer, more complete for these insights — the magnitude of the essential beauty in all things. This can also be said of Rauschenberg's art.

Learning is a celebration of life's offerings. The quality of the artist's work grows through his various experiences. In the past, Rauschenberg has traveled and collaborated in numerous countries which include, amongst others, France, India, Japan and China. In the summer of 1982, he worked at the Xuan Paper Mill in Jing Xian in Anhui province. This project was exhibited internationally and received great acclaim for the exquisite quality of the craft of the mill and the high level of artistic achievement. The richness of China's tradition has been a profound experience for Rauschenberg and has aided the incisiveness of his art. The work of Rauschenberg and the exhibition as an entity will metamorphize over the period of the tour as the work grows and the viewer and artist evolve an understanding through artistic dialogue in the course of time. It is his wish to share his experiences with other people of the world. To travel through the world absorbing its offerings facilitates humanistic expression through the truth of experience. Art must be a product of experience and to understand the humanism of societal creation, one must journey through society's accomplishments and Nature's wonders.



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Rauschenberg's working methodology is always a collaborative process in a particular environment, a collaboration between artist, printer, fabricator and technician. So it is with his work that one image collaborates with another, paint is merged with photography, technology, screen printing, found objects. A collaboration of imagery is his aesthetic and a collaboration of countries is the global concept of this culture interchange exhibition.

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