

## RRFA 01: Robert Rauschenberg papers

Interviews: Maxwell, Douglas / Extra Questions for Robert Rauschenberg, 1989

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### DOUG'S XTRA QUESTIONS for ROBERT RAUSCHENBERG

- 1 Where's the ROCI Road Show off to next?
  - 2 How come you chose a turtle as ROCI's logo?
  - 3 How 'political' is ROCI - and are you a political person?
  - 4 Are you more, or less, hopeful about the world as a result of your ROCI travels?
  - 5 Will ROCI continue after the big show at the Met in ~~1990~~ <sup>NATL. Gallery</sup> 1991?
- You've always chosen interesting (to say the least!) titles for your work. In 1988 you produced a number of works called 'Shiners' 'Gluts' and 'Urban Bourbons' ... can you tell me what they mean, and how you arrived at them?
- 7 What's Rauschenberg going to surprise us with next ....? (i.e. what are you working on right now?)
- You use all sorts of 'raw' materials in your work (e.g. bits of crumpled metal, signs, etc) - how do you go about finding them? Do you 'see' a potential work on a scrap heap - or do you bring a whole load of stuff back to the studio and wait for inspiration? Or what?
- 8
  - 9 You have quite a few assistants - what do they do?
  - 10 Are there any plans for a major show in London - its been a long while since your Tate Show?

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11 Did you enjoy doing that car for B.M.W - it seems you will tackle absolutely anything? True?

12 Is there anything you wouldn't do?

13 What do you make of the prices that your (and Jasper Johns work) fetches these days. Frankly, is 6 million dollars more than a little too much for a work of contemporary art? (JJ's - 17 million dollars!)

14 Do you have a favourite piece of your own work?

15 You were with Castelli for years - why did you switch to Knoedler?

16 Is it getting harder or easier to produce 'new' work - to get the inspiration?

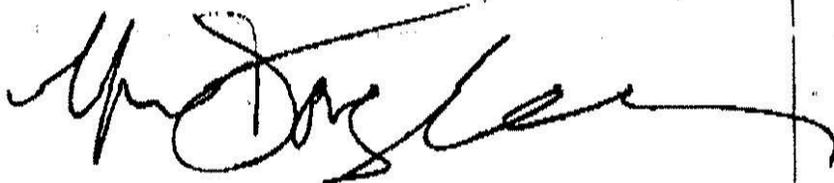
17 Do you have many (any) interests outside 'Art'?

18 Finally, is there a major creative endeavour that you'd like to have a go at - something you've always wanted to do?

*Robert Rauschenberg*

*P.S. Of course if there are any they. Please write to all please do so!*

- 19 - Where do your ideas come from ?
- 20 - Do you see what you're doing now as a simple progression from what you were doing 20 or so years ago ?
- 21 - When you have the idea, how do you get it translated into the final sculpture, etching, painting - can you describe the process ? Is it possible to describe it ?
- 22 - Do you ever doodle out ideas on a pad ? Or do you make it up as you go along ?
- 23 - How important is the art of actually 'painting' yourself to you these days ?
- (Plus anything Bob wants to add about being an artist and the creative process would be valuable!)
- 24 Bradley, my apologies for all this extra stuff for Bob; I'm determined to get a major piece in Modern Painters about him, and I'm sorry that I didn't have enough time with him to cover this 'extra' stuff.
- 25 I promise, really, that this is it. And I hope to get Bob's responso - on tape would be fine - to these and the other questions you have. Its all my fault, I got so caught up with just being there with him, you, etc ...



P.S. 'Fasteners' Soap Book and some prints sent under separate cover today!

\*\* TOTAL PAGE.06

- ① FIRST MALASIA - ZIMBABUA THEN FINNALLY THE NATIONAL WASH.DC
- ② I HAVE A PET TURTLE ~~FOR~~ SINCE THE 50'S, NAMED ROCI. THERE ARE FEW CIVILATIONS THAT DO NOT CONSIDER THE EXCEPTIONAL SPIRITUAL QUALITIES OF THE TURTLE.
- ③ IF INFORMATION, ESTHETICS, AND CULTURAL COMMUNICATION IS POLITICAL THEN THE ANSWER IS "YES". WE CONSIDIOUSLY ATTEMPT ~~NOT TO~~ TO AVOID CRITISISM WITHOUT HEDGING CONTROLLING ISSUES.
- ④ MORE
- ⑤ IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THE NATIONAL IS PLANNING A TOUR OF SOME FORM.

⑥ I HAVE ALWAYS AVOIDED EXPLANATIONS TO TITLES OR CONTENTS. YOU MENTION SHINERS, GLUTZS, URBAN BOURBONS; NOW ADD TRANSOMS AND BORIASES.

⑦ IF I KNEW I WOULDN'T DO IT.

⑧ I SIMPLY KEEP A SUPPLY, AND MY EYES OPEN AND BUSY.

⑨ IT DEPENDS ON MATERIAL FOCUSES.

⑩ NOT SURE WHAT YOU MEAN BY "MAJOR". WADDINGTON HAS A SHOW SOON.

⑪ I ENJOYED WORKING THE BMW. I ENCOURAGE NEW ACTIVITIES AND CHALLENGES.

12 I DON'T KNOW

13 IT'S NOT MY CONCERN.

14 HOPEFULLY THE NEXT ONE.

15 THE SWITCH TO KNEDLER  
ASSISTED ROCI, AND I THINK  
CHANGES CAN BE REUTILIZING

16 I THINK AS ONE GETS MORE  
EXPERIENCE AND POSSIBLY  
MORE SKILL, IT BECOMES  
DIFFICULT TO REMAIN FRESH.

17 ~~IF~~ IF A CREATIVE ATTITUDE  
IS MAINTAINED NEARLY ANY  
ACTIVITY IS ART.

18 MUSIC - I DON'T HAVE DISCIPLINE,  
BUT I DO HAVE THE UNINHIBITED  
~~AND~~ ABANDON AND APPETITE

19) THEY BREW IN MY IGNORANCE.

20) THAT REMAINS THE STRUGGLE  
AGAINST CONTINUITY.

21) WORK AND PLEASURE.

22) ONLY IF THERE ARE  
STRUCTURAL ~~OR~~, SCIENTIFIC OR  
MECHANICAL CONFUSION.

~~23)~~