For Immediate Release

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RAUSCHENBERG'S R.O.C.I. OPENS IN VENEZUELA

Caracas, Venezuela — A traveling collection of works by world-famous artist Robert Rauschenberg will go on display this month in Venezuela, the third stop of its five-year global tour for peace. The Rauschenberg Overseas Culture Interchange (R.O.C.I.) opens at the Museo de Arte Contemporaneo in Caracas, Venezuela on September 12. R.O.C.I. will visit a total of 22 countries before culminating five years later in the first one-man show of a living artist ever held at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.

In every country on the R.O.C.I. tour, the artist will work with local painters, writers and artisans to create a series of pieces capturing the cultural character of the region and its people. When R.O.C.I. first opened in Mexico City at the Museo Rufino Tamayo in April, 1985, the exhibition was made up of 230 Rauschenberg works from the past decade. In July, 1985, the exhibition went on display at the Museo de Bellas Artes in Santiago, Chile. In both Mexico and Chile, the artist replaced a number of older works with new pieces completed during R.O.C.I.'s stay in each country. Gradually, the original exhibition of older works will be eclipsed completely by these and other new regional artworks. The final show at the National Gallery will be comprised of accumulated pieces representing all 22 countries. Among the other countries R.O.C.I. is scheduled to visit are China, Japan, Spain, Italy and Morocco.

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The U.S. public will be linked continuously to the course of the tour. A single work from the series of each country will be donated to the National Gallery of Art for display while the exhibition is in that country. In July, the National Gallery of Art established a new gallery within its Twentieth Century Collection dedicated to Rauschenberg's paintings and sculptures from 1949 to 1979. The new gallery will also include the works from the global tour as it progresses. The first of the donated works, produced as a part of the Mexican series, was presented to the National Gallery in May, 1985. The second work, inspired by Rauschenberg's visit to Chile, replaced the Mexican work in July, 1985. The artist will donate the Venezuela-inspired piece in Washington, D.C. later this month. These works and the 19 others will be incorporated into the National Gallery's permanent collection.

R.O.C.I.'s objective is to promote peace and understanding through the universal language of art. Describing one of the most ambitious exhibitions ever undertaken by an artist, Rauschenberg said, "Art stimulates, educates and illustrates, even though it is not totally understood at first glance. Creative energy alone provokes curiosity and curiosity is the first step to understanding and tolerance. A sharing of our intimate eccentricities brings us closer together."
The Arts

Trying to bring art and different cultures closer together

By Isabel Cristina Calzado
Daily Journal Staff

Six years ago, while working in China, I had a dream, a dream which today is in the process of becoming a stunning artistic reality.

“I was one of the oldest paper mills there and one of the saddest things about it was that people would stand there and without knowing what was going on in the rest of the world or the 7 kilometers around them.

He said that he had to do something about it, show other parts of the world to those Chinese and work as some kind of a delegate, uniting art to bring people and cultures closer together.

Today, North American painter Robert Rauschenberg has materialized his dream, by turning a handful of ideas and hopes into a collection of art works which are to travel the world for five years under the name "Rauschenberg Overseas Culture Interchange" or R.O.C.I. The project, which started to take form earlier this year, is really just an exhibition, a museum exhibition that will grow as it travels, incorporating bits and pieces of the cultures of each country into the artwork, Rauschenberg said in a press conference Wednesday.

So far, R.O.C.I. has been in Mexico and Chile. Tonight, the exhibit will end its tour in Parque Fundador in the MACO's site in Park Circus.

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Rauschenberg also said the exhibition will be held at the National Museum of Fine Arts in Mexico City, and will include works from the Museum of Contemporary Art in Mexico City.

Rauschenberg's 30th exhibition is a sort of an aggressive peace mission...with maybe a belief that if we understood each other more we would have to care for each other.

Rauschenberg said "I believe that art is one of the purest forms of communication. The purpose of the artwork is to communicate in a way, an explanation for Rauschenberg's art, the artist said.

Rauschenberg, born in 1925 in Port Arthur, Texas, lost his left arm in a painting accident in 1942, when he joined the US Navy and worked as a cartoonist and psychiatric technician in various hospitals in California.

"It was there that I learned the slight of hand of the army, the cruelty of the army and the cruelty of war," he said.

Rauschenberg said that he was a student of art at the University of Texas, and that his work was influenced by the "Hootenanny" series and "Hog Heaven.

According to critics, Rauschenberg's style has evolved somewhat, "as the artist becomes part of the establishment," he said.

"It is not out of disrespect, it is out of priorities. I would rather see the Indians in the interior than go to coffee with another artist."

"I have said he be still somewhat out of the ordinary."

"I would like to see art being created, both in art and in art criticism, and that art be appreciated," he said.

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INVITACIÓN DINERS CLUB Y EL HOTEL MACUTO SHERATON
desean celebrar con Usted esta Gran Ocasió:
PREMIO DE GALA
ESTRELLAS DEL BALLET RUSO

Una ocasión especial para que Ud. admire la Gran Premio de Gala del BALLET RUSO, integrado por las parejas solistas de los Ballets Bolshoi, Novosibirsk y Stanislavsky y disfrute junto a su familia durante 4 días, en el Hotel Macuto Sheraton.

PROGRAMA DE GALA (4 días y 3 noches)

**INCLUYE:**
- Alojamiento (Del 19 al 22 de Septiembre)
- Entrada a la Premio de Gala (Jueves 19 a las 9 pm.)
- Buffet de Gala después de la función.
- Cena en el Restaurante Sevilla.
- Brunch Dominical.

**PRECIO POR PERSONA:**
- Habitación Doble Bs. 1.554
- Habitación Sencilla Bs. 2.195

Adquiera su programa y cárguelo a su Tarjeta Diners:

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Valencia: (041) 21.42.65 - 21.49.45 -
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**Hotel Macuto Sheraton**
Teléfonos Oficina Caracas:
31.30.87 - 31.15.78 - 31.69.60
Oficina Hotel: (031) 91.801 al 18

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