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Robert Rauschenberg

February 7, 2014–March 27, 2014

Opening reception:
Friday, March 7, 5:30–7:30 pm

Gallery hours:
Tue–Sat: 10 am–6 pm



Autobiography, 1968, offset lithograph, 198 3/4 x 48 3/4”
American abstract expressionist painter Robert Rauschenberg (1925–2008)
at the Whitney Museum of American Art with his lithograph *Autobiography*,
New York, 22nd January 1968. (Photo by Jack Manning)

Locks Gallery is pleased to present the gallery’s second exhibition of works by Robert Rauschenberg (1925–2008), on view February 7 through March 15, 2014. An opening reception will be held on Friday, February 7 from 5:30–7:30 pm. This exhibition

is an introduction to a series of ongoing exhibitions at Locks Gallery focusing on Rauschenberg’s legacy in anticipation of a forthcoming catalog. As one of the most important postwar American artists, Rauschenberg’s work continues to provoke critical dialogue.

Artist and critic Brian O’Doherty coined the term “vernacular glance” in 1973 to describe Rauschenberg’s relationship to image culture. He amassed and repeatedly reproduced images from everyday life, making unusual juxtapositions and layerings. As our relationship to visual material continues to evolve through the internet’s ability to bring together disparate visual information, Rauschenberg’s approach to combining imagery still resonates.

In 1984 at the United Nations, Rauschenberg announced his plans for a project entitled ROCI (Rauschenberg Overseas Culture Interchange), an artistic program that would encompass a nearly seven year, ten-country tour to encourage “world peace and understanding.” ROCI initiated projects in Mexico, Chile, Venezuela, China, Tibet,

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Japan, Cuba, the Soviet Union, Germany, and Malaysia along with ROCI USA works. Through this worldwide project he collected photographs and source materials for a unique body of work for each country, and bestowed artworks in cultural institutions in each nation and one in the National Gallery of Art that was made during his travels. The exhibition catalogs for each country's project would include contributions by local poets, writers, or journalists. The global project culminated in a major survey of the works at the National Gallery of Art in 1991. Rauschenberg's interest in a global exchange and making international cultural connections through the language of art was ahead of his time. Looking back, ROCI can be seen as a predecessor to the globalized art dialogue we celebrate today and is a crucial part of Rauschenberg's legacy and vision.

On view will be a selection of major works and editioned pieces. This exhibition addresses Rauschenberg's legacy through select works from ROCI alongside other mixed media works that represent his material experimentation and innovation.

Robert Rauschenberg (1925–2008) is widely acclaimed as one of the most important postwar American artists. In 1947 while in the U.S. Marines he discovered an interest in drawing and later pursued arts education in Paris with the aid of the G.I. Bill. His work anticipated Pop art through his incorporation of imagery from everyday life and found objects. A truly interdisciplinary artist, Rauschenberg worked in painting, sculpture, collage, printmaking, photography, paper making, performance, and collaborative projects.

The artist had his first solo exhibition in 1951. In 1964, Rauschenberg was the first American artist to win the Grand Prize at the Venice Biennale. A mid-career retrospective organized by the National Collection of Fine Arts (now the Smithsonian American

Art Museum) traveled throughout the U.S. in 1976–1978 and a retrospective in 1997 organized by the Guggenheim Museum traveled to Houston, Cologne, and Bilbao. He was awarded the National Medal of Arts in 1993. In the past ten years, exhibitions have been organized at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, LACMA, Centre Pompidou, Moderna Museet in Stockholm, Peggy Guggenheim Collection in Venice, Guggenheim Museum Bilbao, Guggenheim Museum New York, along with the Philadelphia Museum of Art. While furthering the artistic legacy of the artist, the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation continues to sustain his philanthropic, civic, and educational initiatives and awards grants to contemporary artists and organizations.

Locks Gallery previously exhibited Rauschenberg's work in 2005.

Locks Gallery is located at 600 Washington Square South in Philadelphia, PA. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 am to 6 pm. For additional information, please contact Locks Gallery at 215.629.1000 voice, 215.629.3868 fax, or info@locksgallery.com.

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