

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

WEEK OF OCTOBER 8-14, 2014

A GUIDE TO THE GREATER FORT MYERS ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT SCENE

Bob Rauschenberg's international outreach focus of new exhibition

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

Florida South Western State College and lead sponsor FineMark National Bank & Trust have announced the first solo exhibition of world renowned artist Robert Rauschenberg since his memorial at the Bob Rauschenberg Gallery in 2008 and the first installation in more than a decade of his monumental 100-foot-long Chinese Summerhall



RAUSCHENBERG

(1984) photograph. "RAUSCHENBERG: China/America Mix" is the artist's 16th one-man show at the college since the gallery was founded in 1979. The show also celebrates the 10-year anniversary of the gallery's renom-

ing and dedication in Mr. Rauschenberg's honor.

Widely-acknowledged as one of the most important artists of the 20th century, Mr. Rauschenberg is credited with pioneering the transition from European modernism to American pop art and was a Lee County resident for nearly four decades. His effect still

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EXHIBITION

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looms large around the globe, but this is particularly evident in China. Inspired by his 1982 visit to Jing Xian and his work at the ancient Xuan Paper Mill on his 7 (Chinese) Characters collages (included in this exhibition), Mr. Rauschenberg returned to China in 1985 to mount his Rauschenberg Overseas Culture Interchange exhibition at the National Gallery in Beijing. Open to the public for less than three weeks, Mr. Rauschenberg's ROCI/China show attracted more than 300,000 visitors and is still considered a seminal cultural event. To this day, the most recognized Chinese artists acknowledge his great influence and broader impact in describing art in China "before... and after Rauschenberg."

"ROCI (was) an attempt to create universal art, imbued with cultures of various peoples, in order to contribute to the cause of peace," Mr. Rauschenberg said.

"While photographing the environs," according to Dr. Donald Saff, "a sense of China unfolded in the viewfinder of Rauschenberg's Hasselblad... The enthusiasm of his working methodology was his diplomacy and his art was magic for the people's spirit."

The "RAUSCHENBERG: China/America Mix" exhibition will open to the public from 7-9 p.m. on Mr. Rauschenberg's Oct. 22nd birthday, with musical performances by longtime friends Dickie Landry, Kat Epple and Sonic Combine. A pre-opening lecture on "Rauschenberg in China" will be pre-



DANIEL CHAUICHE / COURTESY PHOTOS
Bob Rauschenberg in the Bob Rauschenberg Gallery at FSW.



sented from 6-7 p.m. by distinguished guest, Dr. Donald Saff, founder of USF's Graphicstudio and artistic director of Rauschenberg Overseas Culture Interchange/ROCI.

For more information, call 489-9313 or visit RauschenbergGallery.com. ■