

happenings

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Rauschenberg & Albers: Box vs. Square exhibit opens at Rauschenberg Gallery

Florida SouthWestern State College announced Rauschenberg & Albers: Box Vs. Square at the Bob Rauschenberg Gallery (located on FSW's Lee County/Thomas Edison campus).

Opening with a public reception and performances by internationally-acclaimed electro-acoustic violist Martha Mooke and Sonic Combine on Friday, Feb. 26, Rauschenberg & Albers: Box Vs. Square will be the first in-depth investigation anywhere of the once student-teacher relationship between these two great modern masters.

Robert Rauschenberg famously spoke of Josef Albers as his most important teacher, and (laughingly) acknowledged that Albers surely considered Rauschenberg his poorest student. Of course, much celebrated for his own artistic production, Josef Albers' pioneering research into the interaction of color (while teaching at the Bauhaus, Black Mountain College and later at Yale University) and legacy as an educator are at least as significant as the paintings and prints he created. His teachings (and related publications) are still at the core of college art curricula and the subject of courses in every serious teaching institution (including Florida SouthWestern State College – where this exhibition will transform the Bob Rauschenberg Gallery into both an exhibition space and a classroom with hands-on workshops and lectures in conjunction with regularly-scheduled "Color Theory" course offerings during the Spring Semester.)

Widely-acknowledged as one of the most important artists of the 20th Century, Bob Rauschenberg is credited with pioneering the tran-

sition from European modernism to American pop art. His influence still looms large around the globe and his work has been exhibited and collected by every major art museum in the world. Examined for the first time within the framework of the rigid "Homage to the Square" and "Interaction of Color" series of his most influential Black Mountain College instructor Josef Albers, Rauschenberg & Albers: Box V. Square at the Bob Rauschenberg Gallery – is a curated exhibition that reconsiders the playful cardboard box works (his "Cardboards" and "Cardbirds") of the internationally-acclaimed artist and Lee County, Florida resident Bob Rauschenberg.

As an artist who described himself as working in the 'Gap between Art and Life' and who often found inspiration and component parts for his paintings and 'Combines' by walking around his Lower East Side/New York City neighborhood block, Rauschenberg turned to cardboard boxes as a subject matter and raw/source material after unloading his belongings upon arriving permanently to Florida in 1970. According to Bob Rauschenberg Gallery Director Jade Dellinger: "Trading the detritus of city life for the sunshine and sand of Captiva Island, the first series of works the artist made locally were the result and direct product of the abundant boxes used to transport his life and art from New York to his new beach-side home. So, it is particularly fitting that these works be exhibited more than four decades later in the Southwest Florida context that inspired their creation."

The exhibit runs through May 14.