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Vol. 15, No. 17

From the Beaches to the River District downtown Fort Myers

APRIL 29, 2016

Artists' Talk On Rauschenberg Collaborations

Donald Saff and Lawrence Voytek will be returning to the Bob Rauschenberg Gallery at Florida SouthWestern (FSW) State College for a presentation on Saturday, April 30 at 1 p.m. The presentation is in conjunction with the current Rauschenberg & Albers: Box Vs. Square exhibition. While on site to record conversations for the official Robert Rauschenberg Foundation/Columbia University - Rauschenberg Oral History Project, there will be a public exchange about both Saff's and Voytek's work, and decades-long relationships with Rauschenberg.

In a 1992 interview with Jade Dellinger, Rauschenberg said, "I did not begin with any expectations or preconceptions. I love and respect collaboration."

Saff is an artist, art historian and educator who founded the Graphicstudio/Institute for Research in Art at the University of South Florida in Tampa in



Donald Saff with the late Robert Rauschenberg

photo courtesy of FSW

1968. Saff collaborated with many of the most significant artists of the 20th century including numerous experimental print and sculptural projects with Bob Rauschenberg. He served as artistic director for Rauschenberg Overseas Culture Interchange (ROCI, 1984-91), a worldwide initiative for positive social

change with art exchanges and resulting exhibitions as the catalyst. In 1991, Saff established Saff Tech Arts (later Saff and Company) in Oxford, Maryland, where he continued to work with Rauschenberg to create series including Eco-Echo (1992-93), Shales (1994-95), and Arcadian Retreat (1996). Their Made in Tampa

(1972-73) works on view currently in Rauschenberg & Albers: Box Vs. Square were the first editions Saff and Rauschenberg produced in collaboration. Emeritus dean and a distinguished professor at USF, Saff was also formerly the senior curator of prints and drawings at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York. His prolific career has been documented in Marilyn Kushner's book *Donald Saff: Art In Collaboration* (2010).

Born in Bridgeport, Connecticut, Voytek studied at the San Francisco Art Institute and received his degree in sculpture from RISD in 1982. After meeting Robert Petersen at Edison College (now FSW), Voytek was introduced to and immediately hired by Bob Rauschenberg that same year to serve as sculpture fabricator and later director of production. Voytek was tasked with welding and casting, but he was also in charge of research and development at the Captiva studio until the artist's death in 2008. Since Rauschenberg's passing, Voytek has completed approved works and has regularly consulted on the subjects of art installation, fabrication and restoration with renowned international

continued on page 21

From page 1

Artists' Talk On Rauschenberg

museums and galleries while pursuing his own art career and exhibiting his work.

This presentation is open to the public, free of charge.

The Bob Rauschenberg Gallery at FSW is at 8099 College Parkway in Fort Myers. For more information, call 489-9313.

This presentation is sponsored in part by the Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, the Florida Council of Arts and Culture and the State of Florida. Additional support provided by Chico's International. ☆