

## Donald Saff and Lawrence Voytek to reminisce about collaborations with Bob Rauschenberg on April 30

By TOM HALL  
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The Bob Rauschenberg Gallery at Florida SouthWestern State College is hosting a special ArtSPEAK@FSW presentation on Saturday, April 30 featuring Donald Saff and Lawrence Voytek.



Donald Saff is an artist, art historian and educator who founded the celebrated editions atelier Graphicstudio/Institute for Research in Art at the University of South Florida in Tampa in 1968, and collaborated with many of the most significant artists of the twentieth century – including numerous experimental print and sculptural multiple 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 U.S.F., Saff was also formerly the Senior Curator of Prints and Drawings at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York. Saff's prolific career has been documented in Marilyn Kushner's book, *Donald Saff: Art In Collaboration (2010)*.

Born in Bridgeport, Connecticut, Lawrence 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 Bob's passing, Voytek completed approved works and has regularly consulted on the subjects of art installation, fabrication and restoration with renowned international museums and galleries while pursuing his own art career and exhibiting his work widely.

Saff and Voytek are both on site to record conversations for the official Robert Rauschenberg Foundation /Columbia University – Rauschenberg Oral History Project. On Saturday, they will engage in a public exchange about their extensive work and decades-long relationships with Bob Rauschenberg. "Donald SAFF & Lawrence VOYTEK: A Conversation about Collaborations" starts at 1:00 p.m. in the Bob Rauschenberg Gallery. The event is open to the public, free of charge.

For additional information, please telephone (239) 489-9313 or visit [www.RauschenbergGallery.com](http://www.RauschenbergGallery.com). 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, with support provided by Chico's International. ■