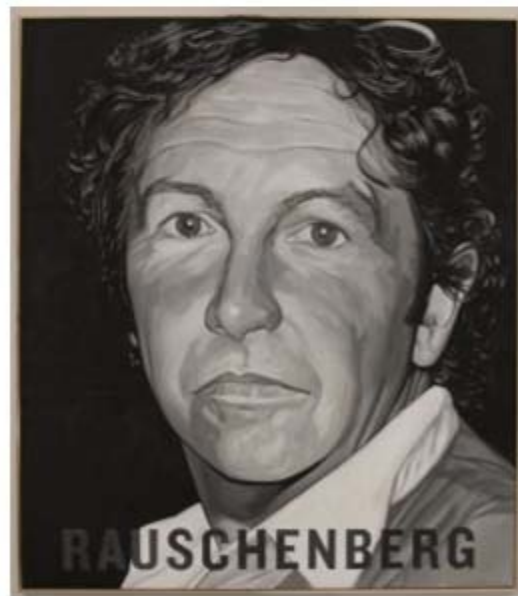


Theo Wujcik exhibition at Bob Rauschenberg Gallery opens May 29

By TOM HALL
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The Bob Rauschenberg Gallery at Florida SouthWestern State College has announced that it will be featuring work by the late Theo Wujcik in its next exhibition, which opens on May 29 with a reception and Gallery Talk from 6-8 p.m.

The focus of a 10-year retrospective at FSW in 2012, Theo Wujcik's current exhibition combines his final group of large-scale paintings (the so-called "Blue Chip" Series) with work in a variety of media created with fellow artist Bob Rauschenberg as his primary subject. Representing the culmination of exchanges originating in the 1970s between Wujcik and Rauschenberg, "RAUSCHENBERG (Blue Chip Series)" (2014) was completed in Wujcik's final months of life – while battling cancer. The last portrait of Rauschenberg in a small series of editioned prints, silverpoint drawings and paintings included in this exhibition, this "Blue Chip" series canvas is featured alongside Wujcik's brightly-colored interpretations of Jim Rosenquist, Takashi Murakami, Damien Hirst, Jeff Koons and numerous other artist-colleagues and friends.



Theo Wujcik moved from Detroit, Michigan to Tampa, Florida in 1970 – the same year that Bob Rauschenberg relocated to Captiva Island. Wujcik, a celebrated artist and Tamarind Lithography Workshop-trained Master

Printer, had been recruited by USF Graphicstudio founder Donald Saff to apply his many talents in the collaborative environment of the then budding editions atelier and, shortly thereafter, to share his knowledge by teaching art at the University of South Florida. Much loved and respected by all who knew him, Wujcik's influence on students over decades and within his community and the region was profound.



Like Bob Rauschenberg, Wujcik's original works are represented in the Permanent Collections of major institutions including the Museum of Modern Art and Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, the Chicago Art Institute, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Los Angeles County Museum of Art and The National Gallery of Art in Washington D.C. They have been featured in exhibitions worldwide – including both solo and group shows at the Bob Rauschenberg Gallery at FSW. ■