

Next exhibition at Bob Rauschenberg Gallery to be 'Wayne WHITE: Here Comes Mr. Know-It-All'

By TOM HALL
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Florida SouthWestern State College has announced that it will exhibit paintings, drawings and a newly-commissioned, site-specific installation by artist Wayne White. Titled *Wayne WHITE: Here Comes Mr. Know-It-All*, the show will open at the Bob Rauschenberg Gallery on September 11, 2015 with a 6-8 p.m. reception and performance by the artist.

Wayne White is a Los Angeles-based, internationally-acclaimed artist. White won three Emmy Awards for his set design and puppeteering on the landmark children's TV show *Pee-wee's Playhouse*, creating iconic characters including Randy, Cool Cat, Chicky Baby and Dirty Dog. The subject of a 2012 feature-length documentary *Beauty is Embarrassing* directed by Neil Berkeley and a 382-page hardbound monographic book designed and edited by Todd Oldham, *Maybe Now I'll Get the Respect I So Richly Deserve*, Wayne White will be in residence at Florida SouthWestern State College for a week in advance of his show to work with FSW students to create a super-sized puppet/sculpture of Lee County resident artist and Gallery namesake Bob Rauschenberg.



In addition to his newly commissioned Bob Rauschenberg puppet/installation and related opening night performance, the exhibition *Wayne WHITE: Here Comes Mr. Know-It-All* will also include a selection of the artist's now iconic and often "laugh-out-loud"-humorous "Word" paintings and a series of recent watercolor drawings and collages (on subjects including local environmentalist, author and political cartoonist Ding Darling) produced during Wayne White's month-long Robert Rauschenberg Foundation Residency on Captiva Island in 2013.

As the artist reveals, "I've always had the do-it-yourself approach. I grew up in this blue collar family and didn't have a lot of toys, so you had to make your own fun. Building forts out of sticks and scrap lumber – that's where I learned the joy of making something from nothing."

The Bob Rauschenberg Gallery was founded as The Gallery of Fine Art in 1979 on the Lee County campus of Florida SouthWestern State College/FSW (then Edison Community College). On June, 2004 the Gallery of Fine Art was renamed the Bob Rauschenberg Gallery to honor and commemorate its long-term association and friendship with the artist. Over more than three decades prior to his death, the Gallery worked closely with Rauschenberg to present world premiere exhibitions including multiple installations of the *¼ Mile or Two Furlong Piece*. The artist insisted on naming the space the Bob Rauschenberg Gallery (versus the "Robert Rauschenberg Gallery") as it was consistent with the intimate, informal relationship he maintained with both the Southwest Florida community and FSW.

The exhibition will run through November 7, 2015. For more information, please telephone 239-489-9313 or visit <http://www.RauschenbergGallery.com>.