

More on 'Wayne WHITE' exhibition at the Bob Rauschenberg Gallery opening September 11

By TOM HALL
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Florida SouthWestern State College has recently 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.



The exhibition will include a selection of the artist's iconic and often "laugh-out-loud"-humorous "Word" paintings that have been favorably compared to works by Ed Ruscha. White creates these Word paintings by taking cheap, mass-produced lithographs which he finds in secondhand thrift stores and painstakingly writing phrases or words on them in a glossy, 3-D style. White's most famous Word painting is *Nixon*, which was featured on the cover of an eponymous album by the band Lambchop. A school friend of Lambchop's Kurt Wagner, White has contributed to four of the band's album covers.

In addition to these Word paintings, *Wayne WHITE: Here Comes Mr. Know-It-All* will also feature a series of recent watercolor drawings and collages produced during Wayne White's month-long Robert Rauschenberg Foundation Residency on Captiva Island in 2013 as well as a puppet/installation of Bob Rauschenberg. In September 2009, White installed a huge puppet head of George Jones in the Rice Gallery at Rice University in Houston, Texas. The puppet's eyes rotate in its head, and if the viewer pulls a rope, the mouth opens and a snoring noise emerges. A huge fan rotates at the base of the head, with the words "dreaming" written over the fan blades. The piece is called "Big Lectric Fan to Keep Me Cool While I Sleep," in reference to George Jones's recording of "Ragged but Right." White has not divulged what he has planned for his homage to Rauschenberg.

In January 2009, White was featured at Marty Walker Gallery in Dallas, Texas in a group art exhibition titled *There's something I've been meaning to tell you....* The Marty Walker Gallery also held a solo art exhibition for White in 2010 titled *I fell 37 miles to the earth 100 years ago*. In March 2012, *Beauty Is Embarrassing*, a documentary about Wayne White's life, premiered at SXSW in Austin, Texas. In June 2013 the interactive, site-specific installation HALO AMOK debuted at the Oklahoma City Museum of Art. White describes HALO AMOK as a "cubist cowboy rodeo." ■