

Friday, June 29, 2018

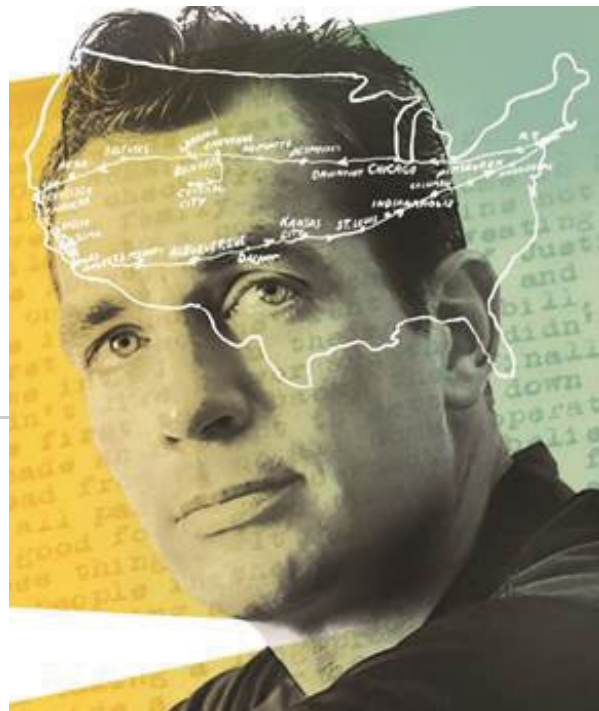
## Jack Kerouac, Ed Ruscha exhibit to open at Rauschenberg Gallery

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By Florida Weekly Staff | on June 27, 2018

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Florida SouthWestern State College is opening “Jack KEROUAC & Ed RUSCHA: On the Road” at the Bob Rauschenberg Gallery with a public preview reception from 6-7 p.m. Friday, June 29. From 7-9 p.m. there will be a special performance by legendary Kerouac-collaborator David Amram. Pairing renowned West Coast Pop/Conceptual painter Ed Ruscha’s illustrated edition of the classic Kerouac novel with the author’s original 1951 manuscript for the first time, this groundbreaking exhibition brings together two of 20th century America’s most visionary and influential artists. The exhibit runs through Aug. 18.



Single-spaced without paragraph breaks on a continuous 120-foot-long paper scroll, the late, great writer Jack Kerouac completed this first draft of “On the Road” and forever defined the restless Beat Generation with his 1928 Underwood Portable typewriter at over 100 words per minute in just 20 caffeine- and Benzedrine-fueled days. It was praised by Allen Ginsberg as “a magnificent single paragraph, several blocks long, rolling, like the road itself.”

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“It’s about a group of crazy young people who just travel back and forth across the United States,” according to Ed Ruscha. “Sometimes they hitchhike and sometimes they drive cars. They steal cars and just want to be on the road ...”

Long-engaged with visualizing the poetry of our vernacular roadside, Mr. Ruscha was born in Omaha, Neb., in 1937, but left his hometown of Oklahoma City at age 18 — rolling into Los Angeles in a customized 1950 Ford — to study painting, photography and graphic design at the Chouinard Art Institute (now CalArts). A friend and collaborator of Bob Rauschenberg, Mr. Ruscha's work has been widely collected and shown extensively by major museums around the world — including representing the United States in Italy at the 2005 Venice Biennale.

As is evident in this exhibition, Mr. Ruscha's entire career has offered an artistic corollary to Kerouac's linguistic portrait of the American landscape. Acknowledging the romantic vision of the road as epitomized by the Beats, Mr. Ruscha invented the "artist's book" in the 1960s with his inexpensively printed and self-published deadpan photographic musings on the evolving urban environment of Los Angeles.

Mr. Amram started his musical career in the early 1950s playing in the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington, D.C., as well as in the legendary jazz bands of Charles Mingus, Dizzy Gillespie and Lionel Hampton. In 1957, he created and performed in the first ever Jazz/Poetry readings in New York City with novelist Jack Kerouac, a close friend with whom Mr. Amram collaborated artistically for over 12 years.

The gallery is at 8099 College Parkway at FSW. For more information, call 489-9313 and see [www.RauschenbergGallery.com](http://www.RauschenbergGallery.com).