

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

FOURTH STREET AT CONSTITUTION AVENUE NW WASHINGTON DC 20565 • 737-4215 extension 511

FOR RELEASE:

SATURDAY A.M.
March 21, 1981

MAJOR MODERN GRAPHICS ARCHIVE AT NATIONAL GALLERY
ANNOUNCED AT CONTEMPORARY GRAPHICS SHOW OPENING

WASHINGTON, D. C. March 20, 1981. The National Gallery of Art today announced the establishment of a major archive of contemporary American graphic art, based upon works published by Gemini G. E. L., one of the foremost American workshops and publishers of contemporary prints and multiples. The archive at the National Gallery has been established with an initial gift of 256 prints and multiples by 22 contemporary American artists, and a deposit and pledge of many further works.

The announcement was made by J. Carter Brown, Director of the National Gallery, at the opening of Contemporary American Prints and Drawings, an exhibition of approximately 100 examples of American graphics from the creative period of 1940 to 1980 from the Gallery's collection, on view March 22 through July 19, 1981.

The Gemini archive will include preparatory materials and trial proofs, and written material relating to the creation of the works, as well as additional finished prints and multiples. Further gifts from various donors should bring the archive by 1985 to a complete representation of all works of art published by Gemini since its founding.

A selection of the prints and archival material already given and on deposit are available for viewing by appointment in the Gallery's print room Monday

(more)

through Friday 10 a.m. to 12 noon and 2 to 4 p.m. An exhibition is being planned for 1984 after the archive is fully functional.

Gemini G. E. L., which is owned by Sidney and Rosamund Felson and Stanley and Elyse Grinstein, was founded in 1966, and it has established itself internationally. Located in Los Angeles, it has been in the forefront of a particularly American collaboration of fine arts and technology. Almost 1,000 prints by 36 artists, spanning the wide-ranging contemporary art styles, have been issued.

Gemini has published works as diverse as the austere formalism of Josef Albers and Ellsworth Kelly, the visual metaphors of Jasper Johns, the inclusive collage-based images of Robert Rauschenberg, the representational work of Claes Oldenburg and David Hockney and the process-oriented pieces of Michael Heizer.

Among the works in this initial gift are selections from Johns' Color Numerals (1969) and his Lead Reliefs series (1969) as well as his Ale Cans (1975); works from Rauschenberg's Cardbirds (1971), Hoarfrost (1974) and the Pages and Fuses series (1974), which led the contemporary movement using paper itself as the medium; Oldenburg's Notes series (1968), as well as his Chrysler Airflow (1969) and Soft Screw (1976) multiples; Roy Lichtenstein's Peace Through Chemistry (1970), Bulls (1973) and the Expressionist Woodcuts series (1980); and David Hockney's series of portraits from 1973 through 1979.

END