

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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ROBERT RAUSCHENBERG WORK
ON LOAN TO NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

WASHINGTON, D. C. July 31, 1985. J. Carter Brown, Director of the National Gallery of Art, announced that Copperhead Grande, a second loan in a series of major new works by the contemporary American artist, Robert Rauschenberg, will go on view beginning today through August 21, 1985 in the National Gallery's East Building, Concourse Level.

Copperhead Grande was created for the innovative project between the Rauschenberg Overseas Culture Interchange (R.O.C.I.) and the National Gallery of Art. R.O.C.I. is an evolving exhibition beginning with some two hundred Rauschenberg works created during the last ten years, and new works which celebrate the different cultural identities of twenty-two countries. These works will travel to each of the participating countries; one representative work from each country will be shown at the National Gallery, and after a world tour, there will be an exhibition at the National Gallery in 1988 or 1989.

Copperhead Grande, combines acrylic paint, silkscreening and a chemical etch on three copper panels measuring twelve feet by seven and one-half feet. The copper acts as a glossy, full mirror, reflecting the viewer and the environment as well as giving a floating, transparent sense to the depicted images. The work contains Rauschenberg's choice of industrial, urban, and rural Chilean subjects, photographed by him,

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then transferred to the copper, sometimes overpainted and over-screened. Copperhead Grande is the largest of the more than a dozen copper plate pieces made for the Chilean R.O.C.I. exhibition that recently opened at the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes in Santiago.

Altar Peace, the first work from the R.O.C.I. series produced for Mexico, was seen at the National Gallery from May 30 through June 17, 1985.

Mr. Rauschenberg will be working with local painters, writers, and artisans in order to convey the regional and cultural characteristics of each of the twenty-two countries where he will be creating objects in a variety of media. These new works will then be incorporated in the R.O.C.I. exhibition for each participating country.

Mr. Rauschenberg's objective is to promote world peace and understanding through art. He has long supported the belief that man can communicate more honestly and openly through art.

Other countries participating in the world tour include Venezuela, at the Museo de Arte Contemporaneo de Caracas; two locations in China---Beijing, at the National Art Gallery and Tibet; and Japan, at the Laforet Museum in Tokyo.

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