

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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GRAPHICSTUDIO ARCHIVE ACQUISITION ANNOUNCED BY NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

WASHINGTON -- March 5, 1986. The National Gallery of Art today announced the establishment of the Graphicstudio Archive, composed of the prints and edition sculpture produced at Graphicstudio, a nonprofit publishing workshop operated under the auspices of the University of South Florida in Tampa. Dedicated to research and development in the arts, Graphicstudio has attracted many artists of international acclaim to the Florida campus.

The Graphicstudio Archive at the National Gallery has been formed with an initial gift from the University of South Florida Foundation of nearly 250 works including preparatory drawings and sculpture maquettes, trial proofs, and single examples from each of the approximately 200 print and sculpture editions produced by more than 35 artists since the workshop's founding in 1969. In addition, Dr. John Lott Brown, president of the University, has pledged the University to provide both supporting archival materials and an example from each new edition issued by Graphicstudio in the future.

Added to the Gemini G.E.L. (Graphic Editions Limited) Archive established in 1981, the gift in 1983-84 of prints produced at the Tamarind Lithography Workshop in the 1960s, and many individual donations, the new Graphicstudio Archive makes the National Gallery a primary center for the exhibition and study of contemporary prints and edition sculpture.

Among works in the Graphicstudio Archive are prints and sculptures by Robert Rauschenberg (b. 1925) and Jim Dine (b. 1935) and lithographs and

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Graphicstudio...add one

screenprints by James Rosenquist (b. 1933), all of whom have produced some of their liveliest and most experimental pieces at Graphicstudio. Other artists included whose works constitute especially important additions to the Gallery's holdings are Philip Pearlstein (b. 1924) and British painter-printmaker Richard Smith (b. 1931). Prints and preparatory drawings in the Archive by these artists are their first works to enter the collections. Likewise, pieces by Vito Acconci (b. 1940) and Chuck Close (b. 1940) are the first examples of their print oeuvre to come into the Gallery's possession. Further major additions are works by Japanese-born Arakawa (b. 1936), Edward Ruscha (b. 1937), and Canadian-born artist Miriam Schapiro (b. 1923).

To celebrate the acquisition of this important archive, the Gallery plans to mount, in the early 1990s, an exhibition selected from the Graphicstudio Archive and accompanied by a scholarly catalogue. Also envisioned is the circulation of traveling exhibitions derived from these materials, making them available to an even wider audience.

In announcing the establishment of the Graphicstudio Archive, the Gallery acknowledges its debt not only to President Brown, the University of South Florida Foundation, and to Donald Saff, founding director of Graphicstudio, but also to Andrew Robison and Ruth E. Fine, curators in the Gallery's Department of Prints and Drawings, who have facilitated this acquisition.

A selection of works from the Graphicstudio Archive is available for viewing by appointment.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION or photographs contact Neill R. Heath, Information Officer, or Catherine Freedberg, Information Office, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. 20565 202/842-6353.