

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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NEW WORK BY ROBERT RAUSCHENBERG ON VIEW AT NATIONAL GALLERY

WASHINGTON, March 12, 1987 - Wall-Eyed Carp, a new work by contemporary American artist Robert Rauschenberg, will make its official debut this evening at a National Gallery of Art reception in honor of the artist and the exhibiting of his Rauschenberg Overseas Culture Interchange in Japan. Typical of Rauschenberg's recent work, Wall-Eyed Carp is a massive painting (80" x 243") of acrylic and mixed media, which combines free and varied brushwork, photographic images silkscreened onto canvas, and elements of collage. The most prominent collage element is the large fabric kite depicting an enormous fish, which is glued to the canvas. Rauschenberg found this boldly designed kite at a Temple sale in Japan. The work will be on view in the Gallery's East Building, Mezzanine level, through April 22, 1987.

Wall-Eyed Carp is the fifth work of art coming to the National Gallery as a promised gift from the artist in conjunction with the Rauschenberg Overseas Culture Interchange (R.O.C.I.). Now in its second year, R.O.C.I. is an evolving, traveling exhibition consisting of some 200 Rauschenberg works created during the last 10 years, and new works which celebrate the different cultural identities of the host countries.

(more)

"Robert Rauschenberg has long believed that art can be a positive force for world peace and understanding," said J. Carter Brown, director of the National Gallery of Art. "The R.O.C.I. project is, in my view, one of the most ambitious and innovative attempts to further these goals ever undertaken by a modern artist."

Rauschenberg works with local painters, writers and artisans to create objects in a variety of media in order to convey the regional and cultural characteristics of each country he visits. These new works are then incorporated in the R.O.C.I. exhibition for the participating countries.

Other countries which have participated in the world tour include Mexico, at the Museo Rufino Tamayo, Mexico City; Chile, at the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Santiago; Venezuela, at the Museo de Arte Contemporaneo de Caracas; two locations in China -- Beijing, at the National Gallery and Tibet; and at the Laforet Museum in Tokyo, Japan.

Altar Peace, the first work from the R.O.C.I. series which the National Gallery showed, was produced for Mexico and was on view at the Gallery in the spring of 1985. The second, Copperhead Grande, which refers to present-day Chile, was on view at the Gallery during the summer of 1985. It was followed by Urban-Interior Network, a multi-faceted representation of modern Venezuela, on view at the Gallery during the fall of 1985. The most recent R.O.C.I. work to be seen at the National Gallery was Sino-Trolley (1986), a large three-dimensional work reflecting the culture and people of China and Tibet.