

National Gallery of Art News Release



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RAUSCHENBERG WORKS DONATED TO NATIONAL GALLERY

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- A total of 29 works of art made by American artist Robert Rauschenberg since 1985 as part of the Rauschenberg Overseas Culture Interchange, or ROCI, have been donated to the National Gallery of Art. Most of the works, which are among some of his best and most colorful creations in decades, will be featured in the ROCI exhibition of some 150 works of art in the East Building, May 12 through September 2, 1991.

Among the gifts are some new works not seen by the public that were created for the last stop of Rauschenberg's world tour at the Gallery. These include four ROCI USA (Wax Fire Works) (1990). This group reveals the artist's fascination with mirrored surfaces, which are often overlaid with photographic images, wax emulsion, and sculptural metal objects.

Many of these gifts are former loans exhibited at the National Gallery after each stop of the ROCI world tour, which took the artist to Mexico, Chile, Venezuela, China, Tibet, Japan, Cuba, the Soviet Union, Berlin, and Malaysia. At each location new work inspired by the host country, as well as from previous venues, was added. Thus the exhibition evolved constantly.

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In 1985 the Gallery agreed to celebrate each stop of the tour with a reception centered around selected works from that location. In addition, the Gallery announced that it would organize the final ROCI exhibition for the United States.

"These generous donations will give the nation a fascinating panorama of Rauschenberg's creative activity over the last six years," said National Gallery of Art director J. Carter Brown. "When they are added to our large collection of his graphic art and anticipated donations of earlier works from others close to the Gallery, we will eventually have the most complete holdings in the world of works by this major artist."

Eight paintings and works of sculpture were donated by the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation; a set of seven ROCI USSR "Arrays" are gifts from the artist and Universal Limited Art Editions; a set of seven ROCI USSR "Samarkand Stitches" were donated by the artist and Gemini, G.E.L.; four of the ROCI USA "wax fireworks" are gifts of the artist and Saff Tech Arts, and three additional ROCI works of sculpture were donated by the artist and Graphicstudio, University of South Florida.

"For ROCI, Rauschenberg consciously developed new technical processes, new surfaces, a new palette, and, in some cases, a new point of view," said Jack Cowart, exhibition curator and curator of twentieth-century art at the Gallery. "Each painting has an overall chromatic context suggestive of that country's local color. But the individual colors in the paintings are themselves pure and self-assertive, only rarely relating to the color or remodeling of the actual object or scene."

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(List of ROCI gifts follows.)

ROCI GIFTS TO THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

February 1991

All works of art are by American artist Robert Rauschenberg, born in 1925.

1. Altar Peace/ROCI Mexico, 1985
acrylic on canvas with aluminum frame plus object of aluminum and tin
126 x 90 x 24 inches
National Gallery of Art, Gift of the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation
2. Copperhead Grande/ROCI Chile, 1985
acrylic and tarnishes on copper
90 x 144 inches
National Gallery of Art, Gift of the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation
3. Urban/Interior Network/ROCI Venezuela, 1985
acrylic and collage on plywood panel with objects
50 x 99 x 15 inches
National Gallery of Art, Gift of the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation
4. Sino-Trolley/ROCI China, 1986
acrylic and fabric collages on fabric laminated paper mounted on aluminum support with objects
86 x 231 x 55 inches
National Gallery of Art, Gift of the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation
5. Araucan Mastaba/ROCI Chile, 1986
hand painting and screenprint on mirrored aluminum with cast sterling silver and lapis lazuli
20 5/8 x 22 x 22 inches
National Gallery of Art
Gift of Graphicstudio, U.S.F. and the Artist
6. Tibetan Garden Song/ROCI Tibet, 1986
epoxied cello, Chinese brush, chromed basin, mirrored plexiglas, and glycerine
43 x 18 1/4 inches
National Gallery of Art
Gift of Graphicstudio, U.S.F. and the Artist
7. Wall-Eyed Carp/ROCI Japan, 1987
acrylic and fabric collage on canvas
80 x 243 inches
National Gallery of Art, Gift of the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation

8. Bamhue/ROCI Japan, 1987
bamboo with neon lights, electrical timer, and metal fixtures
90 x 4 x 10 3/4 inches
National Gallery of Art
Gift of Graphicstudio, U.S.F. and the Artist
9. Cuban Acre/ROCI Cuba, 1988
acrylic and enamel on galvanized steel
84 x 222 inches
National Gallery of Art, Gift of the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation
- 10-16. Soviet-American Array I-VII, 1988
Trial proofs for a set of seven photogravures
88 x 53 inches each (except VII, which is 78 x 53 inches)
National Gallery of Art
Gift of Universal Limited Art Editions and the Artist
- 17-23. Samarkand Stitches #1-7, 1988
sewn fabric collages with silkscreening
#1: 76 x 66 inches
#2: 60 x 55 inches
#3: 62 x 41 inches
#4: 62 x 41 inches
#5: 57 x 48 inches
#6: 82 x 26 inches
#7: 49 x 44 inches
National Gallery of Art
Gift of Gemini, G.E.L., and the Artist
24. Bach's Rocks/ROCI Berlin, 1990
acrylic and fabric collage on plywood panels
99 3/8 x 99 1/2 inches
National Gallery of Art, Gift of the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation
25. Malaysian Flower Cave/ROCI Malaysia, 1990
acrylic and fabric on galvanized steel
122 x 146 inches
National Gallery of Art, Gift of the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation
26. Narcissus/ROCI USA (Wax Fire Works), 1990
acrylic, enamel and fire wax on mirrored aluminum
96 3/4 x 72 3/4 inches
National Gallery of Art
Gift of Saff Tech Arts and the Artist
27. Pegasits/ROCI USA (Wax Fire Works), 1990
acrylic, fire wax, and chair on mirrored aluminum
72 3/4 x 96 3/4 x 17 1/2 inches
National Gallery of Art
Gift of Saff Tech Arts and the Artist

28. Swim/ROCI USA (Wax Fire Works), 1990
acrylic, fire wax, and variegated brass leaf on
mirrored aluminum
72 3/4 x 96 3/4 inches
National Gallery of Art
Gift of Saff Tech Arts and the Artist
29. Seminole Host/ROCI USA (Wax Fire Works), 1990
acrylic and fire wax on mirrored aluminum
72 3/4 x 96 3/4 inches
National Gallery of Art
Gift of Saff Tech Arts and the Artist