

**Jim  
Kempner  
Fine  
Art**

IFPDA Spring Online Art Fair 2022  
*Robert Rauschenberg*

*"Signs was conceived to remind us of love, terror, violence of the last ten years. Danger lies in forgetting."*  
- Robert Rauschenberg  
from the exhibition announcement from the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art (University of Oregon)

Originally commissioned by Time Magazine for its cover to usher in the 1970s, the image was never used because it was considered too politically charged. After this rejection, legendary art dealer Leo Castelli recognized the power of this image and asked Rauschenberg to allow him to publish it through Castelli Graphics.

Buzz Aldrin lands on the moon, 1969, JFK, a small slice of the Zapruder film, friend of Rauschenberg Janis Joplin, images of death and life, violence and peace, Martin Luther King, Jr. lying in state in the US Capital in 1968, images from an urban race riot, Bobby Kennedy, soldiers in Vietnam, war protesters.

**Major permanent collections include:**  
Museum of Modern Art, NY  
Whitney Museum of Art (New York)  
National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian (Washington D.C.)  
Minneapolis Institute of Art

Robert Rauschenberg  
*Signs*, 1970  
Screenprint  
43 x 34"  
Edition of 250  
Number 109/250  
Price upon request



# *Made in Tampa Clay Suite,* **1972-73**

We are delighted to offer this rare, complete set (5) of the Made In Tampa Suite, including the seldom seen Tampa Clay Piece 5.

Price on Request



Robert Rauschenberg  
*Tampa Clay Piece 4*, 1972  
Clay with screen-printed ceramic and  
lacquer decals and soil patina  
9 1/2 x 17 x 1 1/2"  
Edition of 20  
U.S.F III/X  
Price upon request

"He involves us in his work by making  
us feel that it is in a vital, almost  
transitory state; a second ago none of  
this was art and now it all is."

-Roberta Smith, Artforum 1975



These ceramic works were published in an edition by  
Graphicstudio, USF Institute for Research in Art, Tampa,  
and made to look like cardboard boxes. In order to  
replicate the color and texture of cardboard, the printers  
mix garden soil with clay and then apply oil from their  
own faces.

**Selected collections (for various Tampa Clay Pieces):**  
Contemporary Art Museum at USF  
Remai Modern Museum, Canada  
High Museum of Art, Atlanta, Georgia  
National Gallery of Art



Robert Rauschenberg  
*Tampa Clay Piece 3*, 1972  
Clay with screen-printed ceramic  
decal, collage using fiberglass and  
epoxy and soil patina  
19 1/2 x 24 x 5 1/2"  
Edition of 20  
Bon A Tirer  
Price upon request

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“Rauschenberg has been a bellwether of American avant-gardism since the early fifties. A keen and instinctive absorber of Dadaist, surrealist, and abstract-expressionist ideas early on, he has himself inspired or somehow participated in perhaps all but two of the major art sensations — the two being reductive abstract painting and Minimalism — that have occurred since his first solo appearance 20 years ago at the Betty Parsons Gallery.”  
- Daniel Wells, “Graphics” in *Chicago Tribune*

**Major permanent collections include:**  
**Contemporary Art Museum at USF**  
**Remai Modern Museum, Canada**

Robert Rauschenberg  
*Tampa Clay Piece 5*, 1974  
Clay slip and fiberglass bag with collage and soil patina  
34 x 18 x 3”  
Edition of 20 unique variants plus 10 artist proofs  
U.S.F III/X  
Price upon request





“Now, Rauschenberg confined himself to discarded cardboard boxes, eliminating virtually all imagery and reducing his palette to a near monochrome. Rauschenberg tore, flattened, bent and cut the boxes that constitute this series, however he resisted otherwise embellishing their surfaces. Thus the stains, tears, dents, and marks that enliven the compositions result from and attest to the history of the objects themselves. Through the use of cardboard boxes, which are created solely to contain more valuable items and then be discarded, Rauschenberg reflected on the materialism and disposability of much of modern life.”

– Josef Helfenstein, *Robert Rauschenberg: Cardboards and Related Pieces*

Robert Rauschenberg  
*Cardbird IV*, 1971  
Collage print with corrugated cardboard,  
tape, photo offset lithograph, and  
screenprint  
39 x 39"  
Edition of 75  
Number 53/75  
Price upon request

Major permanent collections include:  
MoMA (New York)  
National Gallery of Art (Washington D.C.)  
Jordan D. Schnitzer Collection

Robert Rauschenberg  
*Cardbird Door* (from *Cardbird Series*), 1971  
Photolithograph and screenprint on corrugated  
cardboard with Kraft paper, tape, wood, and  
metal additions  
Overall dimensions: 80 x 41 1/2 x 24"  
Edition of 25  
Number 10/25  
Price upon request



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"One of Rauschenberg's most complex prints, made between Autumn 1967 and May 1968, the print contains imagery relating to Robert Kennedy's candidacy for President. The edition was completed a week before his assassination. In this and other prints of the same date Rauschenberg used current publications from the news stands for source material, seeking a vivid immediacy and relevance that his accumulated stocks of source material could not supply." – Tate Modern, UK

**Major permanent collections include:**  
Tate Modern, UK  
The Art Institute of Chicago  
Brooklyn Museum

Robert Rauschenberg  
*Water Stop*, 1968  
Lithograph  
54 x 32"  
Edition of 28  
Number P/P 3/3  
Price upon request

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"In 1971, my friend and artist, Charlie Hewitt, was having a miserable winter down on the Bowery. His flat was cold and he was struggling with his art. He remembers grumpily taking a walk and cursing the trash and cardboard boxes that littered the streets. Then he stumbled upon an opening at Leo Castelli's. He walked in and saw cardboard boxes strewn about on the walls. He shook his head. 'I was looking for inspiration while cursing what I thought was trash in the streets. Many years later, that's what Rauschenberg did for me as well. Suddenly everywhere I turned I saw art or the potential for anything to become art.'

At home I have Rauschenberg's *Cardbird Box* which I keep under a vitrine. I cherish the looks on the faces of my friends when they try to figure out why I have a cardboard box situated like a ming vase."  
- Jim Kempner

**Major permanent collections include:**  
National Gallery of Art  
Institute of Contemporary Art Miami  
Walker Art Center



Robert Rauschenberg  
*Cardbird Box 1*, 1971  
Edition sculpture of paper, cardboard and  
wood with photo offset lithograph  
9 x 12 1/8 x 10 1/2"  
Edition of 20  
Number 17/20  
On loan from Private Collection, NY



Robert Rauschenberg  
*Untitled*, 1983  
Solvent transfer, acrylic,  
graphite  
28 3/4 x 21 3/4"  
Price upon request

Rauschenberg's solvent transfers create a space where – as Leo Steinberg put it – “the images – each in itself illusionistic – kept interfering with one another, intimations of spatial meaning forever canceling out to subside in a kind of optical noise. The waste and detritus of communication – like radio transmission with interference; noise and meaning on the same wavelength on the same flatbed plane.” The manual gesture of rubbing the back of an image is a way to transform oneself into a living medium between various types of visual narratives and – more importantly – between different temporal dimensions and their socio-political contexts. The whole point of using the solvent transfer technique is to bind those different aspects, to make them work for one another.

-Paweł Mościcki, *The Medium of the Present: Rauschenberg's Displaced Method*

**Major permanent collections include:**

**Tate, UK**

**The Art Institute of Chicago**

**Brooklyn Museum**

"I want to shake people awake. I want people to look at the material and react to it. I want to make them aware of individual responsibility, both for themselves and for the rest of the human race. It has become easy to be complacent about the world."

- Robert Rauschenberg

**Major permanent collections include:**  
deYoung Museum, CA  
The Columbia Museum of Art



Robert Rauschenberg  
*Tracks (Cross-Ties)*, 1976  
Clay, dirt, resin and fiberglass with a wet soil patina  
29 1/2 x 49"  
Total castings 18  
Price upon request