

ForYourArt™ BETA



Ellsworth Kelly and Mark Rosenthal at Gemini; Ellsworth cancelling a print from the Portrait Series, February 1990
Photograph by Sidney B. Felsen. © Gemini G.E.L., Los Angeles, California, 2001

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I just returned from Chicago, where I was visiting my grandparents on the occasion of my grandmother's 80th birthday. I took a lot of pictures at the party and visited Millennium Park with my grandfather, moments I know I will want to be reminded of forever. I remember Sidney Felsen's 80th birthday party five years ago when Joni, Sidney's wife and a mentor to me since I was lucky enough to be her assistant, introduced me to Ed Ruscha for the first time. I was so excited I couldn't speak.

Today is Sidney's 85th birthday.

Sidney, co-founded [Gemini GEL \(Graphics Editions Limited\)](#) in 1966 and forever changed the landscape of art production in Los Angeles, publishing hand-printed, limited editions with some of the greatest artists of our time. Printmaking is a collaborative process, and artists come to Gemini to work in collaboration with the studio under Sidney's gentle leadership.

To get mail from Sidney Felsen is a great thing. He is well-known for his envelopes, which he painstakingly decorates with stamps. A photograph he sent of Ellsworth Kelly and me is one of my most treasured momentos. His photos were published in a book by Twelve Trees Press. [The Artist Observed](#) is

not only a record of the many generations of artists who have worked there, but also of a life of working closely with artists. From the beginning Sidney has documented the artists working with the printers at the studio. These intimate images of artists like Josef Albers, Jonathan Borofsky, Richard Diebenkorn, Robert Gober, Philip Guston, Ann Hamilton, David Hockney, Jasper Johns, Ellsworth Kelly, Roy Lichtenstein, Brice Marden, Malcolm Morley, Robert Motherwell, Bruce Nauman, Isamu Noguchi, Robert Rauschenberg, James Rosenquist, Ed Ruscha, Richard Serra and Frank Stella line Sidney's cozy office.

Friends and family create milestones, the building blocks of our lives. The power of documentation is at our fingertips – we can create sharable archives of our worlds and their most intimate and important moments. Sidney has done just that for his entire working life, not only through his work but also through his documentation. The tactile collaboration that happens at Gemini, the magic of an artist exploring a new process, can be under-appreciated in these digital times. Nothing can replace the collaborative process of working with a person whom you respect and who inspires you.

Happy 85th Birthday, Sidney. I can't wait to see the photos.

– *Bettina Korek, Founder of ForYourArt*