



GEMINI G.E.L. AT JONI MOISANT WEYL

PRESS RELEASE

EXHIBITION: *Artist's Proof: Photographs by Sidney B. Felsen*
DATES: May 4 - June 30, 1999
LOCATION: Gemini G.E.L. at Joni Moisant Weyl, New York
RECEPTION: Tuesday, May 4, 6-8 PM; the artist will be present

DESCRIPTION *Artist's Proof: Photographs by Sidney B. Felsen* opens at Gemini G.E.L. at Joni Moisant Weyl on May 4 and closes June 30, 1999. This is the first New York solo show of Sidney B. Felsen's black and white photographs. The exhibition consists of seventy-two images of such renowned artists as **Robert Rauschenberg, Roy Lichtenstein, Elizabeth Murray, and David Hockney**. A reception for the artist will be held at the gallery on Tuesday, May 4 from 6-8 PM. The gallery is located in SoHo on West Broadway between Spring and Broome. Gallery hours are Tuesday - Saturday, 10-6 PM.

For more than twenty-five years photographer Sidney Felsen has documented his world of friends and associates who have been guest artists at Los Angeles' pioneering workshop, Gemini G.E.L. He has captured on film **Richard Serra, Bruce Nauman, Ellsworth Kelly, Vija Celmins, Alan Ginsberg, Jasper Johns** and more, working and playing in Los Angeles and beyond. That they became the most recognized figures of our era is, to Felsen, incidental to their friendship and to his desire to record a particular milieu on film. For us, as viewers, these works provide a unique window into the artworld of the latter part of the twentieth century. They show the artists working on prints that became familiar to all, and they reach beyond mere recording to allow us to be present at intimate moments. They are little-known treasures of our time, yet vividly recall the work of such great photographers as Hugo Mulas, whose book *New York, The New Art Scene, 1967*, became the key to the New York art world of the 1950s-1960s and has provided the model for this project.

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY: Sidney B. Felsen was born in 1924 in Chicago, Illinois. In the 1940s Felsen attended Fairfax High School in Los Angeles and served in the U.S. Army Air Force from 1943-46. Upon his return from a 31-month tour in Europe, he graduated from the University of Southern California. From 1952-65 he studied painting, drawing and ceramics at Choinard, Otis Art Institute, Barnsdall Park, the Kann School of Art, and the University of California at Los Angeles. In 1966 he co-founded Gemini G.E.L. His photography career began in 1937 when he received a Kodak Retina camera as a gift at his bar mitzvah. While stationed in Europe during the war he took a great many photographs, but these were lost. His documentation of the artists involved



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with Gemini began in the late 1960s and continues today. Felsen's candid portraits have been published in exhibition catalogues by such prestigious institutions as the National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C.; the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; The Museum of Modern Art, New York; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; the Guggenheim Museum, New York; and the Kunsthalle, Düsseldorf. His works have been seen at Craig Krull Gallery, the Newport Harbor Art Museum, Security Pacific Bank Gallery, and the National Gallery of Art. He has worked with the following publishers: Art Press, Abbeville Modern Masters, and Knopf. Presently, the National Gallery is preparing to publicly document its Gemini G.E.L. Archive, using some 250 of Felsen's images on a widely anticipated CD ROM.

- ORGANIZATION This exhibition was organized by the University Art Museum,
California State University, Long Beach, where it was first shown from
February 16 - April 25, 1999.
- GENERAL
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