

Eight new print editions by **JOHN BALDESSARI** are currently on view at Gemini G.E.L. at Joni Moisant Weyl. These are the artist's first prints published by Gemini G.E.L., the Los Angeles-based artists' workshop, and are large, colorful combinations of lithography and screenprinting.

In these works, Baldessari explores a recurring theme of analyzing parts and wholes of an image. As he states, "I'm interested in what happens when two images come together and in the meaning that ensues". For example, in Money (with Space Between), we see the image of two men each holding half of a stack of \$20 bills. The division of this image into two panels emphasizes the transaction and poses a question about the nature of transactions which, in Baldessari's words, involves two parts becoming whole. Colored dots cover the men's faces, enhancing the tension.

Because Baldessari utilizes images found in other media, including magazines, newspapers, television and movies, he will typically mask or cover over specific parts of images that may bring to the work of art a less universal meaning than intended. He selects colors to suggest emotions or situations - ie. red and green meaning stop and go, blue for aspiration or envy, yellow for chaos and chance.

Baldessari lives and works in Los Angeles, and his history as a California Conceptual artist has brought him to the forefront of this group. A major career survey exhibition opened in 1990 at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles and traveled for two years to five other museums including the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Hirshhorn in Washington, D.C., the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, the Whitney Museum in New York and the Musee d'Art Contemporain in Montreal.

Additional information and visuals are available by contacting the gallery. The exhibition is on view through June 30.