



## ROY LICHTENSTEIN: EIGHT NEW EDITIONS

Eight new editions by **Roy Lichtenstein** will be on view at **Gemini G.E.L. at Joni Moisant Weyl** from April 20 through May 24, 1996. This diverse group of prints is Lichtenstein's fourteenth major project with the Los Angeles-based artists' workshop, Gemini G.E.L.

Lichtenstein's importance in contemporary art was solidly established in the 1960's with the emergence of Pop Art. His use of cartoon images, Benday dots, and bold line and color was shocking and exciting. Since that time, and as with the 8 new prints exhibited, Lichtenstein has expanded the use of his Pop Art imagery and pursued a continually new vocabulary, often developing details from previous works.

The new editions are an eclectic group of imagery, including two Venetian blinds, two landscapes, two music compositions, and two abstracted female images (which the artist refers to as "Modern Art"). *Venetian School I* and *Venetian School II* are a simple yet impactful example of Lichtenstein's subtle, dry humor. An extension of his interest in room interiors and furnishings as seen in his last Gemini project, the *Interiors Series*, and a reference to minimalist art, Lichtenstein gives us a window with no view for a wall that may need a window. In *Landscape with Poet* and *Landscape with Boats*, Lichtenstein continues his exploration of the landscape in art history, this time looking at Chinese landscape painting. Although it's not the first time he's used the technique (it was seen in previous series such as his *Mirrors*), Lichtenstein's familiar dots change in size to suggest reflection and distance, and here they look surprisingly different when unaccompanied by his usual bold stripes and solid areas of color. Perhaps because of his hobby as a musician, and perhaps because they were created for a print project in the freeway capital of the world, Los Angeles, *Composition I* and *Composition II* are happy, twisting, flowing musical scores accented with dots and stripes. We feel the most acquainted with the two *Modern Art* images, where Lichtenstein uses his traditional iconography to quote from not only the histories of portraiture and abstraction but also portraiture and abstraction specifically according to Lichtenstein.

Born in New York City in 1923, Roy Lichtenstein spent his early 20's studying at The Art Students League, and then attended Ohio State University. Lichtenstein's contribution to contemporary art, and in particular to contemporary printmaking, has brought worldwide attention to his work. His work has been the subject of major touring retrospectives, including most recently for painting which opened at The Guggenheim Museum in 1992, and for prints which opened at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. in 1994.

To celebrate this important new body of graphics, the exhibition is being held jointly with the artist's dealer, Leo Castelli Graphics. Both galleries will be exhibiting the entire suite of prints.

For visuals and more information, please contact Gemini G.E.L. at Joni Moisant Weyl at 212-219-1446.