



GEMINI G.E.L. AT JONI MOISANT WEYL

PRESS RELEASE

ROBERT RAUSCHENBERG: *L.A. UNCOVERED*

DARRYL POTTORF & ROBERT RAUSCHENBERG: *QUATTRO MANI*

In December, 1997, artists Robert Rauschenberg and Darryl Pottorf spent nearly a week photographing Los Angeles for Rauschenberg's series of 12 screenprints, *L.A. Uncovered*, and for their collaborative project of 4 screenprints, *Quattro Mani*. Guided by two retired police officers, they freely explored the diverse and multicultural city, capturing its ethnic colors, symbols, language and celebratory spirits.

In January, Rauschenberg and Pottorf returned to Los Angeles and the Gemini workshop with their images, and it was from this body of photographs that Rauschenberg created his twelve masters for *L.A. Uncovered*. Rauschenberg had selected seventy-two images to be printed in three different sizes using water soluble ink. The images were output in reverse, so that when rub-transferred to paper they would appear forwards. Brushing water selectively over watercolor paper and laying a photo image face down on the dampened paper, Rauschenberg transferred the image by rubbing the back of the photo with a burnishing tool. This process developed by the artist allows the water-soluble inks to transfer to the paper and permits layering of multiple images. Depending on the amount of water used, the appearance of the image varies from crisp detail to the look of a watercolor wash.

Each master was created with a specific sheet of handmade paper in mind. Rauschenberg worked the image within the confines of paper dimension and color, allowing for the imagery to bleed over the decal edge of the handmade paper. The subtlety of these masters was then captured by digitally scanning each image and making separations to be used for the screenprinting process. In February, two teams of printers working at Gemini began proofing these images onto the handmade papers. By the end of April, color corrections and additional touch-screens had been added to the initial printing, all directed by the artist by mailing proofs back and forth between Los Angeles and Florida. This produced the twelve R.T.P.s, or standards, used during the edition printing.

Rauschenberg also created four *Quattro Mani* in collaboration with Darryl Pottorf. These began in the same way as *L.A. Uncovered*, with Rauschenberg transferring his color photo-images onto watercolor paper. Pottorf then lay a sheet of Lexan over Rauschenberg's imagery and continued to develop the artworks by transferring black and white photo-images. Pottorf's photos were transferred to the Lexan using acetone, and this technique, although similar to Rauschenberg's approach, creates a very distinctive look. The two artists' imagery was combined through printing to realize the final proof on paper. The four *Quattro Mani* prints were printed on a heavy roll stock archival paper.

Rauschenberg said of the two series, "The images were smuggled out of corners to become indelible parts in a paper kaleidoscope about L.A." In these beautiful and contemplative works, Rauschenberg and Pottorf have opened our eyes to a city for which they clearly have a passion.

Visuals and additional information may be obtained from the gallery.