



GEMINI G.E.L. ^{AT} JONI MOISANT WEYL

Richard Serra

New Large Scale Etchings

April 2 – May 30, 2009

Richard Serra has once again pushed the boundaries of printmaking with his four new large-scale etchings printed and published by Gemini G.E.L. These four new prints will be on view at **Gemini G.E.L. at Joni Moisant Weyl** from April 2 to May 16, 2009, along with several examples of Serra's past print work from the *Arc of the Curve* (2005) and *Paths and Edges* (2007) series.

As in Serra's other recent explorations with the etching process, these prints continue his efforts to convey the weight and monumentality of his sculpture onto printed paper. Over the years, Serra has worked closely with Gemini master printers to develop new techniques for creating astonishing texture on flat paper. The resulting super-rough, raised surfaces – the texture of which was taken from rubbings of asphalt road paving – compel viewers to experience the prints in a physical, three-dimensional way. There is an immediacy and confrontational presence to these pieces that transcends their actual material properties as sheets of paper.

Serra uses the print medium as a way to distill his thinking about his massive sculptures and the space they occupy. "The prints," Serra has said, "are mostly studies made after a sculpture has been completed. They are the result of trying to assess and define what surprises me in a sculpture, what I could not understand before a work was built. They enable me to understand different aspects of perception as well as the structural potential of a given sculpture." *Untitled* (2008) is a monumental continuation of Serra's exploration of arching horizontal curves, seen in two previous Gemini series, *Between the Torus and the Sphere* (2006) and *Paths and Edges* (2007). In a departure from these curved forms, the three other new prints, *Level I*, *Level II*, and *Level III* (all 2008), engage the concept of weight and mass through the varying "level" of black ink versus white paper.

Richard Serra has collaborated with Gemini G.E.L. since 1972 and has completed over 150 editions with the workshop. Born in San Francisco in 1939, he studied at the University of California at Berkeley, and graduated in 1961 from the University of California at Santa Barbara with a BA in English literature. In 1964, he graduated from Yale University with both a BFA and an MFA. He has been awarded the Skowhegan Medal for Sculpture (1975), the Praemium Imperiale by the Japan Art Association (1994), and Order Pour le mérite für Wissenschaften und Kunste (Order of Merit for Science and Art) in 2002. The Museum of Modern Art, New York, has honored Serra with two career retrospectives, one in 1986 and the second in 2007. His solo exhibition credits include the Musée National d'Art Moderne, Paris, in 1984; the Museum Haus Lange, Krefeld, Germany, in 1985; and the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum (Bilbao, Spain), among many others. He lives in New York and Nova Scotia.



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GEMINI G.E.L. AT JONI MOISANT WEYL was established in 1984 as the New York gallery exhibiting and representing the publications of the Los Angeles-based artists' workshop, Gemini G.E.L. The gallery shows new editions as they are published, and has mounted many historical survey exhibitions, including *The Private Eye of Philip Guston: The Gemini Editions*; *Ellsworth Kelly: Diagonals and Panels 1970-1990*; *Claes Oldenburg: Editions in Two and Three Dimensions 1969-1995*; *Ken Price: Prints and Ceramics 1970-2005*; *Robert Rauschenberg: Booster and 7 Studies*; *Frank Stella: Prints from the 1960's & 70's*; and *Artists at Gemini G.E.L.: In Celebration of Gemini's 25th Anniversary*. The gallery frequently schedules special events in conjunction with its exhibitions, such as "Q & A"s with the artist and Gemini printers, and private docented tours through related museum retrospectives.

Gemini G.E.L. began in 1966 as an artists' workshop and publisher of hand-printed limited edition lithographs. Responding to the expanding interests of its artists, work began on its first sculpture edition in 1968 with Claes Oldenburg's *Profile Airflow*, and in 1970, Frank Stella's *Pastel Stack* was started as the first project in the screenprinting workshop. The etching workshop opened in 1977 and woodcuts were being made by 1980.

At Gemini, the artists do all of the drawing or carving themselves directly onto the printing element, be it limestone, copper plate, woodblock or otherwise. The artist stays at the workshop until a "RTP" (Right to Print) is achieved. Edition printing may take several months and each proof in the edition must closely match the approved RTP. Once the printing is completed, the artist returns to the workshop to examine and sign the edition. Each print is signed and numbered by the artist as well as embossed with the Gemini "chop".

In 1981, the National Gallery in Washington, D.C. honored Gemini with the establishment of a permanent archive. The archive functions as a study center for collectors and scholars, and contains a complete history of the workshop. Included in the archive is one proof from each of the over 2100 editions produced, as well as ancillary materials such as shop records and printing elements. Three major touring exhibitions with works from the archive have been organized and exhibited by the National Gallery. An online catalogue raisonné, on view at the National Gallery's website (www.nga.gov/gemini), provides detailed information on the history of the workshop and all of the artworks in the Gemini archive.

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