



GEMINI G.E.L. AT JONI MOISANT WEYL

**RICHARD SERRA: NEW EDITIONS**

November 16, 1996 - January 25, 1997

Thirteen new etchings by the sculptor **Richard Serra** will be on view at **Gemini G.E.L. at Joni Moisant Weyl** from November 16 through December 21st. These new prints are the result of over three years of collaboration between the artist and the Los Angeles-based workshop, Gemini G.E.L.

While the exhibition includes three prints which have Serra's more familiar solid black shapes, most of the works shown are open, linear forms. This imagery will be familiar to those who have seen Serra's recent drawings but it represents an exciting and dramatic development in his printmaking. There is a substantial range in the density of these open forms; some of Serra's markings, or "lines" are so wide and thick they nearly fill the entire page, while others are thin enough that they create an image virtually denying the weight of the sculpture mass which it is suggesting. The black lines, heavily textured and embossed in the printmaking process, push outward to create tension between the form and the paper, and as a result the open center becomes an image itself.

In his sculptures, drawings and prints, Serra redefines the surroundings of a given space and challenges the viewer's perception of that space. His ability to do so lies within his skillful exploitation of the properties of different materials, and this is clearly demonstrated in this new body of work. To create most of the images, Serra drew onto a thick copper etching plate with either litho crayon or his usual drawing medium, Paintstik. Applying it with tremendous energy and force, Serra built up layer upon layer of grease in order to create a heavily textured and energized form. Prior to chemically etching the plate, the image was photographed so that the texture from Serra's greasy drawing could be photo-etched into the printing plate. The deeply etched plate was then heavily inked and put through a press, transferring the ink onto a thick sheet of paper.

Richard Serra was born (in 1939) and raised in San Francisco. As an undergraduate, he studied English at the University of California, both in Berkeley and Santa Barbara, and began to direct his studies toward art when he attended graduate school at Yale. Upon graduation in 1965, he received a Yale Travelling Fellowship to spend a year in Paris, and then came to New York in 1966. Serra's first project with Gemini was in 1972, and over the 24 years he has created nearly 100 editions at the workshop. His prints and drawings are in most every major national and international museum collection, and his large-scale sculptures are in cities worldwide.

Visuals and information are available by contacting the gallery.