

Ed Ruscha

BIOGRAPHY

1941 Moved to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
1956 Moved to Los Angeles, California
1956 – 1960 Attended Chouinard Art Institute, Los Angeles

Edward Ruscha was born in Omaha, Nebraska in 1937. He is well known not only for his paintings but also for his photography and films. Ruscha's flat, textual paintings have been associated with both the Pop Art movement and the beat generation.

After living for fifteen years in Oklahoma City, Ruscha moved permanently to Los Angeles where he attended the Chouinard Art Institute from 1956 to 1960. By the mid sixties, the artist had published his first photography book, *Twenty-Six Gasoline Stations*, and had completed a series of paintings that displayed with great precision a single word against a flatly lit background. Ruscha was associated at this time with the Ferus Gallery Group, which also included such artists as Edward Moses, Ken Price, Robert Irwin, and Edward Kienholz.

From 1969 to 1970, he was a guest professor at the University of California. Ruscha produced his first film entitled *Premium* soon following his time at the university, and continued work on his textual paintings. Some works include such figurative and verbal symbols as egg yolk, blood, and gunpowder. Ruscha worked to connect linguistic symbols with visual idioms and to elevate them to the point of the cosmic.

During the eighties, Ruscha executed a series of drawings incorporating vegetable pigment and depicting mysteriously cast light and phrases such as 99% DEVIL, 1% ANGEL. The artist's use of light beams may be attributed to his Catholic upbringing; illumination as a symbol of the divine comes into play in many of his paintings. Still, Ruscha claims no particular moral or spiritual position. In 1985, Ruscha executed his first public commission, a mural for the Miami Dade Public Library that displays the phrase *Words Without Thoughts Never to Heaven Go*.

Since 1990, Ruscha has produced several larger works depicting empty rooms into which light projects. He has also experimented more recently with curved canvases. Edward Ruscha's work has been shown internationally for thirty years, and is permanently represented in many major museum collections.

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

- 2007 Country Cityscapes, Marty Walker Gallery, Dallas, TX
- 2006 Two Artists ~ Two Worlds, the Drawings of Ed Ruscha and Robert Williams, MendenhallSobieski Gallery, Pasadena, California
- 2004 Ed Ruscha: The Drawings and Photographs, New York, Whitney museum
Ed Ruscha: Cotton Puffs, Q Tips, Smoke and Mirrors, L.A Museum of Contemporary Art
- 2003 Ed Ruscha Photographs, L.A Gagosian Gallery
- 2002 Ed Ruscha: Recent works on Paper, Leo Castelli Gallery
Ed Ruscha: Palindrome Paintings, Gagosian Gallery, New York

- 2000 Ed Ruscha: Mountains and Highways. Anthony d'Offay Gallery, London
Ed Ruscha: Powders, Pressures and Other Drawings, John Berggruen Gallery, San Francisco
Ed Ruscha, Gallery Stadtpark, Krems
- 1999 Edward Ruscha: The Complete Editions 1959-1999. Walker Art Center, Minneapolis.
Travelling to Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles; University of South Florida Contemporary Art Museum, Tampa (2000-01)
Ed Ruscha: Metro Plots, Gagosian Gallery, New York
Ed Ruscha. Kukje Gallery, Seoul
Ed Ruscha. Meta Gallery, Madrid
- 1998 Ed Ruscha. Anthony d'Offay Gallery, London
- 1997 Spaghetti Westerns. Milwaukee Art Museum, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Edward Ruscha. Jurgen Becker, Hamburg, Germany
Edward Ruscha: Cityscapes/O Books. Leo Castelli, New York. Catalogue
- 1996 Edward Ruscha. Gallery Seomi, Seoul, Korea
- 1995 Anamorphic Paintings. Leo Castelli Gallery, New York
The End. Close Range Gallery, Denver Art Museum, Denver, Colorado
- 1993 Edward Ruscha/Romance With Liquids. Gagosian Gallery, New York. Catalogue
- 1992 Edward Ruscha/New Paintings & Drawings. Galerie Thaddeus Ropac, Salzburg, Austria. Catalogue
Ed Ruscha/Stains. Robert Miller Gallery, New York. Catalogue
Edward Ruscha and Dennis Hopper/New Works. Tony Shafrazi Gallery, New York
- 1990 Edward Ruscha. Galerie Ghislaine Hussenot, Paris
Edward Ruscha/Obra Sobre Paper. Galeria Joan Prats, Barcelona, Spain
Edward Ruscha. Centre Cultural de la Fundació Caixa de Pensions, Barcelona, Spain
Edward Ruscha. Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery, University of Nebraska at Lincoln, Nebraska. Catalogue
Ed Ruscha/new paintings and drawings. Karsten Schubert, London
Edward Ruscha Paintings and Drawings, Texas Gallery, Houston Texas
Ed Ruscha/Paintings. The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, California
Los Angeles Apartments. Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, New York. Catalogue
Edward Ruscha. Galeria Trisorio, Napoli, Italy
- 1989 Edward Ruscha. Musée national d'art moderne, Centre Georges Pompidou. Travelled to Museum Boymans-van Beuningen, Rotterdam, The Netherlands, Fundació Caixa de Pensions, Barcelona, Spain; Serpentine Gallery, London, England; Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), Los Angeles. Catalogue
New Paintings. Leo Castelli, New York
New Paintings and Drawings, Touko Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo, Japan. Catalogue
- 1988 Words Without Thoughts Never to Heaven Go. Lannan Museum, Lake Worth, Florida. Travelled to: Williams College Museum of Art, Williamstown, Massachusetts. Catalogue
Changing Group Exhibition. Karsten Schubert Gallery, London
Early Paintings. Shafrazi Gallery, New York. Catalogue
Edward Ruscha: Recent Paintings. Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, Illinois
Edward Ruscha: Recent Works on Paper 1988. Karsten Schubert Gallery, London, England. Catalogue

- Institute of Contemporary Art, Nagoya, Japan. Catalogue
Leo Castelli Gallery, New York
Edward Ruscha: 35 Lunette Paintings Commissioned by the Metro- Dade Art in Public
Places Trust for Miami
- 1987 Dade Public Library. Leo Castelli Gallery, Greene Street, New York, Miami
New Paintings Robert Miller Gallery, New York.
The Works of Ed Ruscha. Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston, Texas
- 1986 The Texas Gallery, Houston, Texas
4 x 6 Westfälischer Kunstverein, Münster, West Germany. Catalogue
New Paintings. Fuller Goldeen Gallery, San Francisco
Galerie Susan Wyss, Zürich, Switzerland
New Paintings. Leo Castelli Gallery, New York
- 1985 Ed Ruscha: Quelques Dessins. Galerie Gilbert Brownstone, Paris
New Paintings. James Corcoran Gallery, Los Angeles
Octobre des Arts. Musee St. Pierre, Lyon, France. Catalogue
- 1984 New Paintings. Leo Castelli Gallery, New York City, New York
- 1983 New Drawings. Bernard Jacobson Gallery, Los Angeles
- 1982 Edward Ruscha/New Drawings. Castelli Uptown, New York. San Francisco Museum of
Modern Art, San Francisco
(Retrospective, The Works of Edward Ruscha). Travelled to: Whitney Museum of
American Art, New York. Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver, Canada. San Antonio
Museum of Art, Texas. Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles
- 1981 Ace Gallery, Vancouver, Canada
Edward Ruscha/New Works. Arco Center for the Visual Art, Los Angeles, California.
Catalogue
Edward Ruscha/D Drawings. Leo Castelli Gallery, New York
- 1980 Edward Ruscha:Paintings. Ace Gallery, Venice, California
Nigel Greenwood, Inc., London
New Paintings. Leo Castelli Gallery, New York