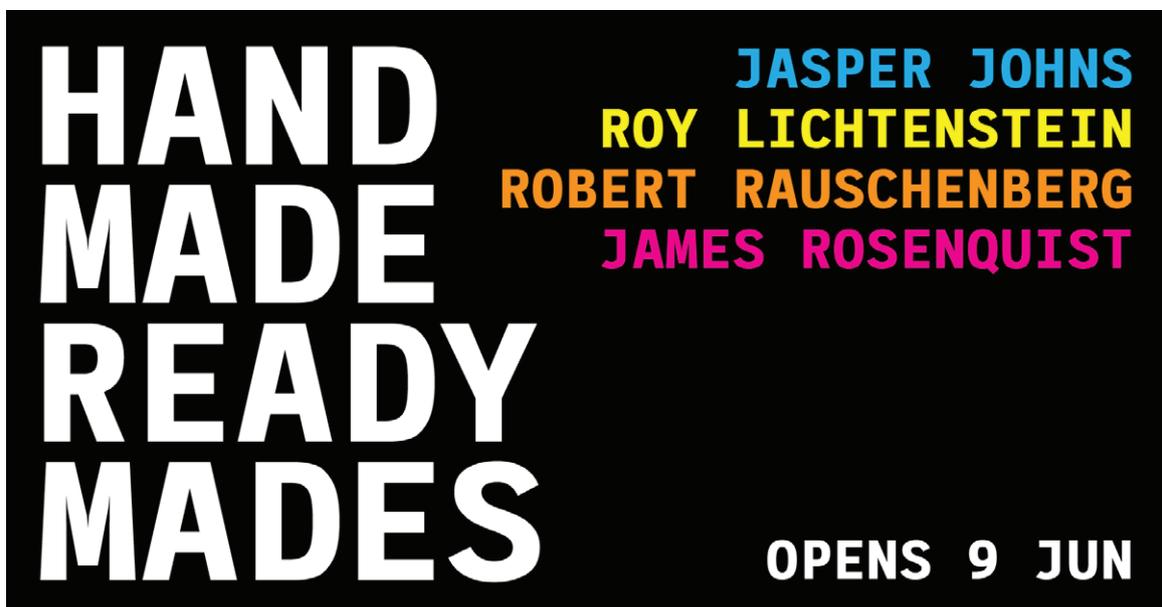


Press Release

STPI Annual Special Exhibition
**Handmade Readymades:
Jasper Johns, Roy Lichtenstein,
Robert Rauschenberg &
James Rosenquist**

9 Jun – 8 Sep 2018

VIP Opening: Friday, 8 June, 6.30pm – 8.30pm



“Abstract painting is like jazz... The melody is great, but what is the statement? Great tunes, but not connected to the real world where roses are red and the sky is blue, Tide is orange, and 7-Up is green.” - James Rosenquist

Media Preview

STPI Gallery
Friday, 8 June
2.00pm – 3.00pm

RSVP
weilinng@stpi.com.sg

STPI proudly presents American Modern masters **Jasper Johns, Roy Lichtenstein, Robert Rauschenberg & James Rosenquist** and their extraordinary ventures in printmaking. The 37 technical feats from the Singapore Art Museum Collection exploited the American print revival of the 50s–60s, revolutionizing how prints were perceived by amplifying the radical ideas and provocative visual language of The Readymades to ground-breaking effect.

From Rauschenberg's layered photographic images, Johns' figurative numbers, Rosenquist's surreal cut-out compositions, and Lichtenstein's dynamic comic strips, these avant-garde icons pushed the envelopes of both scale and techniques to demonstrate how printmaking collaborations were instrumental in this paradigm-shifting movement. They saw the appeal of print, with its handmade process, as an ideal form that enhanced their experimentation of the readymade image.

"Printmaking is a collaboration not only with people, but with materials too... Collaboration not only takes the self-consciousness out of the artist, but the total result is generally so much greater, almost immeasurably." - Robert Rauschenberg

Handmade Readymades examines the ways in which these artists redefined figurative art by exploring their original modes of representation, through the devices of collage, repetition, scale and abstraction. Adapting visual codes in media depictions and declaring everyday objects as motifs of modernity, they created new associations between displaced fragments of popular culture.

Reminiscent of Marcel Duchamp's infamous *Fountain* (1917), these open-ended works, still relevant today, reveal how print, bolstered by experimental workshops and fresh approaches, became the 'underdog' of the art world in America. They are trail-blazing testaments to the limitless possibilities of printmaking collaborations.

The Annual Special Exhibitions at STPI Gallery give audiences in South-East Asia and Singapore the rare opportunity to encounter a remarkable scope of works on paper created by the most significant artists of modern and contemporary art history. Talks and programmes are designed to provide insight into the various themes and practices of the artists represented.

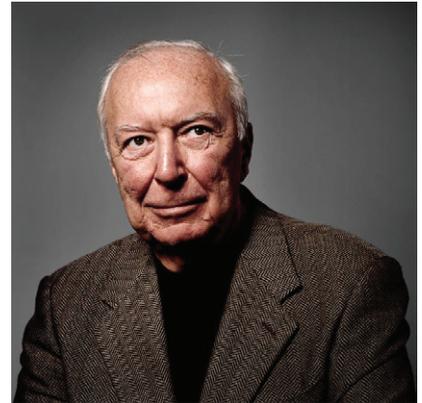
Past exhibitions include '200 Artworks 25 Years' Editions for Parkett' (Parkett Publishers), 'Henri Matisse: Works from 1917 - 1952' (Estate of Jean Matisse), 'The Mystery of Picasso's Creative Process: The Art of Printmaking' (The Archives of Claude Picasso), 'Edo Pop: The Graphic Impact of Japanese Prints' (Selected works from the Collection of Minneapolis Institute of Arts), 'Zao Wou-Ki: No Boundaries' (The Estate of Zao Wouki) and 'David Hockney: A Matter of Perspectives' (Singapore Art Museum Collection).

For further information, please contact:

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About the Artists

In the art of **Jasper Johns**, mastery, simplicity, and paradox are inseparably united. His works are enigmatic, hermetic and abstruse and his working process consists of hard work, intense deliberation and experimentation, obsessive craft, and cycles of revision and repetition. Also, ironically, Johns' frequent appropriations and borrowings from works by other artists have only underscored the singularity of his sensibility. He has delved into various forms of art such as painting, sculpture and print. Often characterized as a Neo-Dadaist artist, Johns bridged the gap between Abstract Expressionism and Pop Art during his early career, but is still expanding his subjects, materials and styled through his current work.



He remains a major figure in contemporary American Art with his paintings, sculptures, lithographs and etchings being found in nearly every major American art museum including Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Art Institute of Chicago; and the Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art.

Robert Rauschenberg defined an oeuvre that embodied an innovative style by incorporating diverse materials and techniques in his works. Experimentation with materials defined Rauschenberg's entire career; he worked with everything from dirt and sand to fabric and paper, exploring the boundaries of traditional art forms and incorporating the vast visual offerings of American popular culture, such as signs, into his work. The artist fled the current trend of contemporary art at the time to carve his own path in the art world. He was known for being part of the Neo-Dadaist movement and initiating a radical shift in the focus of modern art during the 1950s.



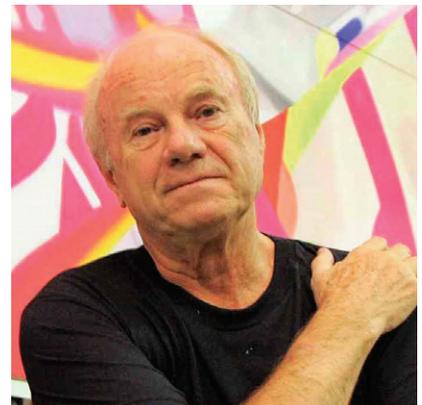
His globally acclaimed works have been exhibited in Betty Parsons Gallery; Charles Egan Gallery; the Jewish Museum, New York; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington D.C.; Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Peggy Guggenheim Collection, Venice; and the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh; to name a few.

Roy Lichtenstein was a critical artist for the American Pop Art movement. He developed a style characterized by bold lines, bright colours, dot patterns, and sometimes words, and is probably most known for using the design conventions of the comic strip in his works: its speech bubble, flat primary colours, and ink-dot patterns that mimic commercial printing. These Benday dots became his trademark as he incorporated elements of contemporary art theory and popular print media into his painting. Some of his most recognizable series evolved from imagery drawn from popular culture, for example advertising images, war-time comics, and pin-up portraits, as well as traditional painting genres such as landscapes, still-lives and interiors.



His works have been exhibited extensively worldwide at museums and galleries such as Morgan Library Museum, New York; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Art Institute of Chicago; National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C; Las Vegas Art Museum; Louisiana Museum, Humlebæk; Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe Hamburg; Museo Triennale, Milan; and Galleria Civica d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea, Turin; to name a few.

James Rosenquist was an instrumental figure from the late 1950s onwards, together with Andy Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein, in establishing Pop Art as a movement, perceptibly altering the concept of visual art. He was known for his monumental formats which he embarked on in the 50s and 60s, inspired by his job as a billboard painter of American adverts. He created numerous screen printing and etchings, but most of his graphics are lithographs. Rosenquist's unique works often employ elements of surrealism, using fragments of advertisements and cultural imagery to emphasize the overwhelming nature of ads.



His works have been exhibited worldwide at museums and galleries such as Green Gallery, New York; The Museum of Modern Art, New York; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Galerie Ileana Sonnabend, Paris; Dwan Gallery, Los Angeles; National Gallery of Australia, Canberra; Jablonka Galerie, Berlin; DaFeng Gallery, Beijing; Galleria Gian Enzo Sperone, Turi; and National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa; amongst others.

About STPI

STPI is a dynamic creative workshop and contemporary art gallery based in Singapore. Established in 2002, STPI is committed to promoting artistic experimentation in the mediums of print and paper and has become one of the most cutting-edge destinations for contemporary art in Asia. STPI sits alongside National Gallery Singapore and the Singapore Art Museum as part of the national Visual Arts Cluster of leading institutions in the region.

STPI Creative Workshop is a rigorous laboratory for pushing the boundaries of various print and papermaking techniques. Bolstered by specialised facilities and a highly qualified workshop team, STPI Creative Workshop produces unique collaborations with leading international artists to challenge conventions in art, explore new trajectories in their practice and share their experience with the public.

STPI Gallery is an active platform that fosters the exchange of ideas in contemporary art with its diverse exhibitions and public programme. The gallery hosts specially curated exhibitions of works produced in the STPI Creative Workshop and regularly participates in international fairs. This enables it to nurture and sustain local and international interest in both its artist collaborations and in the mediums of print and paper. The gallery's public programme aims to engage and broaden visitor understanding of contemporary art, while collaborations with a variety of international curators, collectors and gallerists provide a holistic experience for audiences on a global level.

Upcoming Exhibitions

Aaron Curry

27 Sep – 10 Nov

Annual Group Show: Multiple Choice

24 Nov – 12 Jan 2019