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GEMINI G.E.L. AT JONI MOISANT WEYL

## Roy Lichtenstein

Born:

New York, New York, 1923

During his last year of high school Roy Lichtenstein studied with Reginald Marsh and the Art Students League in New York and then went on to earn both his B.F.A (1946) and M.F.A. (1949) degrees from Ohio State University. There he worked with Hoyt L. Sherman, who was interested in the psychology of vision. Service in World War II interrupted his studies. After his return, while completing his graduate work, Lichtenstein taught at Ohio State. In 1949 he had his first one-man show at the Ten Thirty Gallery, Cleveland. At about this time he began to work in printmaking. From 1951 until 1957, living in Cleveland, Lichtenstein worked as a commercial artist and designer. He continued, however, to paint, exploring both figurative and nonfigurative modes. In 1957 Lichtenstein returned to the East, teaching first at the State University of New York in Oswego (1957-60) and later at Rutgers University (1960-64), where he became aware of the Happenings staged by his colleague Allan Kaprow, Claes Oldenburg, and others.

Starting in 1961, Lichtenstein's art employed images from popular culture and focused on commonplace, often banal, objects rendered in a simplified manner that stemmed from photo-reproduction techniques. His concerns placed him in the forefront of the pop art movement. In 1963 Lichtenstein moved to New York City. His explorations of form expanded to include work in ceramics (from 1965) and other three-dimensional materials. In 1967 the first of his Modern Sculptures were executed. Lichtenstein has completed large-scale commissioned sculpture pieces as well as several mural commissions. In 1970 the artist moved to Southampton, Long Island. He continued to live there until the early 1980's when he established a second residence in Manhattan. Lichtenstein's long career and large body of work brought him appreciation as one of America's greatest living artists. In 1994 he designed a painting for the hull of the United States entry in the America's Cup yacht race. A series of sea-themed works followed. In 1995 the Los Angeles County Museum of Art launched a traveling exhibition, "The Prints of Roy Lichtenstein," which covered more than twenty years of his work in this medium.

In a 1996 exhibition at New York City's Leo Castelli gallery, Lichtenstein unveiled a series of paintings, "Landscapes in the Chinese Style," which consisted of delicate "impressions" of traditional Chinese landscape paintings. The series was praised for its restraint (control), as common Lichtenstein elements, such as the use of dots to represent mass, were used to support the compositions rather than to declare an individual style. Lichtenstein died on September 29, 1997, in New York City, at the age of seventy-three.