

The Pop Object: The Still Life Tradition in Pop Art at Acquavella Galleries

(NEW YORK, NY) Acquavella Galleries is pleased to announce *The Pop Object: The Still Life Tradition in Pop Art* on view from April 10th to May 24th, 2013. Curated by renowned art historian John Wilmerding, the Pop art survey will include over 75 important works by **Stephen Antonakos, Robert Arneson, Vija Celmins, Jim Dine, Jann Haworth, Robert Indiana, Jasper Johns, Alex Katz, Edward Kienholz, Jeff Koons, Roy Lichtenstein, Marisol Escobar, Claes Oldenburg, Robert Rauschenberg, Larry Rivers, James Rosenquist, Ed Ruscha, George Segal, Marjorie Strider, Wayne Thiebaud, Andy Warhol, John Wesley, Tom Wesselmann, and H.C. Westermann.** In addition to significant loans from prestigious private collections and institutions such as the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., the Andy Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh, The Museum of Modern Art in New York and The Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles, the exhibition will include seminal work from several of the artists' personal collections.

The central focus of the exhibition is the development of Pop art in the United States and still life's role in the context of Pop. "Still life also has long been treated as a minor preoccupation for artists, yet has turned out to be the occasion for some of Pop's most innovative and witty expressions," said Wilmerding. Each featured artist views the still life as an important vehicle of expression in capturing themes of contemporary life reflective of a post-war consumerist society. Though Pop artists did not consider themselves as being a part of a unified movement, the still life object has been of shared interest to both canonical Pop artists and lesser-known artists.

Two major innovative ideas will be explored in the exhibition: the expansion of still life beyond painting into multi-dimensional sculptural forms, and the presentation of a variety of new media as modes of expression. To achieve this, Wilmerding has organized the exhibition into four major themes: food and drink, the garden, body parts, and clothing and housewares. For example, Tom Wesselmann's laser-cut steel drawings of flower bouquets are presented alongside Roy Lichtenstein's graphic black flowers in oil on canvas. The juxtaposition reveals the various pioneering styles and techniques each artist employed while paying homage to earlier traditions of painting.

John Wilmerding is the Sarofim Professor of American Art, Emeritus, at Princeton University. He has written more than twenty books on American art and artists, including most recently monographs and catalogues on Tom Wesselmann, Robert Indiana, Roy Lichtenstein and George Segal.

The fully illustrated catalogue *The Pop Object: The Still Life Tradition in Pop Art* will be co-distributed and published by Rizzoli and will contain a forward by William R. Acquavella and an essay by curator John Wilmerding.

James Rosenquist, *Dishes*, 1964, oil on canvas, 50 x 60 inches (127 x 152.4 cm), Promised gift of the Virginia and Bagley Wright Collection, in honor of the 75th Anniversary of the Seattle Art Museum Art, © James Rosenquist / Licensed by VAGA, New York, NY; Andy Warhol, *Typewriter (I)*, 1961, casein on linen, 54 1/4 x 70 inches (137.8 x 177.8 cm), Daros Collection, Switzerland, Art © 2013 The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc. / Artists Rights Society; Alex Katz, *Blue Flag 3*, 1966, oil on canvas, 40 1/8 x 48 7/8 inches (101.9 x 124.1 cm), Collection of Richard and Dana Kirshenbaum, Art © Alex Katz / Licensed by VAGA, New York, NY; Jasper Johns, *Lightbulb*, 1960, Bronze, edition 2/4 4 1/4 x 6 x 4 inches (10.8 x 15.2 x 10.2 cm), Collection of Barbara Bertozzi Castell, Art © Jasper Johns / Licensed by VAGA, New York, NY

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