

ROY LICHTENSTEIN: THE POPULAR IMAGE

November 10 – December 19, 2014
1018 Madison Avenue, New York



NEW YORK, November 3, 2014 – Mitchell-Innes & Nash is pleased to present an exhibition of works by Roy Lichtenstein focusing on the artist's exploration of popular imagery and mass production. This will be the gallery's sixth solo exhibition of Lichtenstein's work and will include 60 works ranging in media from the early 1950s until 1997, the last year of the artist's life.

Roy Lichtenstein is one of the founding members of the 'Pop Art' movement. Lichtenstein is best known for his boldly colored paintings of scenes culled from comic books and strips, however art historical references have always occupied a profound niche within his artistic practice. Many of these influences, ranging from Monet's flickering brushwork to the abstraction of Expressionist mark making, often graphically manifest in the artist's drawings and prints. For Lichtenstein, prints and multiples offered a way to bridge the boundary between high art and popular culture.

The allure of popular imagery for Lichtenstein grew from the desire to blur the boundaries between "high" and "low" culture as a means of fusing art with daily life. Works like *Ten Dollar Bill*, a lithograph from 1956, illustrates

Lichtenstein's early investigation into the use of everyday symbols as subject matter. While this impulse is characteristic of Lichtenstein's fully developed paintings, editions such as *Ten Dollar Bill* were his first to elevate such quotidian forms of commercial culture to the status of fine art.

Roy Lichtenstein: The Popular Image traces the development of the artist's interest in adopting both contemporary culture and art history as well as their artistic adaptation. The development of this practice becomes apparent in the transition between his early woodblocks such as *The United States and the Macedonian* (1953) to the precise, minimalist lithographs of his late career such as *Venetian School I* (1996). For Lichtenstein, the production of accessibility found merit in the dissolution of boundaries.

About Roy Lichtenstein

Roy Lichtenstein was born in 1923 in Manhattan, New York. He received his B.F.A from Ohio State University in 1946, where he later completed his M.F.A. His work has been exhibited extensively at museums and galleries in the U.S. and internationally. Recent museum exhibitions have included "Roy Lichtenstein: A Retrospective" at the Centre Pompidou, Paris; and "Roy Lichtenstein: A Retrospective" at the Tate Modern London. He will be the focus of two upcoming exhibitions at the FLAG Art Foundation, New York and Fondazione Torino Musei, Turin, Italy. His work resides in public collections of institutions worldwide including the Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Guggenheim Museum, all in New York; the Tate Gallery, London; Museum für Moderne Kunst in Frankfurt; and the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam.

About Mitchell-Innes & Nash

Founded by Lucy Mitchell-Innes and David Nash, who previously headed the worldwide Contemporary and Impressionist & Modern Art divisions of Sotheby's, Mitchell-Innes & Nash places exemplary contemporary artists within a historical context, revealing a continuity of ideas and aesthetic virtuosity from the Modern era through the present day.

Mitchell-Innes & Nash's renowned exhibition program, in both their Madison Avenue and Chelsea locations, fosters excellence within artistic practice, while forging an informed dialogue between emerging and established internationally recognized artists. From acclaimed surveys of 20th century masters, such as Jean Arp, Anthony Caro, Jay DeFeo, Willem de Kooning, Leon Kossoff, Kenneth Noland, Roy Lichtenstein, and Nicolas de Stael, to solo exhibitions of Sarah Braman, Keltie Ferris, Daniel Lefcourt, William Pope.L, Virginia Overton, Martha Rosler, and Jessica Stockholder, Mitchell-Innes & Nash has proven expertise in both advancing the careers of emerging artists and maintaining the superior standard set by established artists.

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Join the "Roy Lichtenstein" conversation on instagram, by mentioning @miandn and using the #RoyLichtenstein hashtag when posting.

Image Credit: Roy Lichtenstein, "Foot Medication Poster", 1963. Offset lithograph on white wove paper. Sheet: 22 15/16 x 16 15/16 in. 58.3 x 43 cm. © Estate of Roy Lichtenstein

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