

Family Guide

Robert Rauschenberg

Text and illustrations by Erin Frisch

Robert Rauschenberg was born in Port Arthur, Texas in 1925. He was a sculptor, painter, photographer, printmaker, performer, and a set and costume designer. He believed that art should reflect our lives and the world.



“I want to incorporate into my painting any objects of real life.”

—Robert Rauschenberg



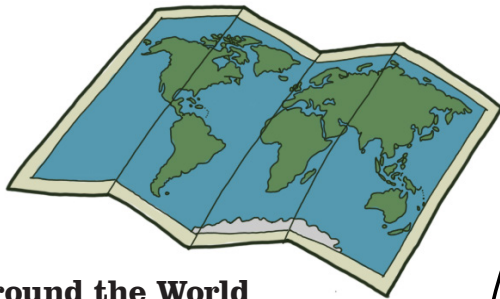
Rauschenberg created art using everyday objects, found on the streets or in junkyards.

Look closely at Rauschenberg’s sculptures in the galleries. Do you recognize any of the objects that the artist used? List some here.

Art in Motion

Rauschenberg was fascinated by works of art that could move. He incorporated motors into some of his artworks that allowed them to spin. He created costumes for dancers that moved as they danced. Rauschenberg even danced in one of his own costumes while wearing roller skates. In *Untitled (Late Kabal American Zephyr)*, 1985, Rauschenberg created a sculpture from three bicycle wheels that can turn.

What kind of feelings do you have when you ride a bike or a fast-moving vehicle?



Around the World

Rauschenberg traveled to many different countries, making art to give to others and collaborating with artists all over the globe. Rauschenberg believed that art crosses borders and creates connections between people from different cultures.

Rauschenberg named his project to make art and learn about diverse parts of the world ROCI (Rauschenberg Overseas Culture Interchange) after his pet turtle, Rocky.

If you could travel to a part of the world you’ve never visited before and make a work of art for the people who live there, where would you go?



Off the Wall

Rauschenberg put paintings and everyday objects together into a single work of art. He called these artworks **Combines**. Instead of sitting flat against the wall, these artworks take up space. For example, in *Red Rock* (1961) a painting rests on the floor with objects on top.

Think of two of your favorite foods that you would like to combine into a new special treat. Draw your creation!



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