



Ed Ruscha  
*Music*, from the *Tropical Fish Series*, 1975  
ER74-5095  
6 color screenprint with lacquer overprint  
25 x 33 in. (63.5 x 83.8 cm)  
Edition of 58

For Immediate Release

*Local: Gemini G.E.L. Collaborations with Los Angeles Artists*

On View February 11<sup>th</sup> to April 19<sup>th</sup>  
Open House Saturday, February 16<sup>th</sup> from 11AM to 5:30PM

Gemini G.E.L. is pleased to present a group show highlighting our deep connection with Los Angeles artists and the city's rich culture, *Local: Gemini G.E.L. Collaborations with Los Angeles Artists*, on view from February 11<sup>th</sup>.

Coinciding with the debut of *Frieze Los Angeles*, *Local* brings some of Los Angeles' best-known artists together to explore themes associated with the SoCal lifestyle. Featured in the show is a selection of works by Gemini artists, including a large, unique Color Trial Proof (CTP) titled *Meteorite* by Sam Francis, a captivating, geometric work on Mylar by Ron Davis, and a rare text piece by Bruce Nauman that reads EAT DEATH from 1973. The full presentation includes John Baldessari, Larry Bell, Chris Burden, Vija Celmins, Ron Davis, Tacita Dean, Richard Diebenkorn, Sam Francis, Frank Gehry, Joe Goode, David Hockney, Toba Khedoori, Edward and Nancy Kienholz, Ken Price, Allen Ruppersberg, Ed Ruscha, and Analia Saban.

Included in the exhibition is a rare series of photographic/screenprint works by Ed Ruscha. The series began in 1974 when Gemini invited the artist, then already known for his works depicting books and words, to collaborate on a new project. Challenging himself to expand his artistic practice, Ruscha produced five photographic screenprints entitled *Tropical Fish Series*. Drawing on wordplay already apparent in his text pictures, Ruscha has meticulously arranged banal and seemingly unrelated objects into still lifes. In one, *Music*, seen above, Ruscha presents a trio of smiling trinket figurines on top of a vinyl record all arranged on vibrant blue velvet fabric, while in *Open* the artist has placed a bag of sugar, car jumper cables, and what appears to be a pink mug of sugar on a silky fabric background.



In addition to Ruscha's *Tropical Fish Series*, *Local* features Larry Bell's "Vapor Drawings" from 1978, a body of work that derived from the artist's experimentations with depositing the coatings of paper. In the vapor drawings, Bell found through the process that paper did not transmit light, but rather reflected or absorbed it. The artist explains:

*Masking the paper with thin PET film strips to expose areas related to the shape of the page plane enabled me to generate images spontaneously. This work gave me a conscious glimpse of the inherent power of spontaneity and improvisation. The work happened intuitively... In a short amount of time I created a number of interesting pieces. I liked this way of working. It was different from tediously coping with the weight and risk of glass. In my mind, I was investigating improbable visuals using improbable means.*

The vapor drawings in the exhibition are cast-paper variants of Bell's ellipse formats.

Also included in the show is Allen Ruppersberg's monumental piece *Great Speckled Bird*, which features the text of songs that the artist collected over the years. Bringing light to Ruppersberg's hobby of collecting vintage hotel stationery, the text is superimposed onto hotel letterhead. The results, all with different fonts, colors and juxtapositions chosen by the artist, were then printed onto rolls of player piano paper. The player piano rolls are perforated with holes that correspond to the song "The Great Speckled Bird," a Southern hymn that was famously recorded by Johnny Cash. The lyrics of "Great Speckled Bird" are also printed in blue along the edge of the roll. The final print, a long roll with the handwritten songs, hotel letterhead, player piano holes and hymn lyrics, was then divided into 4 panels and framed.

Gemini G.E.L. is open Monday through Friday, 9 AM to 5:30 PM. To celebrate the exhibition, Gemini will open its doors—those of the gallery as well as the print shops—on Saturday, February 16<sup>th</sup> from 11 AM to 5:30 PM. Master printers will be working on upcoming editions in the etching and the Richard Serra studios, and the exhibition will be on view.

For sales inquires, please contact Renee Coppola, Director of Sales at [Renee@geminigel.com](mailto:Renee@geminigel.com), or Annabel Keenan, Sales Assistant at [Annabel@geminigel.com](mailto:Annabel@geminigel.com)

For further information please contact the gallery at: 323 651 0513 or visit [www.geminigel.com](http://www.geminigel.com)

