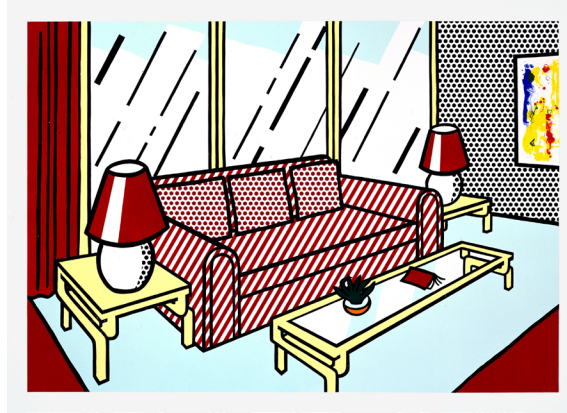


ROY LICHTENSTEIN  
SELECTIONS

July 12 - September 17, 2021



*Red Lamps*, 1991, 11 color lithograph/woodcut/screenprint  
57 1/4 x 78 3/4 in. (145.4 x 200 cm) Edition of 60

Gemini G.E.L. is pleased to present a selection of works by Roy Lichtenstein on view now through September 17th. *Selections* features lithographs, screenprints, and woodcuts that highlight Lichtenstein's prolific career and showcases his invaluable contributions to the Pop Art movement. Appropriating imagery from commercial art and other forms of mass media, Lichtenstein's work prompts the viewer to consider the social and class connotations that emanate from American visual culture and our shared visual language at large. Lichtenstein's collaborative relationship with Gemini G.E.L. began in 1969 and continued until his passing in 1997, resulting in 124 published print editions.

In the 1970's, Lichtenstein made a conscious decision to become more directly involved with the process of lithography, spending his time studying and practicing the craft. *Litho/Litho* (1970) is an illustrated manual which maps the intricacies of printmaking. Humorously demonstrating the materials and techniques used, this piece highlights the importance of lithography for the Pop Art movement, which examined the relationship between mass production and fine art. In 1980, Lichtenstein began a journey into discovering German Expressionism, which in turn, led to his first major woodcut project at Gemini. Part of this German Expressionist series is *Morton A. Mort*, an edition cut out of hard Baltic birch wood. Lichtenstein personally hand cut all the lines which as, Sidney Felsen described, "...we were amazed to see this highly accomplished, very busy man spending an entire month working on woodblocks." The paper was then embossed to restore texture that was pressed out during the printing process.

Over the span of his collaboration with Gemini G.E.L., Lichtenstein began developing increasingly large-scale serial projects. The *Imperfect Series* (1988) is a collection of massive works constructed around tongue-in-cheek "imperfections," which take the form of intentionally imbalanced shapes, awkward lines, and stylistically disjointed compositions. Another example of Lichtenstein's commitment to large-scale woodcuts, the *Interior Series* (1990) is comprised of stylized illustrations of rooms that the artist appropriated from the yellow pages while living in Rome. Inspired by these images, Lichtenstein arrived at Gemini with eight small collages that were enlarged with a projector, traced, and then extensively reworked. In prints such as *Blue Floor*, Lichtenstein's graphic iconography can be observed in the broken lines representing reflection, sponging illustrating foliage, interwoven squiggles suggesting wood grain, as well as parallel diagonals and Ben Day dots to create tone. Flattened schematic forms, dots, stripes, and bright colors are all essential to Lichtenstein's visual language. *Wallpaper with Blue Floor Interior* is the largest work in the exhibit, measuring 102 x 152 inches. This monumental piece is installed directly as wallpaper and materially embodies the domestic environment which it depicts.

Born on October 7, 1923 in New York City, Roy Lichtenstein was one of the most influential and innovative artists of the second half of the twentieth century. Known for reinvigorating the American art scene through his contribution to the Pop Art movement, Roy Lichtenstein went on to create an oeuvre of more than 5,000 works. Lichtenstein received a BFA and MFA from Ohio State University although his education was interrupted by a stint in the Army. In the late 1940's, Lichtenstein began exhibiting his art in galleries nationwide, including Cleveland and New York City. Lichtenstein received many honors throughout his career, most notably the Kyoto Prize (1995) and the National Medal of the Arts (1995). Lichtenstein passed away on September 29, 1997 in New York.