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Rauschenberg exhibit 'Yoko Ono Imagine Peace' nears opening



Tom Hall, 2014



Thomas Hall
Arts & Exhibits Examiner

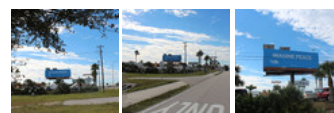
January 10, 2014

Among the earliest of artists working in the genre of Conceptual Art, Yoko Ono has consistently investigated the theme of peace and has invited those who interact with the work to play an active role in their creation and existence. The exhibition *Yoko Ono Imagine Peace* presents several of the artist's most current works, re-imagined anew for the installation at the **Bob Rauschenberg Gallery**, Edison State College.

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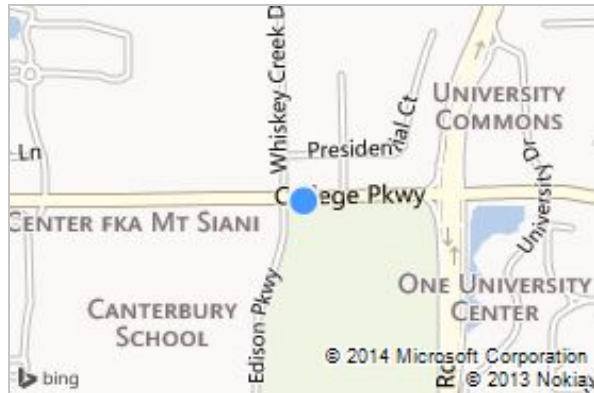
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Four recent works, *Wish Tree* (1996/2014), *Imagine Peace Maps* (2003/2014), *Onochord* (2003/2014) and *Imagine Peace Tower* (2006/2014) offer gallery visitors an opportunity to participate individually and collectively with the artist in the realization of the work. *Passages of Light*, a video that chronicles the conceptualization and

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construction of the *Imagine Peace Tower*, and reinterpretations of the works *Parts of a Lighthouse* and *Mend Piece* (for Fort Myers, Florida), are also featured in the exhibition. *Play It By Trust*, a monochrome chessboard and all white-painted lawn-sized game pieces, invites visitors to experience a playful metaphor for the futility and confusion of all types of conflict – where differentiation between opposing sides is difficult if not impossible to distinguish, and the commonality of opponents is exposed.

Yoko Ono Imagine Peace has been curated by Kevin Concannon and John Noga with the

support and involvement of the artist. The installation at the Bob Rauschenberg Gallery is being configured in direct collaboration with Yoko Ono to reflect the Gallery's mission and its role as a learning laboratory on the campus of Edison State College in Fort Myers, Florida.

The Bob Rauschenberg Gallery was founded as The Gallery of Fine Art in 1979 on the Lee County campus of Edison State College (then Edison Community College). The Gallery of Fine Art was renamed the Bob Rauschenberg Gallery on June 4, 2004 to honor and commemorate its long time association and friendship with the artist.

During the three decades preceding his death, Rauschenberg worked closely with the Gallery to present world premiere exhibitions including multiple installations of the *1/4 Mile or Two Furlong Piece*. The artist insisted on naming the space the Bob Rauschenberg Gallery (versus the "Robert Rauschenberg Gallery") as was consistent with the intimate, informal relationship he maintained with both the local Southwest Florida community and Edison State College.

Gallery exhibitions are sponsored in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, The State of Florida, Department of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Arts Council. *Yoko Ono Imagine Peace* is generously underwritten by Trevett Capital Partners, Steven Hubbard and Carolann

Swanson, Barbara Yeomans, Pottinger's Nursery & Landscaping, and the Bob Rauschenberg Gallery Docent Helping Hand Fund.

The exhibition opens on Friday, January 24 with a a Gallery Talk by co-curator Kevin Concannon in the Rush Auditorium in Building J that starts at 6:00 p.m. and reception from 7:00-9:00 p.m. The exhibition will continue through March 29, 2014. The gallery is open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturdays. For additional information, please call: (239) 489-9313 or visit **www.RauschenbergGallery.com**.

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