

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

11 WEST 53 STREET, NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900

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Robert Rauschenberg, 38-year-old New York artist, received first prize of 500,000 dinars (\$675) at the Fifth International Exhibition of Prints which opened in Yugoslavia last week (June 9), William S. Lieberman, Curator of Drawings and Prints at the Museum of Modern Art who served on the jury announced today. The exhibition remains on view at the Gallery of Modern Art in Ljubljana through September 15.

The Yugoslavia biennial which has been held every two years since 1953 is the most important regularly scheduled international survey of contemporary printmaking. This year it includes 970 original prints in all graphic media by 340 artists from 42 countries on six continents. Mr. Rauschenberg's prize-winning lithograph titled Accident was one of 31 American works by 13 American artists* invited to participate by the Yugoslav organizers.

Accident is printed in gray and black from three stones on a sheet which measures 42 inches high and 29 inches wide. Like many of Rauschenberg's lithographs it includes images produced by photo-mechanical means much as some of his "combine" paintings make use of objects from everyday experience. In this case, he has used photographs of accidents.

In addition to receiving the grand prize the American artist, along with the second and third prize winners, Janez Bernik of Yugoslavia and James Guitet of France, will be honored by one-man retrospective exhibitions at the next Ljubljana biennial in 1965. Other awards ranging from 300,000 dinars to 100,000 were received by artists from Austria, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, Poland, Russia and Thailand.

Rauschenberg's work has been shown by The Museum of Modern Art in the exhibition "Sixteen Americans" in 1959 and ⁱⁿ "The Art of Assemblage," 1961. Large international shows in which his work has been included are: The Carnegie International, Pittsburgh, 1958; Documenta II, Kassel, Germany, 1959; V Bienale, São Paulo, Brazil, 1959; and I Biennale, Paris, 1959. At the Third International Biennial Exhibition of Prints, Tokyo, 1962, he received the Prize of the Ohara Art Museum.

*The other American artists invited to participate in the Yugoslav show include seven who live in the United States (Robert Conover, Misch Kohn, Mauricio Lasansky, Edward A. Stasack, Andrew Stasik, Jasper Johns, Robert Motherwell) and five who work in France (George Ball, Terry Haas, Lawrence Heyman, Gregory Masurovsky and Gail Singer.)

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Rauschenberg, who began lithography in 1962 through facilities made available to him by Universal Limited/^{Art}Editions, the lithographic workshop directed by Mrs. Tatyana Grossman in West Islip, Long Island, says "I began lithography reluctantly, thinking that the second half of the 20th century was no time to start writing on rocks. This biased idea was soon consumed in the concentration any unfamiliar medium requires. Lack of preconception and recognition of the unique possibilities in working on stone, not paper or canvas, suggested that the approach acknowledge this."

In addition to Mr. Lieberman the international jury in Yugoslavia consisted of Umbro Apollonio (Italy); Aleksej Fjodorov-Davidov (Russia), Walter Koschatzky (Austria), Zoran Krzisk (Yugoslavia); Jacques Lassaigne (France), Mieczyslaw Porebski (Poland) and Lazar Trifunovic (Yugoslavia).

Robert Rauschenberg was born in Port Arthur, Texas in 1925 and has lived in New York for the past ten years.

The first proof of the prize-winning print is in the Collection of The Museum of Modern Art, gift of the Celeste and Armand Bartos Foundation.

Photographs and additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Public Information, Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York 19, N. Y. CI 5-8900.