

## TWENTY YEARS at 23rd & 10th

September 14- November 5, 2017



Ed Ruscha. *US*, 1994.

“Twenty years ago I was in my small tenth floor gallery space in SoHo when my landlord walked in and announced with a smile, ‘I’m doubling your rent.’ ‘You can’t do that,’ I said. He chuckled and left knowing that yes, he could. Fuming, I took a taxi to Chelsea where a small number of galleries had begun to migrate from the commercial overload of SoHo. Matthew Marks had led the way two years earlier. A *For Lease* sign beckoned on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of a super cool corten steel looking structure on the corner of 23<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Ave. The building had not yet been occupied. The only signs of commerce in the area were a few bars and restaurants, a Pottery Barn outlet and an Exxon gas station directly across the street. Dilapidated buildings lined the streets between 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Avenues, housing taxis and machinery from the stone age. I feared that 23<sup>rd</sup> Street was too far

from the action. Whatever art gallery activity existed was all on 22<sup>nd</sup> Street or below. I contemplated a 1000 square foot, 8<sup>th</sup> floor space at 535 W 20<sup>th</sup> Street for \$1000/ month. Slight problem; there were no windows or air vents. So I struck a deal with architects Phillip Smith and Douglas Thompson who owned the building.

TWENTY YEARS LATER, after expanding to a three-story gallery, I look back on over 100 exhibitions with many amazing artists and contemporary masters, dance performances, art publications, film events, and of course the Madness of Art! Special kudos to my trusted Director, Side Kick, and Co-Star Dru Arstark who was there on day one and every day since. And to my entire fantastic crew.”

- Jim Kempner, 2017

Formerly a private dealer, Jim Kempner opened his gallery at its present location in the fall of 1997. Dru Arstark has been the gallery director since 1998 and Sarah Bielicky has been the associate director since 2011. We are celebrating our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a three floor group exhibition of contemporary master prints and artwork in all media by gallery artists, including highlights from many past exhibitions. Artists include Robert Attanasio, Jennifer Bartlett, Christopher Beane, Stanley Casselman, Long Bin Chen, Christo, Jeff Chyatte, Chuck Close, Eduardo Del Valle & Mirta Gomez, Jim Dine, Lin Emery, Sam Francis, Rinaldo Frattolillo, Gianfranco Gorgoni, John Henry, Charlie Hewitt, Tanja Hollander, Jasper Johns, Deborah Kass, Alex Katz, Jay Kelly, Jerry Mischak, David Mitchell, Robert Motherwell, Graham Nash, Bruce Nauman, Craig Norton, Claes Oldenburg, Yoko Ono, Jacob Ouillette, Greg Parker, Robert Petersen, Robert Rauschenberg, Ligorano/Reese, Randy Regier, James Rosenquist, Ed Ruscha, Jonathan Santlofer, Sean Scully, Tom Slaughter, Frank Stella, Pal Svensson, Wayne Thiebaud, Boaz Vaadia, Bernar Venet, Andy Warhol, and Shanlin Ye.