

GLADSTONE

Richard Pound, "6 Artists to Follow if You Like Robert Rauschenberg," *Artsy*, February 19, 2025

ARTSY

Art

6 Artists to Follow if You Like Robert Rauschenberg

Richard Pound

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Robert Rauschenberg with *Stripper* (1962) in his Broadway studio, 1962. Photo unattributed. Courtesy of Robert Rauschenberg Foundation Archives, New York.



Robert Rauschenberg working on a painting on the deck of his Laika Lane studio, 1990. Photo by Tup Schmidt. Courtesy of Robert Rauschenberg Foundation Archives, New York.

Robert Rauschenberg, born 100 years ago this year, was one of the 20th century's most influential artists who, over the course of a 60-year career, left his distinctive mark on many different media, including painting, sculpture, printmaking, photography, and performance. Not only an important precursor of Pop Art, he has been described as “a forerunner of essentially every post-war movement since Abstract Expressionism.”

Rauschenberg is best known for his “Combines” (1954–64), which incorporated elements of both painting and sculpture into a single work. These pivotal experiments, made using mundane found objects such as newspaper clippings, photographs, bedspreads, cardboard, fabric, and rubber tires, are some of the finest artworks ever to explore the boundaries between art, popular culture, and the everyday world.

In 2025, several major exhibitions will explore different aspects of his legacy. For example, Hong Kong's M+ Museum will take a comprehensive look at Rauschenberg's longstanding engagement with Asian culture, while his collaborations with fellow artists will be examined in “Five Friends: John Cage, Merce Cunningham, Jasper Johns, Robert Rauschenberg, Cy Twombly” at the Museum Brandhorst in Munich. Finally, solo shows at Gladstone Gallery in New York and Thaddaeus Ropac in Paris will pay homage to his enduring importance (in May and October, respectively). Meanwhile, the 2025 edition of miart, Milan's international art fair, will adopt his life and works as its curatorial theme.



Robert Rauschenberg, *Monogram*, 1955–59. ©Robert Rauschenberg Foundation.

Also a philanthropist and passionate advocate for social and political change, Rauschenberg established the Rauschenberg Foundation in 1990 to support artists and institutions who share his inclusive, collaborative, and multidisciplinary approach.

And his influence continues to be felt today. As Julia Blaut, the Rauschenberg Foundation's senior director of curatorial affairs, pointed out, "In so many instances, artists today acknowledge his precedence, have run with his example, and have extended his ideas in completely original and unexpected directions....He always was and remains an artist's artist."

So, to help celebrate what would have been Rauschenberg's 100th birthday, here's a list of six contemporary artists who share his pioneering spirit and innovative use of materials.

Gedi Sibony

B. 1973, New York. Lives and works in Brooklyn



Gedi Sibony
The Beginning is Near, 2008
MEYER*KAINER
Price on request



Gedi Sibony
Half Loaf, 2014
Rema Hort Mann Foundation Benefit Auction
Bidding closed

The work of Brooklyn-based artist Gedi Sibony occupies its own unique space somewhere between sculpture, assemblage, and installation. Using discarded quotidian objects such as cardboard, plastic sheeting, carpet, and wood, he creates fragile works of poetic minimalism that reveal the expressive potential of the otherwise mundane materials he has rescued from oblivion.

Sibony has cited Rauschenberg as a direct influence, describing the practice of selective appropriation in his "Combines" as "an enactment by the artist, accomplished through total immersion," which is mirrored in his own work.

Sibony graduated with an MFA from Columbia University in 2000, and his work has been exhibited in numerous group and solo shows. His work is held in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art and the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, as well as the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, among many other institutions.