

RICHARD FEIGEN GALLERY
Lotte Drew-Bear, Director
226 East Ontario Street
Telephone: 787-0500

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Richard Feigen Gallery is pleased to announce the first showing in Chicago of Collages by Ray Johnson. The one-man exhibit will open on October 19, with a preview on Tuesday, October 18, from 5 to 7 p.m. The show will run through November 19.

Ray Johnson was born in 1927 in Detroit, Michigan. He was educated in the public school system and later received scholarships to The Art Student's League, New York, and to Black Mountain College in North Carolina. From 1945 to 1948 he studied with Josef Albers, Robert Motherwell, Mary Callery, and Ossip Zadkine.

Ray Johnson's work has been reviewed by numerous magazines and newspapers, including ART & ARTISTS (April, 1966), ART INTERNATIONAL (IX/5, 1965), LOCATION MAGAZINE (Summer, 1964), COLLAGE MAGAZINE (No. 6, 1966), STUDIO INTERNATIONAL (July, 1966), ART NEWS (April, 1966), ARTFORUM (September, 1964), THE VILLAGE VOICE (April 8, 1965), and THE NEW YORK TIMES (April 11, 1965).

In the current September issue of COLLAGE William Wilson writes, "In this quest for identity, angle of vision overpowers differences of form. Other becomes same, and many become one, as vision rides roughshod over logic. The more recent collages paint over or sandpaper away these images, and present the coincidences more abstractly, in line and form and color; lines compatible, forms companionable, and colors concurring...Once he made art out of coincidences in life; now he makes it out of coincidences in art. These latest collages, like the earlier, demonstrate that the meaning is in the focus, not in the fact or form, and that what is real in life are the measured symmetries, parallels, identities, and reflections that make it look like design." And, to quote one more review, from ART NEWS, April, 1966: "Ray Johnson returns with tasteful collages, some of which are made from children's building blocks shaped to resemble vague iceboxes. His work suggests a sweet and gentle seriousness not to be interpreted as conscience, and his style is almost a handwriting. Everything is suggested, nothing is defined. This aerial-photograph look emphasizes the enigmatic nature of the works, while color is used to increase the intimacy; the result is a rather 'nice' tension. He is a magician who prefers poetry."

Johnson was a member and an exhibitor with the American Abstract Artists in New York from 1949 to 1952. He exhibited at the David Herbert Gallery and the Reuben Gallery in New York, 1959-1962, and at the Institute of Contemporary Arts, Houston; Carnegie International, Pittsburg; PVI Gallery, New York; and the Batman Gallery, San Francisco, with a one-man show at the Willard Gallery in New York in 1965. Johnson, author of The Paper Snake, published by the Something Else Press, is described by his publisher as "America's leading Collagist." In 1966 Johnson was the recipient of a grant by the Institute of Arts and Letters.

His work is in the following public collections: Museum of Modern Art, New York; Dana-Cordova Museum, Boston; and the Institute of Contemporary Arts, Houston, and in the following private collections: Mr. Richard Zeisler, New York; Mr. G. David Thompson, Pittsburgh; Mr. and Mrs. Burton Tremaine, New York; Mr. and Mrs. Armond Bartos, New York; Mr. Sam Wagstaff, Hartford; Mr. Wallace Zuckerman, Mrs. John D. Rockefeller III; Mr. and Mrs. Richard Lippold; Mr. Andy Warhol; and Mr. Richard Howard.

The Richard Feigen Gallery is open Monday through Saturday from 9:30 to 6:00.

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