

LAURIE LAMBRECHT

In Roy Lichtenstein's Studio, 1990-1992

Catalogue available



Hello, Southampton (#2), 1990



Explosions, Slam, 1991

From May 27 to June 27, 2011 The Drawing Room in East Hampton is pleased to present the exhibition, *In Roy Lichtenstein's Studio 1990-1992*, photographs by Laurie Lambrecht. This unique body of work was photographed with a Hasselblad medium format camera while Lambrecht was working as Lichtenstein's administrative assistant in his New York and Southampton, Long Island studios. During this period of immersion in Lichtenstein's daily studio activities, Lambrecht created intimate images of the master pop artist at work, capturing the dynamic process that generated his monumental works of the 1990s.

Roy Lichtenstein was in his late sixties when the photographs were taken, and his retrospective at the Guggenheim was in the planning stages. His influence as America's renown Pop artist was at its height. In Lambrecht's respectful portraits, Lichtenstein is seen deeply engaged in the making of several important series of paintings: *Reflections*, his iconic modern living room interiors, and epic canvases inspired by Picasso's weeping women, Van Gogh's bedroom and Monet's water lilies. These masterworks set the stage for Lambrecht's own interiors in which her focus is the dazzling, organized atmosphere of Lichtenstein's studio, his source materials from popular culture and the precise techniques he used to create an astounding body of work. Her camera finds Lichtenstein dwarfed by a ladder as he masks out passages of his mural size painting *Van Gogh's Bedroom*. By contrast, another photograph reveals a more contemplative moment when the artist is seated and concentrating on the first traces of a large preliminary sketch taped to the studio wall.

Lambrecht's square format camera brings an inevitable tension to the center of each composition, giving a dynamic geometry and immediacy to the still lifes of the extraordinary materials scattered

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around the studios. With her keen eye, she edits in the viewfinder to compose intimate arrangements of Ben-Day dot stencils, rolls of tape, patterned colored papers, trace paper drawings, drafting tools, scissors, stencils, comic book strips and boxes of sharp colored pencils. Reminiscent of Kertesz's photographs of Mondrian's studio and Cartier-Bresson's of Matisse's, Lambrecht extends the tradition of pictures about pictures and picture making, as does Lichtenstein.

Lambrecht's role assisting Lichtenstein during this period gave her a personal familiarity with the studio and ease of access to her subject that is expressed in her photographs. She transports the viewer to central facets of his studio practice in still lifes such as *Naples*, 1990, an arrangement of cut out comic strips of blondes frozen in emotional turmoil, and *Four Reflections on Easels*, 1990, a wider view that encompasses several unfinished paintings on easels. In the close-up *Explosions (Slam)* 1991, raking light bathes a handwritten list of onomatopias – thwack, whraam, kpow – and the commercial printed colors of the surrounding clippings. The broad scope of Lambrecht's observations become clear when her lens reaches an unexpected and subtle corner of the environment in *Drawings, Heating Duct*, 1992.

Two decades ago Lambrecht began her immersion in a body of work that focused on portraits of contemporary artists and their creative environments. Her series on the painter Esteban Vicente was exhibited earlier this year at the Parrish Art Museum in Southampton and an extensive 10-year exploration of Robert Wilson and the early years of the Watermill Center has been shown in gallery and museum venues. Lambrecht's Lichtenstein photographs are the subject of the forthcoming monograph, *Roy Lichtenstein in the Studio*, to be published by The Monacelli Press in October 2011, with text by photography curator Edward Robinson and foreword by Dorothy Lichtenstein.

For further information and reproductions contact Lindsay Reichart at 631 324.5016 or info@drawingroom-gallery.com, and visit our website: www.drawingroom-gallery.com.

Gallery hours: Thursday, Friday, Saturday & Monday 11-5; Sunday 11-4