

RRFA 01: Robert Rauschenberg papers

Interviews: O. B. [Bob?] / Personal Interview, 1971

"We're finding it! I guess we're having
a losing battle. Its scarey to work there.
Really! A little bit. Just a tiny bit. I
recognize the space and all the alteration!
I guess YES! YES! I guess I have to say Yes!
Anything done there you gotta be sure about.
That I can see. It is a demanding room. Its
unreasonable. It doesn't give you anything
in that dimension except spirit. Thats alright!
I'd like to send everything out once. I like
only once! Hate to get those things back!"

ROBERT RAUSCHENBERG
9-11-71
NYC

SEPTEMBER 13, 1971

OB: Do you want me to start this one Bob? B: Which one is it? OB: This is three...four...This is four! This is three! B: Three? OB: Ya! Bob, do you want these flaps in or out? B: It doesn't matter. OB: Doesn't matter? B: Is it four? OB: Yes! This is four. B: I'll do that one. And...OB: A splice? B: And you tie on another...Yes! OB: I'll splice it. This is something I really know how to do! B: Really? OB: Ya! B: How did you learn how to splice? OB: Look look! You just take it like this...My Mom showed me for tying up trash. B: Thats just a half hook! OB: Ya! But look...B: I wouldn't call it anything I knew how to really do. OB: Well I mean I know how to do it without even thinking about it or anything. Where are the scissors Bob? B: Its your holes! OB: It doesn't slip or anything! OB: Gosh, its really nice! B: Two more? Three more? Three more! OB: Three more. B: Three more! OB:Gosh this is really a nice six! What do you see up there? Oh that looks really nice! B: Is that the next one? Is that five? OB: Lets see...B: Thats a big one! OB: Open Ends are beautiful! B: Paper? OB: Title! B: Open End Crack? OB: No! Theres something on your eyelash! Just a little piece of grass. B: Grass? OB: The wheat or something. B: Got some string? Don't they really look ~~like~~ they're having a good time? OB: Ya! Gosh! B: Its so big it might come undone! OB: I'm looking here Bob. See if it goes through there....I can't find your hole...B: And that was on the end...No, I'll tie this one up. You really get loose when you get close to the end. Did you say that was perfect? OB: Ya! It was right there. B: Few loose ends...Ok! I just want to pull it out. Can you hold the box? OB: I got it. Straight? There...Its a little low on the left? B: I think my side is a little low. OB: Oh...There! B: Its alright where it was. Thats ok! Its closer to where it should be...Ooops! OB: It gets heavier! B: Ah...Its a pretty heavy piece! Got it? OB: Ya! I'm holding it! B: Its lower! Higher...Just a little higher on the left. The nuns used to grind up all their old kleenex and thats how they made this wall! Soft...Is that straight? OB: Is that straight? B: Wouldn't you take something else for straight? OB: Gosh, that nail is... B: I've heard the cats make more noise chewing on a roll of toilet paper than that. OB: I think we should have put three in there! B: You what? OB: We should have put three holes in there instead of two. B: Uh...Let go. We'll see if it falls...OB: Yup! B: Didn't fall apart. OB: It fell a little bit. B: I know! I'm up here. Uh...It doesn't look too good. But I have three in that one hole already...Yeah! Ok! Well theres not room for four so this one has to hold it...Ya! That can't come out! Ch...

heres one of them that slipped out. You can let go now. OB: I haven't
 let go...I'm just here...B: What are you doin there? OB: I'm just...
 till everybody gets away! B: Oh! Well that looks better! OB: Oh
 gosh... B: That sure changed it! It was crooked. OB: It seems to be
 upside down too! B: Can't be upside down...Things don't hang the other
 way! Does it look better that other way? OB: It sure does! B: I think
 catch it in the middle and this is the only way it can hang. So lower
 the other two panels so that its like just about to flip over. OB: Flip
 over this way? B: In either direction. I don't care...Thats whats
 wrong with it. Thats why its upside down. They're hangin there. Like
 the way one would like to stretch string out straight up...I don't want
 em to fall. I'm tryin to get em to hang up there! OB: We can move these
 up. B: We could move those up. OB: I'll take em down. B: Well wait
 a moment...We don't know whether they are supposed to go up or down!
 Ya! I think up. But then we just raised the middle piece. OB: Well
 that was because it was too low. B: But we can't keep raising it all
 the way up. Can't just keep raising everything up. We'll try the two
 ends again. Why don't you climb this time...Thats already loose. OB: No
 you do it cause they are hard to hold. B: I don't mind! OB: Wait...
 Wheres the nail? B: Now I know you've got the easy part. OB: Could
 you hold the ladder? Just so it doesn't flip out. Thats it right there!
 Ok! Now don't move it. B: Is that straight? Must be! Don't talk
 about the side the nail is already in...Go get it. OB: Move the ladder
 a little bit. This ones pretty good fun! Its harder down here. B: Well
 they threw the cheaper toilet paper on the top! OB: Ok! Lets do this!
 B: I guess this is just what you do. You just move from place to place!
 What? OB: The ladder is like too far over. B: Thats it! OB: Thats um..
 B: Can I borrow the string? Did you know that you can tie nearly any-
 thing onto a string? OB: I really like it! Its easy...to look at!
 Before it was too low! B: The problem was you either had to look down
 on it or up to it and you ought to be able to see this from just where
 you are going in either direction...It comes right off with Ajax! OB: Oh
 Ajax... B: Comet can't cut! Well its a simple painting so its got to
 have a long name! OB: Gun Tackers, Skin Pack...B: Lets see...OB: Gun
 Tackers? B: Yeah! Gun Tackers, Skin Fack Brushes I T and T. Open End
 Crack? Where were we? Gun Tackers, Skin Pack, Brushes I T & T Blacks...
 Blacks...OB: Oh... B: Thats good...Which is something else that couldn't
 be wrong because how could anything like that be right? Its just here!
 We have to coat it so we can get it out of here...Weatherproof! OB: The
 coating really brings them together. It just kind of gives it that.....

B: Oh they can go anywhere after they are coated! OB: Ya! Shall I take some Polaroids quick? B: Ya! So we can remember it! OB: I think I'm out of film! I just remembered! B: Shall we go eat? OB: Ya! Oh...The late movies...Brushes... B: Think Ileana will like it? Its a hard one to pack. And T! Put a plus between the second T. You have to say it though... OB: Gun Tackers, Skin Pack, Brushes, I T and T, Glass... B: Thats right! OB: I like to look at it and say it...Gun Tackers, (BOTH BOBS) Skin Pack, Brushes, I T and T, Glass... OB: I'm gonna go and wash up! B: Lets go eat our burnt food! Don't turn out all the lights! Its its first night out! You know when you just do something and you have to leave but IT can't...You know that feeling? OB: Its gonna go somewhere! Bob I don't think I'll use this air conditioner! I'm gonna give it back to Abram! B: Oh...Leave it on! Lets not turn anything off tonight! OB: Ok!

SEPTEMBER 15, 1971

OB: Hello! BP: Hello Bob...Its Brigid. OB: Oh
hi! Listen I can't talk now! Ileana is here and
we're taking down the piece! And I like to hear what
Ileana has to say about Bobs work! BP: I won't keep
you. Will give a ring later... OB: Or why don't you
just come on over this afternoon... BP: Ok!