

## SFMOMA Rauschenberg Research Project: Artwork Record

Robert Rauschenberg  
*Merce*, 1953; printed 1981  
Gelatin silver print  
14 15/16 x 15 1/16 in. (37.94 x 38.26 cm)  
Collection SFMOMA, purchase, 83.162



Cite as: “Robert Rauschenberg, *Merce*, 1953; printed 1981: Artwork Record,” *Rauschenberg Research Project*, July 2013. San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, <http://www.sfmoma.org/artwork/83.162>.

### Marks and Inscriptions

Recto: Lower left margin, inscribed in black ink by the artist’s studio assistant Bradley Jeffries: “MERCE, 1952 #2”; after inscription, signed in black ink by the artist: “RAUSCHENBERG”

Note: This photograph was inscribed in the 1980s. Inscribed date does not conform to recent research by the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation, which dates the photograph to 1953.

Verso: None

### Ownership History

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, purchased from Douglas Elliott Gallery, San Francisco, 1983

### Exhibition History

*Rauschenberg: Photographs*, Douglas Elliott Gallery, San Francisco, September 13–October 28, 1983.

*Facets of the Collection: Portraits of Artists*, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, December 9, 1984–March 24, 1985.

*Robert Rauschenberg: The Early 1950s*, Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C., June 15–August 11, 1991. Traveled to: The Menil Collection, Houston, September 27, 1991–January 5, 1992; Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, February 8–April 19, 1992; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, May 14–August 16, 1992; Guggenheim Museum SoHo, New York, October 24, 1992–January 24, 1993.

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*Black Mountain College: Una aventura americana*, Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid, October 28, 2002–January 13, 2003.

### Publication History

*Rauschenberg Fotografia* (Florence: Archivi Alinari, 1981), n.p. (ill.).

*Rauschenberg Photographe* (Paris: Centre Georges Pompidou, Musée national d'art moderne, Editions Herscher, 1981), n.p. (ill.).

*Robert Rauschenberg Photographs* (New York: Pantheon Books, 1981), n.p. (ill.).

Van Deren Coke, *Facets of the Collection: Portraits of Artists* (San Francisco: San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, 1984), 22 (ill.), 31.

Walter Hopps, *Robert Rauschenberg: The Early 1950s* (Houston: Menil Foundation and Houston Fine Art Press, 1991), 62, 73 (ill.).

———, *Robert Rauschenberg: The Early 1950s* (Houston: Menil Foundation, 1991), 16, 33. Exhibition booklet produced for the Menil presentation only.

Christos M. Joachimides and Norman Rosenthal, eds., *American Art in the 20th Century: Paintings and Sculpture, 1913–1993* (Munich: Prestel Verlag, 1993), 97 (ill.).

Richard Gruber, *Robert Rauschenberg: Through the Lens* (Kansas City: University of Missouri, 1997), 13.

Vincent Katz, ed., *Black Mountain College: Experiment in Art* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2002), 157 (ill.).

Jerry Saltz, "Photos of the Artists as Young Men," *New York Magazine*, September 11, 2011, (ill.). Accessed June 23, 2013. <http://nymag.com/arts/art/features/rauschenberg-photographs-2011-9/>.