

Van Ness Avenue at McAllister Street  
San Francisco, California 94102-4582  
415: 863-8800

September 1, 1983

Ms. Ileana Sonnabend  
Sonnabend Gallery  
420 West Broadway  
New York, New York 10021

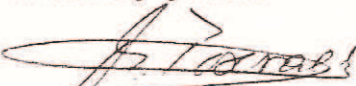
Dear Ms. Sonnabend,

The San Francisco Museum of Modern Art will publish a catalogue of the permanent collection of painting and sculpture in honor of its fiftieth anniversary in 1985. As I stated in my letter dated from August 2, 1983, I am currently documenting Robert Rauschenberg's important combine-painting, Collection, 1953-54 ( previously known as Untitled, 1953-54 ) which will be highlighted in our upcoming catalogue.

At present, I am compiling a complete exhibition history and tracing the provenance of the work. According to our records, the museum purchased the Collection from your gallery in 1972 with funds provided by Mr. and Mrs. Harry W. Anderson. In our archives, we have a notation that the work was once in the collection of Michael and Ileana Sonnabend. Could you please clarify if the painting was in your private collection or in your gallery holdings. We would also be interested in knowing the source ( the artist, another gallery or collector ) and the year you acquired the work. Any information you may have concerning exhibitions held at your gallery that included Collection would also be most valuable to us.

Thank you very much for your assistance. As we are under a publication deadline, we would be most grateful for your prompt reply.

Sincerely yours,



Maryse Posenauer  
Archivist  
Research/Collections Department  
(415) 863 8800 ex. 240

Enclosure

**San Francisco Museum of Modern Art**

**Sonnabend**

420 West Broadway  
New York, NY 10012  
212/966 6160

Rauschenberg: 72.26

Item #1

Re: PROVENANCE

October 29, 1983

Maryse Posenauer  
Archivist  
Research/Collections Department  
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art  
Van Ness Avenue at McAllister Street  
San Francisco, California 94102-4582

Dear Ms. Posenauer:

In response to your letter of September 1st, "UNTITLED", by Robert Rauschenberg was given by him to David Meyers. I bought it from him in 1959 or 1960, and was in my collection until Mr. Anderson bought it from me.

I did show the work in my gallery in Paris in 1964, just prior to the Venice Biennale. It was also shown in several museum exhibitions: The White Chapel Gallery in London, 1964, and Kunsthalle Nurnberg, 1971, an exhibition called "Theory."

I hope I've answered a few questions for your, and when I find out more details, I will write immediately.

Sincerely yours,

*Ileana Sonnabend*

Ileana Sonnabend

IS:mf

Van Ness Avenue at McAllister Street  
San Francisco, California 94102-4582  
415: 863-8800

RAUSCHENBERG 72.26  
Exh hist. #

November 6, 1983

Ms. Ileana Sonnabend  
Sonnabend Gallery  
420 West Broadway  
New York, New York 10012

Dear Ms. Sonnabend,

Thank you very much for your letter of October 29, 1983. The information you sent me concerning the past ownership of Rauschenberg's Collection, 1953-54 enabled me to up to date our provenance records.

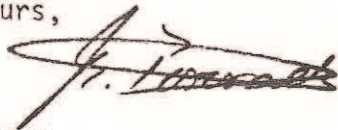
You also mentioned in your letter that you showed the work in your gallery in Paris, in 1964. Could you possibly send us a xerox copy of the brochure or catalogue issued on that occasion ( and please, bill us for any costs this request may entail)? The latter would be useful to document this newly entered exhibition entry on Rauschenberg's archive sheet. We are indeed trying to provide a full reference for each exhibition we mention in connection with the various works of our permanent collection.

I would greatly appreciate your assistance in this matter as I believe this 1964 exhibition catalogue is not available elsewhere in the United States.

I hope you will not mind this further request.

Thank you very much in advance.

Sincerely yours,



Maryse Posenauer  
Archivist  
Research/Collections Department

**Sonnabend**

420 West Broadway  
New York, NY 10012  
212/966.6160

Exh. hist. # 1 + Remarks # 2  
Rauschenberg 72.26

November 25, 1983

Maryse Posenaer  
Archivist  
Research/Collections Department  
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art  
Van Ness Avenue at McAllister Street  
San Francisco, California 94102-4582

Dear Ms. Posenaer:

Unfortunately, there was no catalogue for the exhibition in 1964 where Rauschenberg's COLLECTION was shown.

I'm sorry we won't be able to furnish you with any printed material, and hope that we've been of some help to you.

Sincerely yours,

*Ileana Sonnabend*

Ileana Sonnabend

IS:mf