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THE BRAZEN HEAD'S

**9TH ANNUAL BLOCK PARTY &
BENEFIT FOR BREAST CANCER
SEPTEMBER 14, 2008 NOON 'TIL 6
BUCHANAN AT GREENWICH**

THE
BRAZEN HEAD



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Meals On Wheels fundraiser rocks Fort Mason

By GraceAnn Walden

The 21st fundraiser for San Francisco Meals On Wheels, the Annual Star Chefs & Vintners Gala held at the Festival Pavilion in Fort Mason, was yet another delightful and delicious night of fun and food.

And all for a good cause: Meals On Wheels of San Francisco has served more than 700,000 meals to 2,000 seniors this year. The event raised an astounding \$1.1 million, shattering all previous records.

The evening began at 5 p.m. with an hors d'oeuvres and wine reception provided by more than 30 chefs and wineries. It was followed by a three-course, sit-down meal, each course prepared by one of 24 different chefs and complemented with appropriate wines. The grand finale was a dessert reception and dancing.

The range of finger food at the reception included treats from everyone from Jan Birnbaum (Epic Roasthouse), to David Kinch (Manresa), to Elizabeth Falkner (Orson/Citizen Cake), to Chris Cosentino (Incanto/Boccalone).

At our dinner table, we got to sit with KGO-TV's Don Sanchez and his daughter; newscaster Cheryl Jennings and her handsome husband, Rick; and Janet Gallin (from the radio show *Love Letters Live*) and her husband, Ted.



The chefs brought out for a bow

Here is the menu for our three-course dinner:

First Course
Dungeness Crab Salad
Avocado, Jicama
& Lemongrass Sorbet
(chef Mark Dommen,
One Market)

Second Course
Olive Oil Poached Black Cod
with Saikyo Uni Miso
(chef Shotaro "Sho" Kamio,
Yoshi's San Francisco)

Third Course
Braised Pork Short Rib, Fava
Beans, Melted Spring Onions
with Porcini Jus

(chefs Chris L'Hommedieu &
Jeremy Ravetz, Michael Mina)

Susan Dyer Reynolds, editor-in-chief of this paper and the *Marina Times*, was the successful bidder on a whirlwind trip to Manhattan that included a first-class flight on American Airlines. Also included were luxurious accommodations at the New York Palace Hotel; dining at Aureole, the world-renowned restaurant of James Beard Award-winning chef Charlie Palmer; a dinner at Telepan, and more.

The highlight of my night was that she asked me to accompany her!

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Robert Rauschenberg remembered

By Sharon Anderson

On Sunday, the 11th of May, I was visiting the new contemporary building that houses the Broad Collection at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. While walking through the exhibit, I saw a girl around six years old sitting on a bench, quietly drawing the painting in front of her on her sketchpad. Canyon, a painting by Robert Rauschenberg, was the girl's subject. The large canvas revealed ghostly photographic images beneath bold swatches of paint that hovered above a taxidermic bird perched on a box. Poised over her artist's paper, the girl's pencil made jagged marks like the teeth on a saw to represent feathers under the bird's wings.

On Monday, the 12th of May, Robert Rauschenberg died at the age of 82. One of the most influential painters of the last century, Rauschenberg helped to define the eras of Abstract Expressionism and Pop Art with his fusion of imagery and found objects. He was best known for his "combine" paintings, works that featured objects found in and around his studio. Discarded wood, tires and pieces of metal combined to create works that were



Robert Rauschenberg's *Monogram*, (1955-59), mixed mediums with taxidermy goat, rubber tire and tennis ball, on wood platform mounted on four casters.

photo: courtesy of Moderna Museet, Stockholm

simultaneously paintings, sculptures, silkscreens, and collages. His most iconic image is the combine painting from 1955-59 known as *Monogram*, which features an Angora goat standing placidly on a painted square surface with a rubber tire around its middle, primary colors dappled on its muzzle.

As a young man, Rauschenberg discovered art during a visit to the Huntington Library Art Collections in San Marino, Calif. Immediately deciding to become an artist, he enrolled in several schools including Black Mountain College in North Carolina, where he began to create

and meet other artists that were to influence his work, among them John Cage and Merce Cunningham. Like many Black Mountain artists, he began to explore the Dadaist principle of art as accident, allowing a random combination of images and media to create a visual narrative.

Throughout his career, Rauschenberg redefined more than just painting. He was a prolific printmaker, silkscreen artist, stage designer, photographer, lithographer and sculptor, all with the infectious enthusiasm and exploratory approach that defined his work. His creations are about process, not the end result. Ultimately, by implying a work in progress not yet completed, he invites us, the viewers, to become participants in his art. By reinventing spatial relationships between the natural and the man-made, Robert Rauschenberg imposed order on chaos. He gave us art to think about and to react against.

The process continues.

Sharon Anderson is an artist and writer in Southern California. She will be featured in the August 2008 issue of *Art in America* magazine.