

# *Crown Point Press*

THE ART OF ETCHING



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Anderson Gallery of Graphic Art  
de Young  
25 February—27 August 2006

Crown Point Press, founded in the Bay Area in 1962 and now located in San Francisco, is widely acknowledged as one of America's foremost contemporary print publishers. The Crown Point Press Archive was acquired in 1991 by the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco. The acquisition consisted of one impression of every print the press had produced since its beginnings and also a large number of working proofs, preparatory sketches, copper plates, and other technical materials. Crown Point Press continues to donate an impression from every edition produced, contributing to a collection that now numbers more than 4,000 works by 111 artists.

This valuable resource effectively documents the success of Kathan Brown's efforts to revive etching as a medium of serious contemporary art. Brown, founding director of Crown Point Press, has been working with etching for almost fifty years. For her, etching is a kind of generic term that encompasses all the techniques of intaglio printing, including hard- and soft-ground etching, engraving, drypoint, aquatint, and mezzotint. She believes that these traditional techniques can be vehicles for new artistic approaches and has written extensively on etching as a flexible and modern printmaking medium for artists involved in all manner of art making.

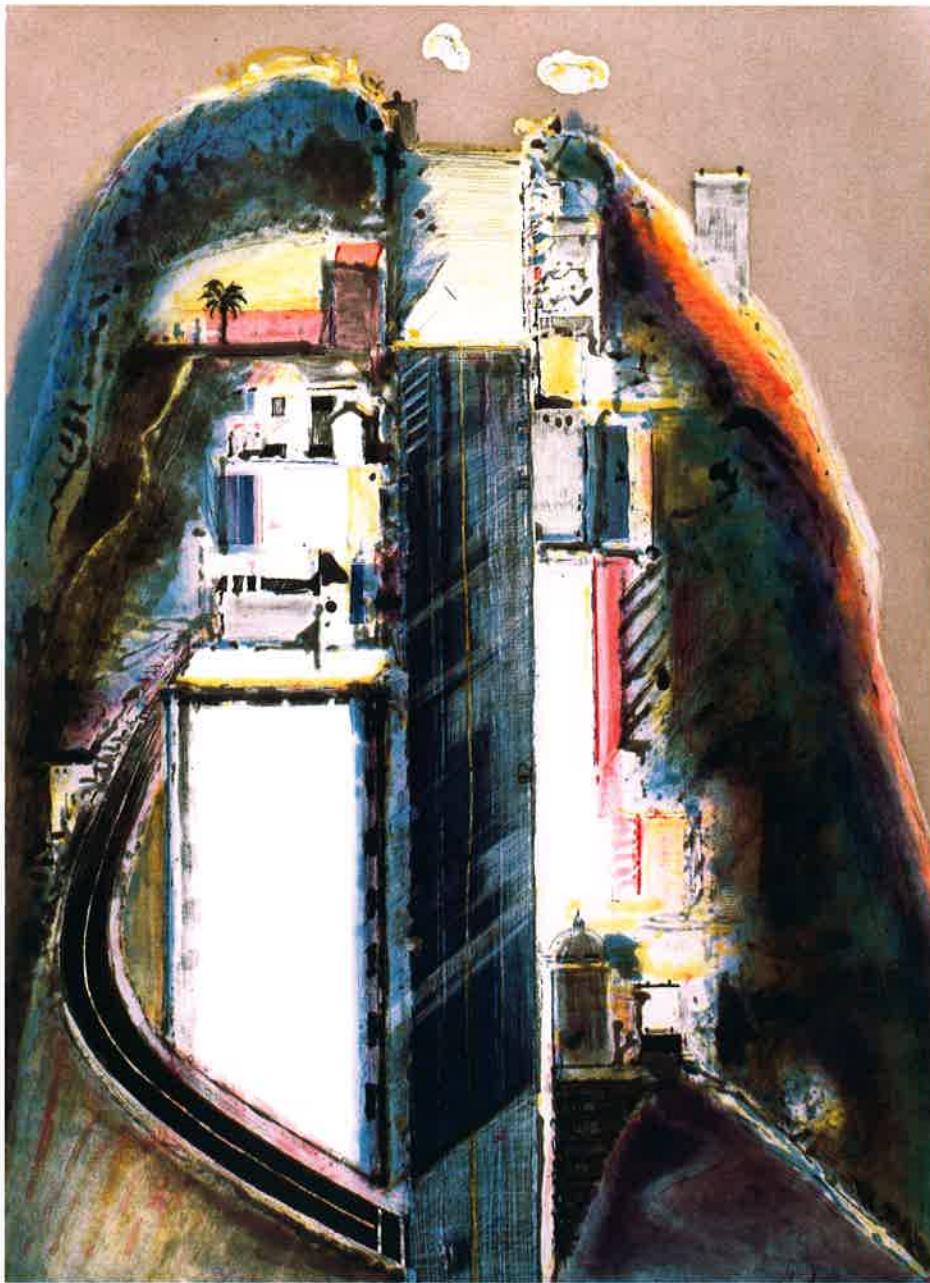
This exhibition includes many of the prints from the archive that are featured in Brown's most recent publication, *Magical Secrets about Thinking Creatively: The Art of Etching and the Truth of Life* (Crown Point Press/Prestel, 2006). Her thirteen creative principles (called "magical secrets") are listed here along with illustrative prints by artists who have used them as strategies in making some of the most beautiful and memorable art of our time.

Karin Breuer

*Curator of Contemporary Graphic Art*



Nathan Oliveira, *Dancer*, 2004



Wayne Thiebaud, *Steep Street*, 1989

### 1. Cultivate Sensuality

*Discover details of the physicality of materials.*

**Wayne Thiebaud** (American, b. 1920)

***Gum Machine***, 1964, from *Delights* (bound edition), 1965

Hard-ground etching  
5 x 6 3/4 in. (image), 12 15/16 x 10 13/16 in. (page)  
Printed by Kathan Brown  
Gift of Kathan Brown  
1991.28.395

**Wayne Thiebaud**

***Steep Street***, 1989

Color hard-ground etching, drypoint, aquatint, and spit-bite aquatint with scraping and burnishing  
30 x 22 in. (image), 38 3/4 x 30 1/2 in. (sheet)  
Printed by Lawrence Hamlin  
Gift of Crown Point Press  
1991.28.6

### 2. Use a Lot of Time

*Take enough time for what you are doing and be aware that you've embarked on a lifelong pursuit.*

**Chuck Close** (American, b. 1940)

***Keith***, 1972

Mezzotint with roulette  
45 x 35 3/4 in. (image), 51 x 41 1/2 in. (sheet)  
Printed by Kathan Brown at Crown Point Press  
Published by Parasol Press Ltd.  
Museum purchase, bequest of Whitney Warren Jr. in memory of Mrs. Adolph Spreckels  
1991.28.98

**Chuck Close**

***Self-Portrait, Black on White***, 1977

Hard-ground etching  
44 1/2 x 35 5/8 in. (image), 54 1/8 x 40 3/4 in. (sheet)  
Printed by Patrick Foy at Crown Point Press  
Published by Chuck Close/Pace Editions Inc.  
Anderson Graphic Arts Collection, gift of the Harry W. and Mary Margaret Anderson Charitable Foundation  
1996.74.65

### 3. Get into the Flow

*Encourage a mental state called "flow" that has a connection to creativity.*

**Richard Diebenkorn** (American, 1922–1993)

***Green***, 1986

Color aquatint, spit-bite aquatint, soap-ground aquatint, and drypoint  
45 x 35 1/4 in. (plate), 53 1/2 x 40 3/4 in. (sheet)  
Printed by Marcia Bartholme  
Gift of Crown Point Press  
1991.28.1274



**Richard Diebenkorn**

*Red–Yellow–Blue*, 1986

Color soft-ground etching and drypoint  
15 3/4 x 30 in. (image), 26 1/4 x 40 in. (sheet)  
Printed by Marcia Bartholme  
Gift of Crown Point Press  
1991.28.664

**Richard Diebenkorn**

*#16*, 1964, from *41 Etchings Drypoints*, 1965

13 1/4 x 9 3/4 in. (image), 17 3/4 x 14 3/4 in. (sheet)  
Printed by Kathan Brown  
Anderson Graphic Arts Collection, gift of the Harry W.  
and Mary Margaret Anderson Charitable Foundation  
1996.74.76.16

**Nathan Oliveira** (American, b. 1928)

*Dancer*, 2004

Drypoint and color aquatint  
16 x 13 in. (image), 25 x 21 in. (sheet)  
Printed by Dena Schuckit, assisted by Catherine Brooks  
Gift of Crown Point Press  
2006

Chuck Close, *Keith*, 1972



#### 4. *Have an Idea*

*Think about what you are doing.*

**Tom Marioni** (American, b. 1937)

*Flying with Friends (Drypoint)*, 1999

Color drypoint  
33 1/4 x 59 3/4 in. (image and sheet)  
Printed by Dena Schuckit  
Gift of Crown Point Press  
2006

**Tom Marioni**

*Drumming*, 2002

Color soft-ground etching and aquatint  
16 x 10 in. (image), 27 1/2 x 18 in. (sheet)  
Printed by Rachel Fuller  
Gift of Crown Point Press  
2006

**Sol LeWitt** (American, b. 1928)

*Color and Black #3 (24 x 24)*, 1991

Color spit-bite aquatint  
12 x 11 15/16 in. (image), 24 1/2 x 24 in. (sheet)  
Printed by Lawrence Hamlin  
Gift of Crown Point Press  
1993.51.196

**Sol LeWitt**

*Lines in Four Directions Superimposed in Each Quarter of the Square Progressively*, 1971

Hard-ground etching  
7 x 7 in. (image), 11 x 11 in. (sheet)  
Printed by Kathan Brown at Crown Point Press  
Published by Parasol Press Ltd.  
Gift of Crown Point Press  
1991.28.785

**Hans Haacke** (German, b. 1936)

*Tiffany Cares*, 1978

Photoetching  
16 x 34 1/2 in. (image), 29 1/2 x 41 1/2 in. (sheet)  
Printed by Stephen Thomas  
Gift of Kathan Brown  
1991.28.1206

#### 5. *Don't Know What You Want*

*Cultivate an inquiring, open mind.*

**John Cage** (American, 1912–1992)

*Changes and Disappearances #35*, 1979–1982

Color engraving, drypoint, and photoetching on  
Twinrocker Gray-green Laid paper  
11 1/4 x 21 3/4 in. (image and sheet)  
Printed by Lilah Toland  
Gift of Kathan Brown  
1991.28.294

**John Cage**

*Eninka 1*, 1986

Burned, smoked, and branded Gampi paper mounted  
on Don Farnsworth handmade paper  
24 7/8 x 18 7/8 in. (image and sheet)  
Printed by Marcia Bartholme  
Gift of Crown Point Press  
1992.167.47

**John Cage**

*75 Stones*, 1989

Color spit-bite aquatint and sugar-lift aquatint on  
smoked paper  
47 13/16 x 35 1/4 in. (image), 54 1/8 x 41 1/4 in. (sheet)  
Printed by Pamela Paulson  
Gift of Crown Point Press  
1991.28.1336



Shahzia Sikander, *No. 2, Entangled*, 2001



Robert Bechtle, *Texas and 20th Intersection*, 2004

## 8. Use Every Tool

*Use new tools as needed without throwing out the old ones.*

**Shahzia Sikander** (Pakistani, b. 1969)  
Four prints from the portfolio *No Parking Anytime*, 2001

### **No. 1, Armorial Bearings**

Color photogravure and soft-ground etching

### **No. 2, Entangled**

Color photogravure, soap-ground aquatint, spit-bite aquatint, and soft-ground etching

### **No. 4, Metro**

Color photogravure and soft-ground etching

### **No. 7, Bound**

Color photogravure, soft-ground etching, spit-bite aquatint, and water-bite aquatint

Each 10 x 7 1/2 in. (image), 18 1/4 x 14 1/2 in. (sheet)  
Printed by Rachel Fuller  
Gift of Crown Point Press  
2006

## 9. Use Every Source

*Use sources of images and ideas as if they were tools.*

**Laura Owens** (American, b. 1970)  
*Untitled (LO 270)*, 2004

Color spit-bite aquatint, soap-ground aquatint, aquatint, and soft-ground etching  
24 x 20 in. (image), 33 x 28 in. (sheet)  
Printed by Dena Schuckit  
Gift of Crown Point Press  
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**Laura Owens**  
*Untitled (LO 272)*, 2004

Color spit-bite aquatint and soft-ground etching  
29 1/2 x 35 1/2 in. (image), 39 1/2 x 44 1/2 in. (sheet)  
Printed by Dena Schuckit  
Gift of Crown Point Press  
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Laura Owens, *Untitled (LO 270)*, 2004

## 6. Know What You Don't Want

*Understand what others have done and how not to repeat it.*

**Robert Bechtle** (American, b. 1932)  
*Texas and 20th Intersection*, 2004

Color soft-ground etching and aquatint  
21 7/8 x 3 3/4 in. (image), 31 x 39 in. (sheet)  
Printed by Catherine Brooks  
Gift of Crown Point Press  
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## 7. Stick Your Neck Out

*Go against prevailing attitudes if you feel like it.*

**Pat Steir** (American, b. 1940)  
*Long Vertical Falls #1* and *Long Vertical Falls #3*, from the series *Long Vertical Falls*, 1991

Spit-bite aquatint and soap-ground aquatint  
44 7/8 x 22 13/16 in. (each image),  
53 1/8 x 30 1/2 in. (each sheet)  
Printed by Brian Shure  
Gift of Crown Point Press  
1992.167.1060  
1992.167.1062



Richard Tuttle, *Costume B*, 2002

## 10. *Become Skillful*

*Know when you need to develop skill yourself  
and when you can use the skill of others.*

**Fred Wilson** (American, b. 1954)

***Bang***, 2004

Spit-bite aquatint and color aquatint  
20 x 24 in. (image), 30 1/2 x 34 in. (sheet)

Printed by Case Hudson  
Gift of Crown Point Press  
2006

**Fred Wilson**

***Convocation***, 2004

Spit-bite aquatint, color aquatint, and direct gravure  
20 x 24 in. (image), 30 1/2 x 34 in. (sheet)

Printed by Case Hudson  
Gift of Crown Point Press  
2006

## 11. *Take Yourself Lightly*

*Have a sense of humor and don't see yourself  
at the center of the universe.*

**Peter Doig** (British, b. 1959)

***Guest House***, 2002

Color sugar-lift aquatint, spit-bite aquatint,  
aquatint, and drypoint  
15 1/2 x 10 in. (image), 24 1/2 x 18 in. (sheet)

Printed by Dena Schuckit  
Gift of Crown Point Press  
2006

## 12. *Go into the Ether*

*Let yourself slip into another world from  
time to time.*

**Richard Tuttle** (American, b. 1941)

Three prints from the portfolio ***Costume***, 2002

***Costume B***

Color aquatint and spit-bite aquatint on  
ca. 1985 Farnsworth handmade paper  
24 1/2 x 18 1/2 in. (image and sheet)

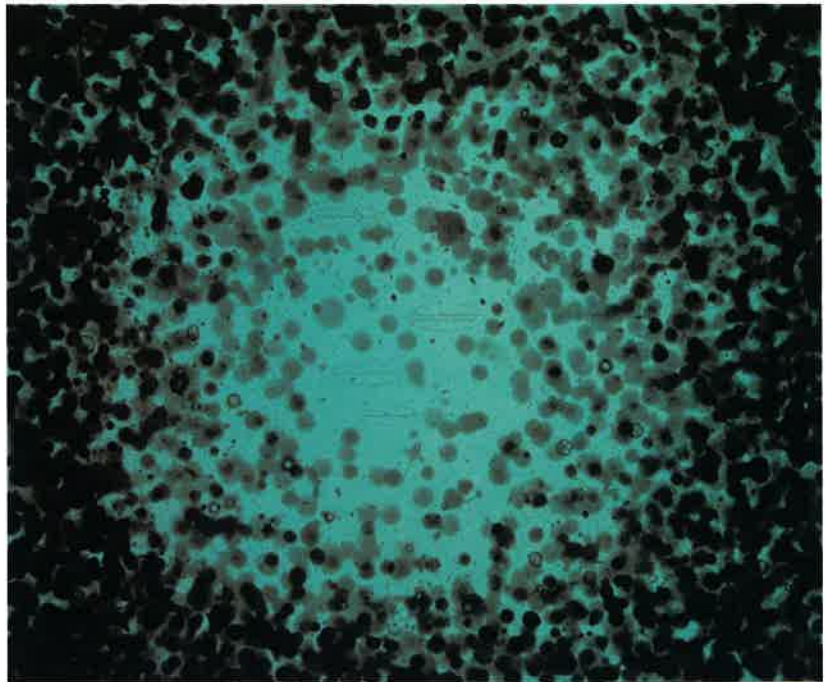
***Costume C***

Color aquatint on ca. 1920 Head  
handmade antique gray paper  
13 x 13 in. (image), 23 1/3 x 18 1/2 in. (sheet)

***Costume D***

Color aquatint and sugar-lift aquatint on  
ca. 1990 Larroque Colombe handmade paper  
23 3/4 x 21 in. (image), 25 x 22 in. (sheet)

Printed by Dena Schuckit  
Gift of Crown Point Press  
2006



Fred Wilson, ***Convocation***, 2004

## 13. *Own It*

*Know that you are doing the work you  
should be doing.*

**Dorothy Napangardi** (Australian Aborigine, b. 1956)

***Sandhills***, 2004

Color soap-ground aquatint, spit-bite aquatint,  
and aquatint  
17 3/4 x 23 3/4 in. (image), 25 1/2 x 30 3/4 in. (sheet)

Printed by Dena Schuckit  
Gift of Crown Point Press  
2006



Dorothy Napangardi, ***Sandhills***, 2004

Anderson  
Gallery of  
Graphic Art  
**de Young**  
Fine Arts  
Museums of  
San Francisco



Cover:  
Richard Diebenkorn, ***Green***, 1986