



Sydney and Walda Besthoff



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## ROY LICHTENSTEIN SCULPTURE DEBUTS IN ITS NEW HOME

In October 2012, NOMA announced the acquisition of a major work by artist Roy Lichtenstein (1923 – 1997). The work, *Five Brushstrokes*, 1984 (fabricated 2010), was finally installed in front of the museum on the cool, foggy morning of December 9, 2013.

*Five Brushstrokes* is a large-scale, 20-foot tall painted aluminum sculpture, composed of five brushstrokes created in Lichtenstein’s characteristic Pop art style. The fluid, two-dimensional form of paint is transformed into a three-dimensional work. Each colored brushstroke is stacked atop one another, creating a strong vertical image. The work is a gift of Sydney and Walda Besthoff and the Roy Lichtenstein Foundation. On the day of its installation, onlookers gathered on the edge of Collins Diboll Circle to witness the unveiling of the monumental work.

“Walda and I are delighted to make a home for this piece at NOMA,” said Sydney Besthoff.

Roy Lichtenstein, a Manhattan-born artist, was pivotal in shaping the landscape of Pop art in the 1950s and 1960s. Working amidst New York contemporaries such as Andy Warhol and Robert Rauschenberg, Lichtenstein was inspired by comic book illustrations and the Ben-Day dot printing pattern found in these inexpensive publications. He used this aesthetic in his paintings and sculptures, playing upon the exaggerated emotions of his source material. Lichtenstein drew upon the artistic climate of his time and the works of old masters to reflect the cultural perspective of the United States after World War II. The brushstroke for Lichtenstein became a cultural symbol representing the singularity and freedom

of the individual, as well as a reference to the importance of the artist’s hand in the creative process.

“We are absolutely delighted to have this major work by one of the most important artists of the 20th century,” said Susan M. Taylor, The Montine McDaniel Freeman Director. “Our gratitude to Sydney and Walda Besthoff is immeasurable, and we also thank the Roy Lichtenstein Foundation for their partnership in making this acquisition possible. Its placement in front of the museum will ensure that it will be celebrated, appreciated and enjoyed by generations of visitors. We are honored to be able to showcase Roy Lichtenstein’s work here at NOMA.”

Construction on the sculpture’s surrounding pool, which will feature a stone seating area for visitors, will not be completed until spring 2014.