



## Ed Ruscha: Road Tested

*Michael Auping, Richard Prince*

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Since his first road trip in 1956, driving from Oklahoma City to Los Angeles, Ed Ruscha has continued to muse on America as seen from the road: "I like being in the car, and seeing things from that vantage point," he has said. "Sometimes I give myself assignments to go out on the road and explore different ideas. My books are an example of that." Consisting of around 75 works spanning the artist's entire career, *Ed Ruscha: Road Tested* includes many of the famous aforementioned artist's books, including *Twenty-Six Gasoline Stations*, *Real Estate Opportunities*, *Some Los Angeles Apartments*, *Thirty-Four Parking Lots* and the groundbreaking artist's book *Every Building on the Sunset Strip*; some of Ruscha's most iconic paintings, such as the "Standard Stations" and the "Hollywood Signs," as well as paintings inspired by street names and road signs; and his exploration of the topography of greater Los Angeles in paintings that depict aerial grids of the city, as well as various southern California horizons and sunsets. Also examined here is the rarely seen Ruscha film *Miracle* (1975), which tells the story of a mechanic whose obsessive repair of the carburetor on a 1965 Mustang dooms his date with a beautiful woman. The first-ever treatment of a primary theme in the artist's career, *Road Tested* at last gives Ed Ruscha his own road show.

**Ed Ruscha** (born 1937) has made pioneering work in the media of painting, printmaking, drawing, bookmaking, photography and film since 1958. Associated in the early 1960s with the Ferus Gallery, Ruscha was included in Walter Hopps' landmark Pop art show *New Painting of Common Objects*, at the Pasadena Art Museum in 1962. His painting career was recently surveyed in *Ed Ruscha: Fifty Years of Painting* (D.A.P., 2010).

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