

# Robert Rauschenberg

Born 1925 Port Arthur, Texas, U.S.; died Captiva, Florida, U.S., 2008





**Robert Rauschenberg** was born in 1925 in Port Arthur, Texas. When Rauschenberg was a young boy, his mother made his clothes out of scraps of fabric. Scraps of fabric are one of the many unexpected materials Rauschenberg used to make works of art. He liked to experiment with materials other artists didn't usually use, in new ways. He also worked with other artists including dancers and musicians, as well as with scientists and engineers.



Robert Rauschenberg, *Collection*, 1954/1955

In his art, Robert Rauschenberg often used everyday materials that most people might think of as garbage. At one time, Rauschenberg said he would only use materials he could gather from the streets around his studio.

## Fun Fact!

Early in his career, Rauschenberg invented a new art form by combining elements of painting and sculpture. He called these new creations **Combines**.

What part of this work looks like a painting?

What part looks like a sculpture?

## Explore

Rauschenberg once said, “A picture is more like the real world when it is made from the real world.” He made this work by placing many layers of materials and everyday objects on top of each other.

Everyday materials are listed below. Which ones can you find in this artwork? What other materials do you see?

**fabric**

**newspaper**

**mirror**

**wood**

**comic strips**

**metal**

**paint drips**

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## Create

Rauschenberg's painting is titled *Collection*.

Do you collect anything? Do you know anyone who has a collection? What kind of collection do you or the person you know have?

If you made a work called *Collection*, what everyday objects would you include? Where would you find the items for your artwork? Make a list of your ideas or draw your ideas in the space below.

Front cover image: Robert Rauschenberg, *Collection*, 1954–55 (detail); collection SFMOMA, gift of Harry W and Mary Margaret Anderson; © 2020 Robert Rauschenberg Foundation

For more information about this work, watch *The Country Dog Gentlemen Travel to Extraordinary Worlds* at [sfmoma.org/countrydog](https://sfmoma.org/countrydog).



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