FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

POP ARTIST ED RUSCHA AND HIS WIFE, DANNA RUSCHA DONATE 30 WORKS OF ART TO OU ART MUSEUM

NORMAN, Oklahoma – Ed Ruscha of Los Angeles – credited by art critics and collectors as one of the most important living artists of the Pop art movement – has donated 30 works from his private collection to the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art at the University of Oklahoma. The art, which was given to the university by Ruscha and his wife, Danna Ruscha, is the most recent in a series of interactions between the artist, his family and the OU art museum.

Ruscha, who was named an Oklahoma Cultural Treasure last year, gave several works to the museum, including 13 of his own works, a portfolio of images of tornados by Pop artist Joe Goode, and works by sculptors George Herms and Jerry McMillan. Goode recently was selected as the guest juror for the OU’s 2017 National Weather Center Biennale.

“The university is deeply grateful for this exceptional gift from the Ruschas,” said OU President David L. Boren. “It increases the national reputation of the museum as one of the highest ranked university art museums in the U.S.”

“The museum is honored to receive such an important gift from Ed and Danna Ruscha,” said Mark White, the Wylodean and Bill Saxon Director of the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art. “The works contribute significantly to the museum’s collection of contemporary art, and we are particularly excited to receive important pieces by Ruscha, Joe Goode and Jerry McMillan, all of whom once
called Oklahoma home. The museum is extremely grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Ruscha for their generosity.”

Ruscha also highlighted these ties to Oklahoma in his collection.

“The Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art is an outstanding institution of the Southwest,” Ruscha said. “I am honored to have my work be part of its collection. There is a bit of Oklahoma residing in each one of these works.”

Born in Omaha, Nebraska, in 1937, Ruscha moved to Oklahoma City in 1941. Ruscha, Goode and McMillan attended Northwest Classen High School together, then headed to California after graduation. Ruscha moved to Los Angeles in 1956 with friend and aspiring musician Mason Williams and enrolled at Chouinard Art Institute (now California Institute of the Arts). Over the past 60 years, Ruscha has become well-known for his paintings, photographs, collages and artists’ books. Many of his works incorporate phrases or single words.

In 2012, the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art began raising funds to acquire his 1990 painting, No Man’s Land. Dozens of donors contributed toward the work, which references the artist’s early life in Oklahoma and now hangs in the museum’s Sandy Bell Gallery. At a public family day at the museum, the acquisition of the work in spring 2013 was celebrated; the event also featured live performances by the OU schools of Music and Dance.

Later that spring, 20 OU students and faculty recreated, in reverse, Ruscha’s 1963 Twentysix Gasoline Stations, a visual documentary of a road trip from his home in Los Angeles to the stomping grounds of his youth in Oklahoma City. The trip, lovingly titled Road to Ruscha, culminated in a visit with Ruscha in his LA studio.

The following year, Ruscha donated a rare copy of his book, Twentysix Gasoline Stations, to the museum.

In 2015, while in Oklahoma to receive the Oklahoma Cultural Treasure Award from Gov. Mary Fallin, Ruscha stopped by the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art with a few family members. Shortly after his visit, the museum was contacted by the artist, who wished to donate several works from his personal collection.

White said Ruscha’s collection will be installed in late August in the museum’s Sandy Bell Gallery.

The Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art is located in the OU Arts District on the corner of Elm Avenue and Boyd Street, at 555 Elm Ave., on the OU Norman campus. Admission to the museum is complimentary to all visitors, thanks to a generous
gift from the OU Athletics Department. The museum is closed on Mondays. Information and accommodations are available by calling (405) 325-4938 or visiting www.ou.edu/fjjma.

###

**IMAGE CUTLINE**

Los Angeles artist Ed Ruscha recently donated 30 works from his private collection to the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art at the University of Oklahoma. Included in the gift are works by artists Joe Goode, George Herms, Jerry McMillan and Ruscha, including his 2003 lithograph, *Column with Speed Lines*. The collection will be on display in the museum’s Sandy Bell Gallery starting in late August.

Edward Ruscha (U.S., b. 1937)
*Column with Speed Lines*, 2003
5-color lithograph/screen print, 35 1/2 x 24 in.