

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### ***REMEMBERING LARRY RIVERS***

The Remba Gallery is pleased to present *Remembering Larry Rivers*. The exhibition will take place at 462 North Robertson Boulevard in West Hollywood from November 2, 2002 to January 31, 2003. An opening reception will be held on Saturday, November 2, from 6-8 p.m. in conjunction with the West Hollywood Galleries.

Larry Rivers was a painter, jazz musician, poet, writer, and an occasional actor and filmmaker. If he was not painting in his studio, he was performing with the East 13<sup>th</sup> Street Band, or socializing with a cast of characters such as Willem De Kooning, Jack Kerouac and Frank O'Hara. Although Rivers was talented in a multitude of disciplines, he shifted his focus to art in the 1950's.

Rivers' interest in the casual aspects of everyday life, and his affinity to famous personalities and historical events, served as the subject matter of his artwork for the majority of his career. His keen eye for observation and his sensitivity to imagery, especially those seen in paintings and photographs, resulted in some of his most impressive works, *Washington Crossing the Delaware*, *The History of the Russian Revolution: From Marx to Mayakovsky*, and the portraits of his mother-in-law Berdie Berger.

His artworks are technically and contextually, multi-layered projects of historical accretion. He combined a mixture of things old and new: a montage of memoirs of a particular person or event, or a familiar subject depicted in the artist's contemporary style. These layers convey the artist's personal commentary about the incessant influence of past experiences on our lives.

Rivers' work also gave realism renewed vigor and new meaning, by presenting the viewer with a complete visual flow of daily life, with the human figure remaining the most essential element. While his subject matter was heartfelt and often quite somber, the playful way in which he expressed his thoughts evolved into a distinctive language.

Everything that Larry Rivers created was special and inventive, and it always offered the onlooker a glimpse into the story of his own personal history. His exceptional, rebellious spirit will have a lasting effect, since his work, life and personality transcend time.

