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Interview with Ed Ruscha, circa 1981

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WEBVTT

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<i>Ed Ruscha</i>: ah, there are some things left unsaid. And so, I, you know

<i>Jan Butterfield</i>: Interesting

<i>Ed Ruscha</i>: abandoned it and then now I'm gravitating back towards it.

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<i>Jan Butterfield</i>: It's a small world painting, don't you think? Try to begin to see,

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<i>Ed Ruscha</i>: Well, for a moment I thought I was in the 3rd dimension

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<i>Jan Butterfield</i>: No, no but it's all that in there you know. It's a, quite a heavy painting in a very real way. It's kind of, ah, it portends something that's sort of interesting.

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And I can kind of, I can kind of see it pouring in there, that's interesting to see that. Because it's been, I haven't seen painting for a long time. And I know that with it, hiatus I don't know how long, how long? [[inaudible]]

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<i>Ed Ruscha</i>: Mmm, well, I didn't paint on canvas for maybe, well 1970 I didn't paint.

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<i>Jan Butterfield</i>: At all.

<i>Ed Ruscha</i>: The year 1970, there aren't any paintings.

<i>Jan Butterfield</i>: Interesting

<i>Ed Ruscha</i>: Um, or no, actually no, no oil paintings. No oil paintings.

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<i>Jan Butterfield</i>: But, but works on paper.

<i>Ed Ruscha</i>: Yeah. I did works on paper. But um, I couldn't bring myself to paint a picture. But then, then I used organics for a few years there and now I'm back to painting, uh, with oil paints. Which I've been doing for about, maybe, six years.

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<i>Jan Butterfield</i>: Again? I mean, but that actively?

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<i>Ed Ruscha</i>: Yeah, yeah. Sure. Yeah.

<i>Jan Butterfield</i>: Oh I did you realize that. Oh I didn't realize that. I thought you were been in a couple, last couple of years.

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<i>Ed Ruscha</i>: Yeah. I haven't made a [[?]] for several years.

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And so, I, you know, digressed from that medium. For God knows what reason. But, um

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<i>Jan Butterfield</i>: That will probably come back around, you know

<i>Ed Ruscha</i>: I've had a run on things like that or it may show itself in another way. I don't know.

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<i>Jan Butterfield</i>: Well at least you won't be known as the book man

<i>Ed Ruscha</i>: [[laughter]]

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<i>Jan Butterfield</i>: Did you ever have any idea in the beginning of those books?

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<i>Ed Ruscha</i>: Um, well I was after something that was um, an enigmatic ground



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