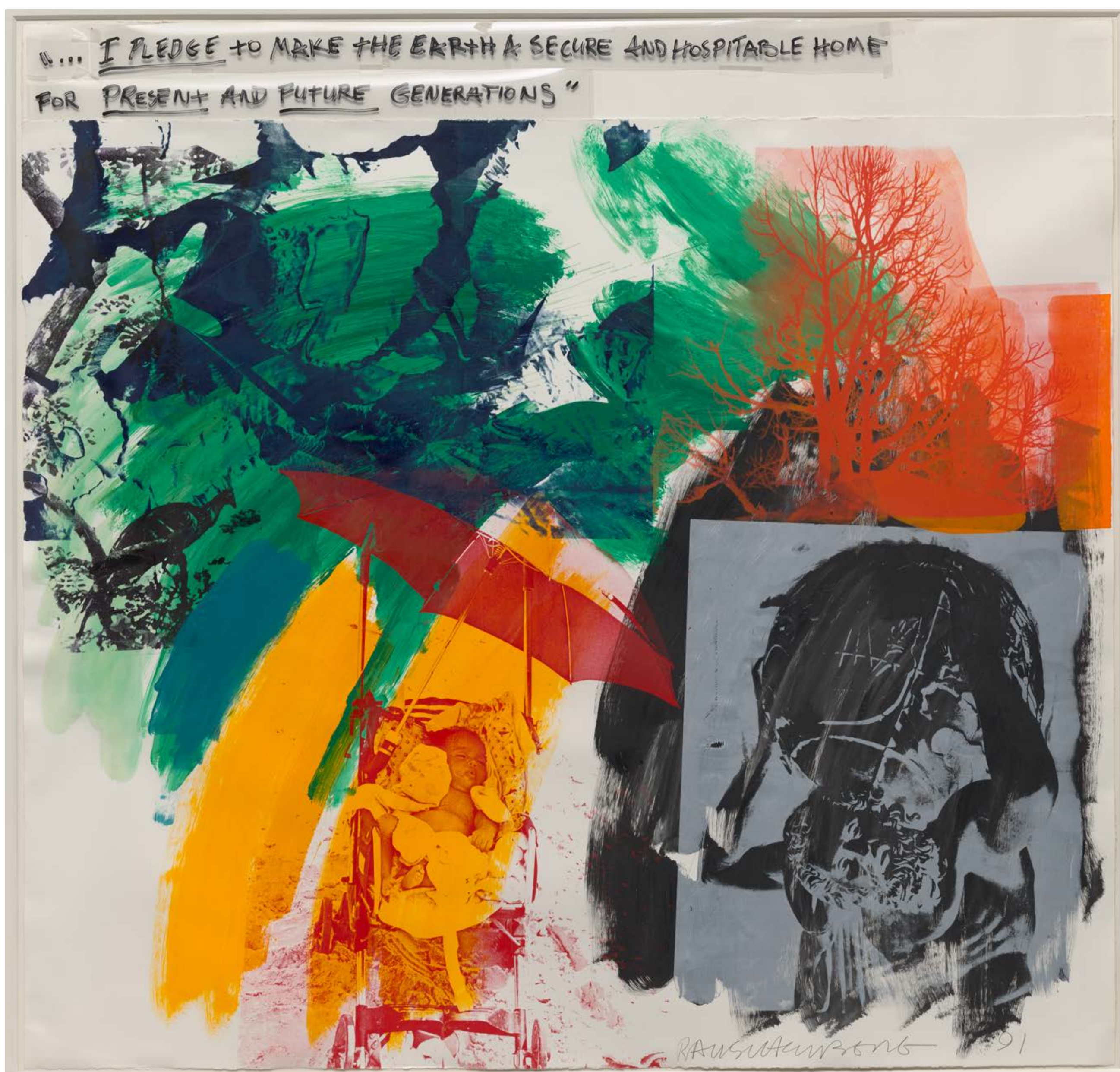




Rauschenberg working on *Wall Rites (Salvage)* in his Laika Lane studio, Captiva, Florida, 1984  
 Photograph Collection. Robert Rauschenberg Foundation Archives, New York

# ROBERT RAUSCHENBERG



Robert Rauschenberg, *Last Turn-Your Turn*, 1991. Paint marker on acetate, silkscreen ink, and acrylic on fabric-laminated paper, 57<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 59<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub> inches (146.7 x 152.1 cm)  
 Robert Rauschenberg Foundation, © Robert Rauschenberg Foundation  
 light projection

For the 1992 UN Earth Summit in Rio, Robert Rauschenberg created *Last Turn-Your Turn*, a powerful and urgent call to action against the looming threat of global warming.

The title of the artwork succinctly captures the essence of Rauschenberg's central idea. The situation is critical—perhaps our last chance—and it falls upon each of us to contribute to the solution. To emphasize our individual responsibility, Rauschenberg handwrote a pledge at the top of the work “...I pledge to make the earth a secure and hospitable home for present and future generations.”

Using a dynamic interplay of colors, Rauschenberg contrasts cool greens and blues with hot reds and yellows. He represents the tropical vegetation in soothing lush tones, while burning reds and oranges depict barren trees and a young child only partly protected from the scorching sun by an umbrella. The burdened figure of Atlas, symbolizes the weight of the world resting on each person's shoulders. These contrasting images poignantly, and prophetically, signify the necessity and challenges that lie ahead in addressing the environmental crisis.

Through a forceful visual vocabulary, the artist urges us to recognize climate change as a matter of social justice and the need for collective action.