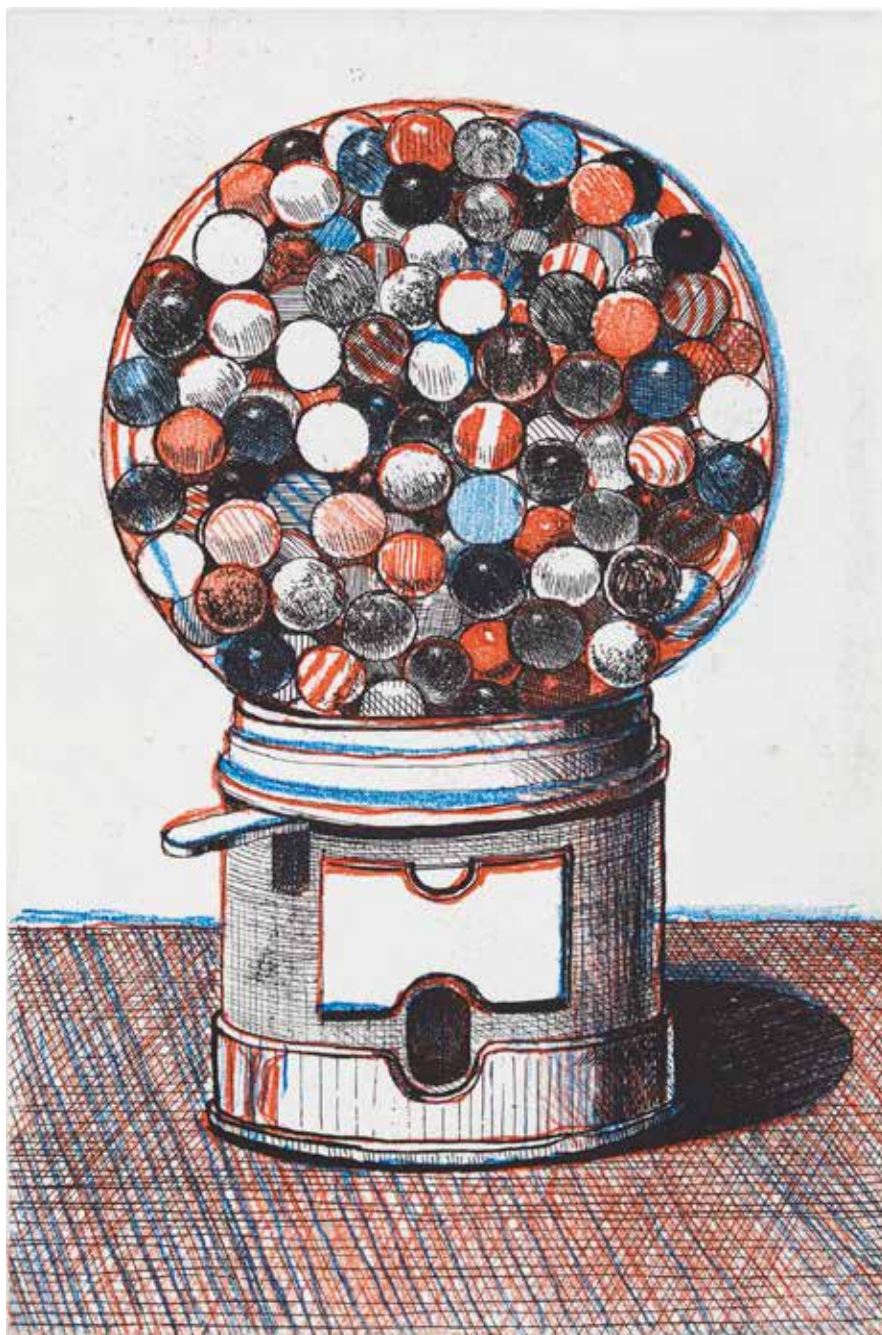


Overview

WAYNE THIEBAUD



Gumball Machine, 1964/2017. Color hard ground and soft ground etching. 12-x-8-inch image on a 18-x-13-inch sheet, edition 30. All images printed by Emily York. Visit crownpoint.com for prices and information.



Wayne Thiebaud in the basement studio of Kathan's Berkeley home, 1964.



Wayne Thiebaud in the Crown Point studio, 2017.

IN 1964 WAYNE THIEBAUD drew the key plate for the gumball machine you see on the front and back covers of this newsletter. Crown Point Press was two years old. I had set up a studio in the basement of my home in Berkeley, and Thiebaud, at my invitation, had come to see if the old-fashioned medium of etching would interest him. I think this plate must have been the first image he made, a traditional hard ground plate drawn into acid-resistant wax with an etching needle, then etched in an acid bath. After seeing a proof, he set the plate aside and began work on the seventeen smaller etchings that Crown Point published as *Delights* in 1965. In 2007, the larger plate was discovered in Thiebaud's home studio and published in a tiny edition of eight (titled *Gum Machine*) by his son, who owned the Paul Thiebaud Gallery in San Francisco.

In 2017, the unchanged 1964 plate is the foundation for *Gumball Machine* and *Dark Gumball Machine*. In the photo on

the right, above, Thiebaud is drawing with a pencil on paper covering a plate prepared with a soft wax ground. As he draws, he is removing the wax. After etching, the lines look like pencil lines, different from the crisp needle-drawn lines on the key plate. (That plate is on the table in the photo's right-hand corner.) In *Gumball Machine*, one soft ground plate is printed in orange and another in blue; they are combined with the early hard ground plate printed in black. All three plates are inked in black for *Dark Gumball Machine*.

Besides the new-old gumball machine etchings, I'm pleased to say, we have brand new prints of Thiebaud's to show you: a sweetly-drawn *Bow Tie Tree*, and a portfolio titled *Clown Memories*.

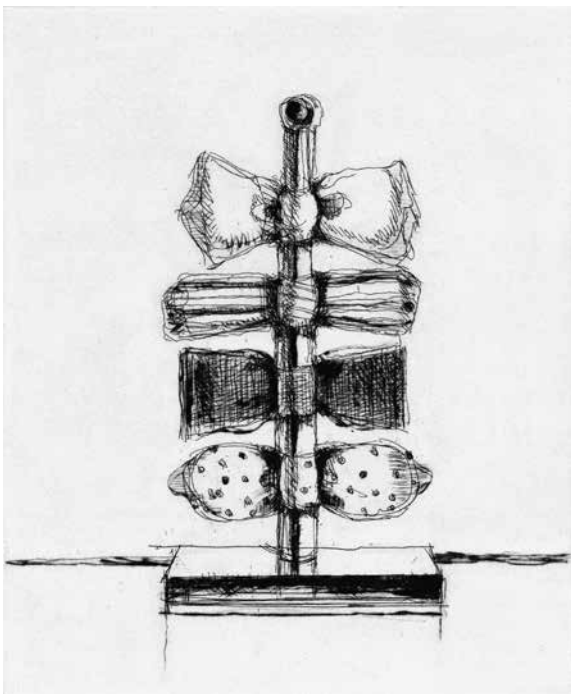
The *Bow Tie Tree* seems typically Thiebaud, but when I looked for the image in a couple of catalogs of his paintings, I did not see it. Bow ties must be in his paintings somewhere, I think; they are so precisely his (he even wears them). Here, we see bow ties drawn with etching's fine lines enhanced by drypoint in all its furry physicality.

Now, I will finish this short commentary with the clowns. Actually, they are not just clowns; they are *Clown Memories*. "When I was twelve or thirteen," Thiebaud told us as he worked on the plates in our studio, "the circus train would come to town and if we helped feed the animals and put up the tents we got free entrance." He sold newspapers. "They cost two cents." He saw Emmett Kelly, a famous clown who "came out in ragged clothes and tried to sweep up the spotlight and put it in a dustpan." Later, Thiebaud met another famous clown, Lou Jacobs, and "brought him home for lunch."

"I was a bit wary of the subject matter," Thiebaud said when a friend asked him about these prints. "But I've been painting clowns for the past two or three years—not sure that I've gotten anywhere. But I don't want the thrift store painters to have all the fun."

Wayne Thiebaud turned ninety-seven this year. He still plays tennis several times a week. When asked about that, he said, "Oh, I just stand on the court and hit the ball if it comes to me."

—Kathan Brown



Bow Tie Tree, 2017. Hard ground etching with drypoint. 8-x-6½-inch image on 14-x-11½-inch sheet, edition 25.

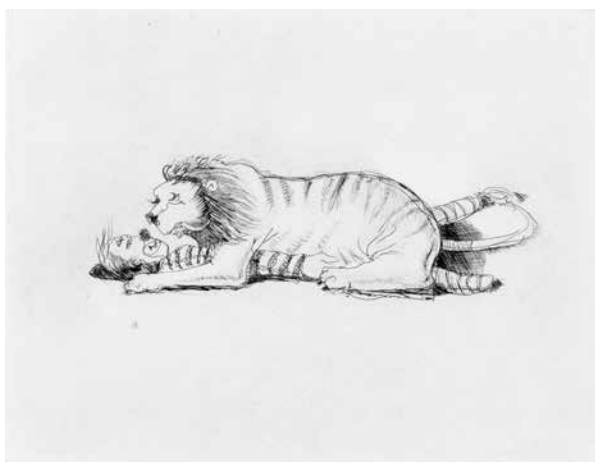
Clown Memories, 2017. A portfolio of six hard ground etchings with drypoint. Each image measures 8½-x-11- or 11-x-8½-inches on 13½-x-17-inch or 17-x-13½-inch sheet, edition 20.



Clown



Academic Clown



Clown and Beast



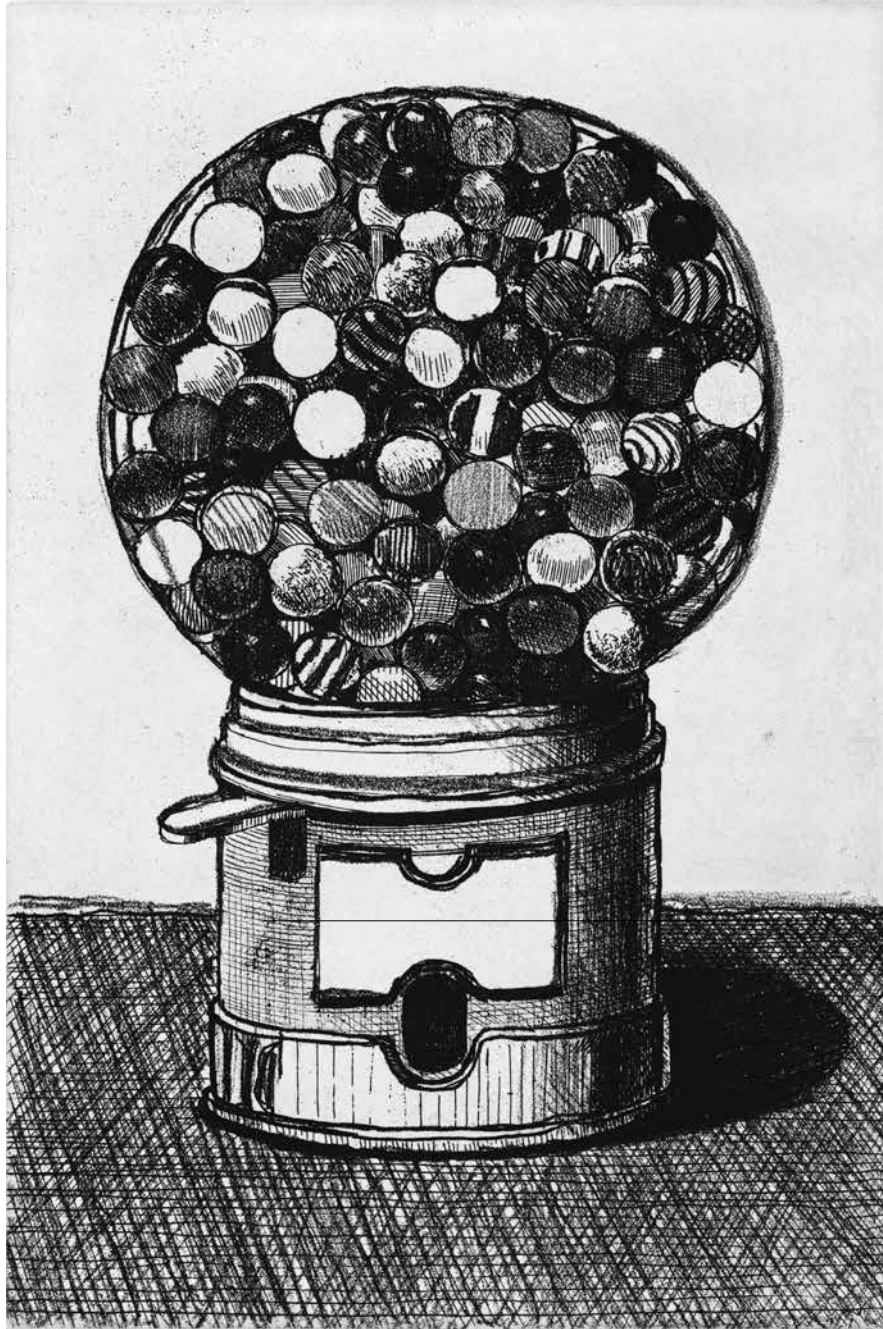
Bumping Clowns



Balancing Clown



Clown Duel



Dark Gumball Machine, 1964/2017. Hard ground and soft ground etching. 12-x-8-inch image on a 18-x-13-inch sheet, edition 30.

IN THE CROWN POINT GALLERY

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TOM MARIONI at 80
WAYNE THIEBAUD – Merriment

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