

Bruce Museum
1 Museum Drive, Greenwich CT 06830-7100
203.869.0376
BruceMuseum.org

the
Bruce

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

An intimate look at Andy Warhol's best-known subjects

'Andy Warhol: small is beautiful' opens at the Bruce Museum this April

GREENWICH, CT – A new exhibition of Andy Warhol's works coming to the Bruce Museum provides art enthusiasts the opportunity to see some of the 20th century's most celebrated and quintessentially American images at an intimate scale.

"Andy Warhol: small is beautiful," on view April 9-Oct. 13, will invite viewers to look closely at iconic works in a more personal size—some as diminutive as 5-by-5 inches. The comprehensive exhibition includes nearly 100 paintings and sheds light on the working process of one of the leading figures of the Pop art movement. The exhibition is sponsored by both Bank of America, Lead Sponsor of the new Bruce, and Lugano Diamonds.

"Even though he rose to prominence six decades ago, Warhol's influence is still very much felt today," said Margarita Karasoulas, curator of art at the Bruce. "His embrace of celebrity, consumer culture, everyday life and the commodification of art and fame was a precursor to the influencer era of today."

Warhol used seriality, repetition, color and scale to explore his era and its ideas. Those tools are evident in key works in the exhibition, including an early iteration of "Campbell's Soup Can" (1961). Featuring everyday objects with mass appeal, his iconic "Campbell's Soup Cans" series (1962) was an example of the artist's exploration of multiplicity and mechanical production techniques that included a complex, systematic painting process. Warhol later developed his now-signature silkscreen method. Appropriating from his own photographs as well as images circulating in mass media, he produced multiple versions of each picture, experimenting with different formats and colors of silkscreen ink and paint, an achievement he

referred to as the “assembly-line effect.” The exhibition offers visitors a detailed look at one of the most recognizable elements of his practice.

The show also includes celebrated self-portraits and portraits of artists, friends, celebrities and political figures including Joseph Beuys, Roy Lichtenstein and Mao Zedong. His curiosity about fame and beauty, both his own looks and the appearance of others, developed in part during his childhood in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Born in 1928 to immigrants from present-day Eastern Slovakia, Warhol (then Andrew Warhola) had Sydenham chorea. The disorder sometimes kept him home from school, where he would pass the time reading comics and Hollywood magazines. It was a formative experience for his growing aesthetic.

After attending the Carnegie Institute of Technology (now Carnegie Mellon University), Warhol dropped the “a” in Warhola and moved to New York City in 1949 to pursue a career in magazine and commercial illustration, which helped him discover art’s retail potential. Later, his work would blur the lines between art and commerce with images that were steeped in the era’s advertising, consumerism and mass media, challenging ideas of what constituted fine art and pop culture.

Warhol was interested in what was current, and mass consumerism is just one more theme. “Andy Warhol: small is beautiful” explores the artist’s relationship with Catholicism, nature, politics, identity and mortality and also reveals his engagement with abstraction and nonrepresentational subject matter. The exhibition includes the “Shadow Paintings,” “Oxidation Paintings” and “Positive/Negative” series, lesser-known works from the final two decades of Warhol’s career that demonstrate his inventive style and lifelong passion for experimentation.

“There is a trajectory beyond his most popular works. In the exhibition, you can see the richness of his curiosity and the depth of his energy for exploring new themes, even when they might be controversial or perhaps especially if they were controversial,” Karasoulas said. “He was of his time and ahead of his time, and we think audiences will really feel a connection to these works because they deal with so many of the topics we are still addressing today in pop culture and fine art.”

“Bank of America is committed to supporting local cultural institutions to help enrich our communities and build greater cultural understanding through the arts,” said Bill Tommins, president, Bank of America Southern Connecticut. “As part of our decades-long partnership with the Bruce Museum, we look forward to sharing *Andy Warhol: small is beautiful* with museumgoers.”

“Serving our communities and giving back have always been at the heart of Lugano Diamonds. As we establish our presence in Greenwich with our new salon, we are deeply committed to championing the arts and look forward to supporting the Bruce Museum with its world-class exhibitions that continue to inspire,” said Moti Ferder, Co-founder and CEO of Lugano Diamonds

“Andy Warhol: small is beautiful” is presented in partnership with the Hall Art Foundation and will be on view inside the Grossman Family Gallery and Barbara and Edward Netter Foundation Gallery at the Bruce Museum.

###

About the Bruce Museum

Located in Bruce Park overlooking Greenwich Harbor, the Bruce Museum is a community-based, world-class institution that offers a changing array of exceptional exhibitions and educational programs to promote the understanding and appreciation of art, science and the intersections between the two disciplines. Now considered ahead of its time for taking this multidisciplinary approach over a century ago, the Bruce Museum is at the heart of contemporary efforts to bring together art, science, technology and creativity to generate moments of discovery and dialogue.

The first exhibition at the Bruce Museum took place in 1912 and featured works by local artists known as the Greenwich Society of Artists, several of whom were members of the Cos Cob Art Colony. Their works formed the nucleus of the Museum's art holdings and continue to be a strength of the collection, which has expanded to focus on global art from 1850 to the present. Other strengths include Ancient Chinese sculpture, Native American Art, the Hudson River School, modernist works on paper and photography. Parallel development of the natural sciences includes strengths in the mineral and avian collections. In all, the community, through its generosity, has built the Museum's varied collections of art and natural science to over 30,000 objects. In 2019, the Museum, which is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, broke ground on a new building that doubled the size of the museum and tripled the exhibition spaces.

The new Bruce opened April 2, 2023, featuring state-of-the-art exhibition, education and community spaces, including a changing gallery for art and five new permanent galleries in the William L. Richter Art Wing; a changing gallery for science, the Robert R. Wiener Mineral Gallery, a permanent science exhibition, “Natural Cycles Shape Our Land;” three classrooms in the Cohen Education Wing; a café; an auditorium and grand hall. When the outdoor spaces are completed in 2024, the new Bruce campus will feature a sculpture-lined, landscaped walking path and inviting spaces for relaxation and contemplation—natural enhancements to Bruce Park and an anchoring connection to Greenwich Avenue.

About Bank of America

Bank of America is one of the world's leading financial institutions, serving individual consumers, small and middle-market businesses and large corporations with a full range of

banking, investing, asset management and other financial and risk management products and services. The company provides unmatched convenience in the United States, serving approximately 68 million consumer and small business clients with approximately 3,900 retail financial centers, approximately 15,000 ATMs and award-winning digital banking with approximately 56 million verified digital users. Bank of America is a global leader in wealth management, corporate and investment banking and trading across a broad range of asset classes, serving corporations, governments, institutions and individuals around the world. Bank of America offers industry-leading support to approximately 3 million small business households through a suite of innovative, easy-to-use online products and services. The company serves clients through operations across the United States, its territories and more than 35 countries. Bank of America Corporation stock (NYSE: BAC) is listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

About Lugano Diamonds

Founded by Moti and Idit Ferder in 2004, Lugano Diamonds is a private international diamond and jewelry company that creates exquisite, one-of-a-kind wearable works of art. With initial inspiration taken from the gem rather than the design, Lugano's expert artisans create each piece of jewelry with meticulous attention to detail and to the highest standard. With a passion for building relationships, community, and philanthropy, Lugano Diamonds believes in being good stewards for both their clients and their communities, a vision realized by supporting various philanthropic efforts, giving back, and making a strong social impact. Lugano Diamonds has salons located in Newport Beach, California; Aspen, Colorado; Palm Beach, Florida; Ocala, Florida; Houston, Texas; Washington, D.C.; and Greenwich, Connecticut. A London salon is set to open in 2024. <https://luganodiamonds.com>

For more information, visit brucemuseum.org.

Media Contact:

Betsy Meacham

Blue Water Communications

800-975-3212

betsy@bluewatercommunications.biz



Andy Warhol (American, 1928–1987)

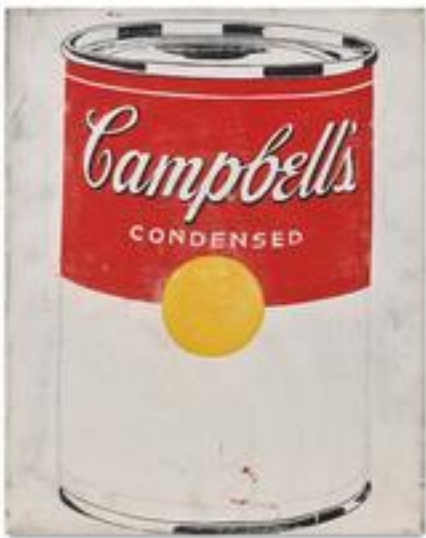
“Self-Portrait (Fright Wig),” 1986

Synthetic polymer paint and silkscreen ink on canvas, 10 x 10 in.

Hall Collection, courtesy Hall Art Foundation

© 2024 The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc. / Licensed by Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York

Courtesy Hall Art Foundation



Andy Warhol (American, 1928–1987)

“Campbell's Soup Can,” 1961

Casein and pencil on canvas, 20 x 16 in.

Hall Collection, courtesy Hall Art Foundation

© 2024 The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc. / Licensed by Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York

Courtesy Hall Art Foundation



Andy Warhol (American, 1928–1987)

“Twenty Fuchsia Maos,” 1979

Synthetic polymer and silkscreen inks on canvas, 39 ½ x 38 in.

Hall Collection, courtesy Hall Art Foundation

© 2024 The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc. / Licensed by Artists Rights

Society (ARS), New York

Courtesy Hall Art Foundation



Andy Warhol (American, 1928–1987)

“Flowers,” 1964

Acrylic and silkscreen ink on linen, 14 x 14 in.

Hall Collection, courtesy Hall Art Foundation

© 2024 The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc. / Licensed by Artists Rights

Society (ARS), New York

Courtesy Hall Art Foundation



Andy Warhol (American, 1928–1987)

“Art (negative),” 1985–86

Synthetic polymer paint and silkscreen ink on canvas, 16 x 20 in.

Hall Collection, courtesy Hall Art Foundation

© 2024 The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc. / Licensed by Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York

Courtesy Hall Art Foundation