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BMA PRESENTS ANDY WARHOL: THE LAST DECADE

Baltimore is the last stop on national tour for this acclaimed exhibition

BALTIMORE, MD (July 30, 2010)—The Baltimore Museum of Art presents the first U.S. museum exhibition to explore the late works of the iconic American artist Andy Warhol (1928-1987). On view October 17, 2010 through January 9, 2011, more than 50 works reveal the Pop artist's energetic return to painting and renewed spirit of experimentation during the last decade of his life. This period shows Warhol in the midst of his celebrity creating more paintings and on a vastly larger scale than at any other moment of his 40-year career. Exhibition highlights include psychologically revealing fright wig self-portraits, three variations on Leonardo da Vinci's *The Last Supper*, and collaborations with younger artists such as Jean-Michel Basquiat. Several of these works—assembled from national and international public and private collections, as well as the BMA's exceptional collection of late works by Warhol—were not exhibited until after the artist's death.



Andy Warhol. *Self-Portrait*. 1986. Mugrabi Collection. ©2010 The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc./Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York

More than a decade after declaring "Painting is old-fashioned," Warhol returned to the medium in the late 1970s as an internationally renowned artist famous for his experimental films as well as his silkscreened Pop art images of soup cans and celebrities. His artistic development during this time is characterized by a dramatic transformation of his style and the introduction of new techniques. He both incorporates and pushes beyond his screen-printed Pop images, and reengages in the physical act of art making. Warhol was also engaged in a dialogue between abstraction and representation beginning with the *Oxidation* series (1977-78) and silkscreened *Shadows* (1978-79). In the 1980s he collaborated with Basquiat and Francesco Clemente, mixing graffiti and street imagery with his own Pop vocabulary. A new studio building, purchased in 1984, enabled him to pursue monumental proportions, creating works like *The Last Supper* that stretch from 25 to 35 feet in width, immersing viewers in dramatic fields of color.

Among the many works Warhol created in series are the *Yarn* paintings (1983) that evoke Jackson Pollock's "drip" works, enormous *Rorschach* paintings (1984), a group of Pop-influenced *Black & White Ads* (1985-86), and several variations of *Camouflage* patterns (1986). He revisits his own image throughout the decade with *Self-Portraits* ranging from the youthful outlined figure repeated on wallpaper (1978) to the severely aged fright-wig representations (1986). As Warhol probed the place of painting in a culture awash with photographic and commercial imagery, his work continued to ask viewers to contemplate celebrity (including his own), glamour, and death in the contemporary era.

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The Last Decade Lounge

The exhibition concludes with an interactive lounge that offers a look at Warhol's relationship to pop culture and politics during the late 70s and early 80s. A timeline explores the international and personal events that shaped Warhol's life and art. Visitors can relax on retro furniture, watch an episode of a TV program produced by Warhol, and flip through copies of *Interview* magazine, co-founded by the artist. Visitors can also spot celebrities in a giant photomontage of Warhol's friends, and slip on a pair of headphones to hear music that defined a generation.

Audio Tour

Walk through the exhibition with a complimentary audio tour narrated by rock musician Lou Reed. BMA Curator of Contemporary Art Kristen Hileman and others will provide insightful commentary on Warhol and his provocative and highly personal late work against a background of music from the late 70s and 80s. Downloads of the audio tour will be available at artbma.org/warhol in October.

Organization: *Andy Warhol: The Last Decade* is organized by the Milwaukee Art Museum. The exhibition was curated by Joseph D. Ketner II, Henry and Lois Foster Chair of Contemporary Art, Emerson College, Boston. It is organized in Baltimore by Curator of Contemporary Art Kristen Hileman.

Sponsor: Generously sponsored by The Rouse Company Foundation and The Alvin and Fanny Blaustein Thalheimer Exhibition Endowment Fund. Additional support provided by Jeffrey and Harriet Legum. The exhibition is supported by an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities. Media sponsor is *City Paper*.

Tour: Milwaukee Art Museum (September 26, 2009–January 3, 2010), Museum of Modern Art, Fort Worth (February 14–May 16, 2010), Brooklyn Museum (June 18–September 12, 2010).

Publication: Published by the Milwaukee Art Museum, *Andy Warhol: The Last Decade* by Joseph D. Ketner II is the first to focus on the artist's prolific final years, featuring more than 155 full-color illustrations that delve into the range of works Warhol created, including abstract paintings, collaborations, and his final self-portraits. It also includes two out-of-print essays by Keith Haring and Julian Schnabel and a contribution by Bruno Bischofberger. 224 pages. Hardcover (\$60) and softcover editions (\$45) are available at The BMA Shop.

Ticket Information

Andy Warhol: The Last Decade is a special ticketed event with a complimentary audio tour. Tickets go on sale September 15, 2010. General admission to the BMA and the collection is free.

Adults	\$15	Ages 6 to 18	\$5
Seniors (65+)	\$12	Ages 5 & under	FREE
Students (with ID)	\$5	BMA Members	FREE

Purchase tickets: In person at the BMA Box Office in the Visitor Lobby (No service charges apply). Online at artbma.org. By phone through Tickets.com at 1-800-919-6272. (*Service charges apply to online and phone orders*).

ANDY WARHOL AT THE BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF ART

The BMA has the world's second largest collection of late works by Andy Warhol (after the Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh) with 74 prints, paintings, drawings, and books that reflect the imagery adopted by the artist in the last decade of his life—*The Last Supper*, *Skulls*, *Hearts*, *Rorschachs*, *Oxidations*, *Shadows*, and *Camouflage*. The core of the collection came from a major acquisition of 15 paintings and 3 drawings from The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts in 1994, which coincided with the opening of the BMA's West Wing for Contemporary Art. These extraordinary works, dating from 1975-86, are huge in scale and content and helped establish the BMA as a leading destination for late 20th-century art. In addition to the 14 Warhol paintings from the BMA's collection featured in the special exhibition, the Museum will have more than a dozen other by Warhol on view concurrently in the West Wing. Previous exhibitions of works by Warhol at the BMA include *Andy Warhol: Paintings 1962-1975* (1975), which was attended by the artist, and *Nadar/Warhol: Paris/New York* (2000).

THE BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF ART

The Baltimore Museum of Art is home to an internationally renowned collection of 19th-century, modern, and contemporary art. Founded in 1914, the BMA's outstanding collection encompasses 90,000 works of art, including the largest and most significant holding of works by Henri Matisse in the world, as well as masterpieces by Pablo Picasso, Paul Cézanne, and Vincent van Gogh. An expanding collection of contemporary art features iconic post-1960 works by Andy Warhol and Sol LeWitt, as well as exciting acquisitions by artists such as Kara Walker and Olafur Eliasson. The BMA is also recognized for an internationally acclaimed collection of prints, drawings, and photographs from the 15th-century to the present; grand European painting and sculpture from Old Masters to the 19th-century; distinguished American painting, sculpture, and decorative arts and Maryland period rooms; one of the most important African collections in the country, and notable examples of Asian, ancient American, and Pacific Islands art.

VISITOR INFORMATION

Andy Warhol: The Last Decade is a special ticketed event; general admission to the BMA is free. The BMA is open Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m.–6 p.m. (except major holidays). The Museum is closed Monday, Tuesday, New Year's Day, July 4, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. **The Museum will also close at 3 pm on Christmas Eve in 2010.** The BMA is located on Art Museum Drive at North Charles and 31st Streets, three miles north of Baltimore's Inner Harbor. For general Museum information, call 443-573-1700 or visit artbma.org.

VISIT BALTIMORE

For more Baltimore experiences, visit web sites for the Baltimore Area Convention and Visitors Association (www.baltimore.org), Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts (www.baltimoreevents.org), and Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance (www.baltimoreculture.org).