

# AGSA

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
Thursday 2 March 2023



## ***Andy Warhol and Photography: A Social Media*** **opens exclusively at AGSA**

*'My idea of a good picture is one of ... a famous person doing something unfamous.  
It's about being in the right place at the wrong time.'* – Andy Warhol

**Adelaide, Australia:** The first exhibition in Australia to explore Andy Warhol's career-long obsession with photography opens at the Art Gallery of South Australia on 3 March 2023, as part of the 2023 Adelaide Festival. Exclusive to Adelaide, *Andy Warhol and Photography: A Social Media* will reveal an unseen side of the celebrated Pop artist through more than 250 works, spanning photographs, experimental films, screenprints and paintings, many on display in Australia for the first time.

Warhol's close friend and collaborator, Christopher Makos, will travel from New York City to join *Andy Warhol and Photography* curator Julie Robinson in conversation as part of the exhibition's opening weekend program. Speaking about his decade-long friendship with Warhol and his own career as a photographer, Makos will reminisce about his time as part of Warhol's inner circle, socialising with celebrities at Studio 54 and Warhol's studio, always with a camera by his side.

Decades before social media, Warhol's photography was candid, collaborative and social, attuned to the power of the image to shape his public persona and self-identity. *Andy Warhol and Photography* offers a fresh perspective on the influential artist, as well as behind-the-scenes glimpses into his own life and the lives of friends and celebrities, including Muhammad Ali, Bob Dylan, Debbie Harry, Mick Jagger, John Lennon, Liza Minnelli, Lou Reed and Elizabeth Taylor.

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Headlining the 2023 Adelaide Festival's visual arts program, *Andy Warhol and Photography: A Social Media* is curated by AGSA's Senior Curator of Prints, Drawings & Photographs, bringing together works from national and international collections, as well as AGSA's own extensive collection of 45 Warhol photographs which will be shown together for the first time.

AGSA Director, Rhana Devenport ONZM says, 'Some 35 years after his death, this exhibition attests to Andy Warhol's enduring relevance as an artist and cultural figure in an era defined by social media. With cross-generational appeal, this is an exhibition of our times which begs the question, was Warhol the original influencer?'

Revealing Warhol from both in front of and behind the camera, the exhibition will also feature works by his photographic collaborators and creative contemporaries such as Brigid Berlin, Nat Finkelstein, Christopher Makos, Gerard Malanga, Robert Mapplethorpe, Duane Michals and Billy Name. *Andy Warhol and Photography* will also include iconic Warhol paintings never-before-seen in Adelaide, including his famed Pop Art portraits of Marilyn Monroe and Elvis Presley from the 1960s, demonstrating how Warhol translated many of his photographs into paintings and screenprints.

Exhibition curator, Julie Robinson says, 'Photography underpinned Warhol's whole artistic practice – both as an essential part of his working method and as an end in its own right. He took some 60,000 photographs in his lifetime. His candid images, which capture his own life as well as the lives of his celebrity friends, offer audiences a revealing insight into Warhol the person, taking viewers beneath the veneer of his Pop paintings and persona.'

Adelaide Festival Artistic Director, Ruth Mackenzie CBE, said, 'It is thrilling to be working with AGSA to explore Andy Warhol's ground-breaking work which speaks so immediately to everybody. Today more than ever, with the popularity of social media, Warhol's idea of 15 minutes of fame is incredibly relatable and this exhibition will be a must-see during the festival season next year.'

The exhibition opens at AGSA as part of the 2023 Adelaide Festival on 3 March 2023 and runs until 14 May 2023. Tickets are on sale at [agsa.sa.gov.au](http://agsa.sa.gov.au).

## **PUBLIC PROGRAMS**

### **Exhibition Tours**

Daily 11am & 2pm, exhibition ticket required

Take a tour of *Andy Warhol and Photography: A Social Media* with a Gallery Guide.

### **The Studio: Silver Cloud**

Open weekends and school holidays, free

The Silver Factory was Andy Warhol's studio in New York City from 1964 to 1968. It was given this name as the entire studio was wrapped in silver foil that covered the walls and ceilings. Warhol proclaimed that 'silver was the future' and The Factory became a launching pad for future art. It was also described as a silver spaceship that could explore new artistic galaxies. Warhol's superstars were New York personalities who appeared in his photographs and films. Sometimes they were everyday people and Warhol is described as having 'waved his artistic wand' to declare them superstars. Who are your everyday superstars? Create a silver print portrait of your superstar in the Silver Cloud Studio. Share your portrait by adding it to our silver walls or share online #agsa.

### **First Fridays: 15 Minutes of Fame**

Fri 3 March, 5–9pm, free

*In the future, everyone will be famous for 15 minutes.* Andy Warhol

Walk the red carpet and experience your 15 minutes of fame. Dress as your favourite 1970s New York

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celebrity this First Friday and have a polaroid photo taken by photographer Tony Kearney. Prizes will be awarded for the best dressed! Enjoy the democracy of the dance floor with music by *Local Revolution*, hear from American photographer Christopher Makos, Warhol's friend and photographic collaborator – in conversation with exhibition curator Julie Robinson (ticketed event) or take a tour of *Andy Warhol and Photography: A Social Media*.

## **An Evening with Christopher Makos, Andy Warhol's friend and collaborator**

Fri 3 March, 6pm, ticketed, bookings essential

Join us for an in-depth conversation with New York-based photographer Christopher Makos, Warhol's friend and collaborator. Makos will be in conversation with Julie Robinson, curator of *Andy Warhol and Photography: A Social Media*. Complimentary glass of bubbles on arrival.

## **Start at the Gallery: All Tomorrow's Parties**

Sun 5 March, 11am–3pm, free

Start 'Superstars', find your kind and clique in an artistic epicentre at the gallery. With creative collaborators experience a production line of artistic invention and creation in nonstop activities inspired by Andy Warhol's 'Silver Factory'. For children aged 3–12 years and accompanying adults. \*Start Art Club Members receive complimentary exhibition entry to *Andy Warhol and Photography: A Social Media*.

## **Andy Warhol and Photography: A Social Media - Educator Briefing**

Wed 8 March, 5–7pm, ticketed, bookings essential

Join Julie Robinson, Senior Curator of Prints, Drawings and Photographs to hear about *Andy Warhol and Photography: A Social Media*.

## **Neo Teen Takeover: Supersaturate**

Sat 1 April, 6–8.30pm, free, bookings essential

Teens, it's time to Takeover! Get ready for a mashup between SA Youth Week and *Andy Warhol and Photography: A Social Media* in this after-hours event just for teens. Dress to the theme 'SUPERSATURATE', join a multimedia production-line inspired by Warhol's studio, The Factory, with South Australian artist Rosina Possingham, snap a photo strip to take home and explore the latest projects from the state's top youth and arts led organisations in this whole gallery event for teens aged 13–17.

## **Start at the Gallery: In Focus**

Sun 2 April, 11am–3pm, free

Focus on photography used in portraits and capture the inside view of your social world in staged snapshots on a silver screen this Start. For children aged 3–12 years and accompanying adults. \*Start Art Club Members receive complimentary exhibition entry to *Andy Warhol and Photography: A Social Media*.

## **First Fridays: Saints & Sinners**

Fri 7 April, 5–9pm, free

*Warhol both flaunted and obscured his religion and his sexuality.* Carmen Hermo

Join us this First Friday to learn more about Andy Warhol. A maker of icons, Warhol also made images of death and darkness. His art making touches on his deep and complex relationship with his faith, a lesser-known aspect of his life. Take a tour of the exhibition *Andy Warhol and Photography: A Social Media*, enjoy the musical storytelling of *the St Morris Sinners* and witness black and white photographs emerge from a mobile darkroom with artist Andrew Dearman.

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## **First Fridays: Into the Alt-Limelight**

Fri 5 May, 5–9pm, free

*A dictatorship at the door and a democracy on the dance floor.* Andy Warhol

Take a journey into the nightlife of New York City inspired by Warhol and his contemporaries. Celebrate diversity, outrageousness, experimentation and DIY fashion with a runway featuring *The Finest Filth Variety Hour*, influenced by the Club Kid movement of the 1980s and 1990s. Explore the collection through a queer lens on a Vanguard tour or discover works by Warhol's contemporaries with a Gallery Guide. Inspired by Warhol's series *Ladies and Gentlemen*, create your own screen-print with artist and educator Simone Tippett. Hear from Henry Gillespie, Warhol's friend and one of only two Australians to be invited to sit for a Warhol portrait. Gillespie will be in conversation with AGSA curators (ticketed).

## **An Evening with Henry Gillespie, Warhol's friend and portrait subject**

Fri 5 May, 6pm, ticketed, bookings essential

Meet Warhol's famous Australian sitter – Henry Gillespie. Be regaled with tales from New York City and hear about Warhol's magazine *Interview* and Gillespie's role as Australian editor. Gillespie will be in conversation with Julie Robinson, curator of *Andy Warhol and Photography: A Social Media*. Complimentary glass of bubbles on arrival.

## **Andy Warhol and the queer gaze**

Fri 5 May, 7.30pm, free

Join Maria Zagala, Associate Curator of Prints, Drawings and Photographs in conversation with writers Patrick Flanery and Andrew van der Vlies on Warhol's queer aesthetics. This talk will be held in the exhibition and requires an exhibition ticket to attend. No bookings required.

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## **MEDIA CONTACTS**

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## **KEY DATES**

Media Preview | Thursday 2 March 2023, 11am  
Exhibition Season | 3 March – 14 May 2023

## **IMAGES**

[agsa.sa.gov.au/media/andywarhol](https://agsa.sa.gov.au/media/andywarhol)

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

@agsa.adelaide @adelaidfestival

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Image caption: Andy Warhol, born Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, United States 1928, died New York, United States 1987, *Liza Minnelli*, 1978, New York, Polaroid™ Polacolor Type 108, 9.5 x 7.3 cm (image), 10.8 x 8.5 cm (sheet); V.B.F. Young Bequest Fund 2012, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, © Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc. ARS/Copyright Agency.