

BLANTON MUSEUM OF ART

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BLANTON MUSEUM OF ART PRESENTS FIRST EXHIBITION IN U.S. TO EXAMINE
ANDY WARHOL'S EXTENSIVE WORK IN BOOKS



BY THE BOOK

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AUSTIN, Texas—July 19, 2016—The Blanton Museum of Art at The University of Texas at Austin presents *Warhol By the Book*, the first museum exhibition in the United States to examine **Andy Warhol's** career-long work in books—an overlooked and important aspect of the artist's life and career. The exhibition presents nearly all of Warhol's book projects from his early days as a student in Pittsburgh and commercial illustrator in New York to his years as a Pop art pioneer and superstar celebrity. Organized by The Andy Warhol Museum, *Warhol By the Book* at the Blanton will include more than 250 objects that span five decades, including original artist books, book jacket covers and ephemera, illustrations, screen prints, paintings, photographs, films, and several books authored and owned by Warhol. Featuring recent discoveries and many works on view to the public for the first time, the Blanton's presentation of *Warhol By the Book* will feature holdings from the museum's permanent collection, as well as additional late-career portraits from The Andy Warhol Museum collection.

"We are thrilled to partner with The Warhol to offer visitors a deeper look into the practice of world-renowned artist Andy Warhol," remarked Blanton Director Simone Wicha. "In addition to exploring a fascinating and unique facet of Warhol's career, *Warhol By the Book* makes a compelling case for the ways in which the artist's early work with commercial design, printing, and books had a profound influence on the silk-screening practice for which he is widely known. This engrossing exhibition will situate Warhol within the broader timeline of his artistic development and reveal a new chapter of his story."

In his life with books, Warhol (1928–1987) was an illustrator, designer, author, editor and publisher, and an admirer. His career-long commitment to making and appreciating books was matched by his interest in questioning and experimenting with the way in which a book is presented to its readers. From his collaborative artist books of the 1950s, which featured his mother’s calligraphic writing as well as drawings and poems from male love interests, to his celebrity-centric photo books and *Diaries* of the 1980s, Warhol chose “new ways to say old things and old ways to say new things,” as he said. Warhol embraced poetry, romantic fiction, cookbooks, instructional how-to pamphlets and sales catalogues, hand-detailed artist books, and authored best-selling mass-market memoirs. Children’s books were one of his lifelong interests, with examples spanning five decades, including books he wrote and illustrated, and others that served as source material for artworks.

Warhol’s early career in commercial design, reproduction, artist books, and storytelling profoundly inspired his art-making practice. Printing methods he used in his commercial designs led to his famous silk-screening technique, and resulting prints and paintings maintained the hand-detailed quality of his early artist books. Warhol was an experimenter and observer for whom authors served as celebrities. His lifelong relationship with books and the publishing world is presented for the first time in this career-spanning survey.

Highlights of *Warhol By the Book* include:

- Hand-detailed, illustrated pages and original artist books, including *A Gold Book* (1957) and *Andy Warhol’s Index* (1967), a revolutionary pop-up book and the first of several Warhol projects that challenged the traditional definition of a book.
- Warhol’s trademark celebrity portraits, including paintings of published authors like Truman Capote, Gertrude Stein, Tennessee Williams, and Dolly Parton.
- A unique, 30-foot maquette for an unpublished accordion-style book by Warhol made from cut-outs of his famous Marilyn Monroe screen prints.
- *Flash—November 22, 1963* (1968), a portfolio of 22 screen prints based on the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, originally produced like a large-format book.
- An extensive collection of Warhol’s screen tests of writers and poets, including short films featuring John Ashbery, Salvador Dalí, Allen Ginsberg, Jonas Mekas, members of The Velvet Underground, Nico, and Lou Reed, among many others.
- Unique ephemera from Warhol’s life and studio, including books the artist owned, cherished, and scribbled on, sketchbooks, mock-ups for books that include handwritten notes, and objects related to the publication of his many books.

This exhibition has been organized by The Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh, one of the four Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh.

Generous support for this exhibition at the Blanton is provided by the Scurlock Foundation Exhibition Endowment.

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About the Blanton Museum of Art

Founded in 1963, the Blanton Museum of Art is one of the foremost university art museums in the country and holds the largest public collection in Central Texas. Recognized for its modern and contemporary American and Latin American art, Italian Renaissance and Baroque paintings, and encyclopedic collection of prints and drawings, the Blanton offers thought-provoking, visually arresting, and personally moving encounters with art.

The museum is located at the intersection of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Congress Avenue and is open Tuesday through Friday from 10–5, Saturday from 11–5, and Sunday from 1–5. Thursdays are free admission days and every third Thursday the museum is open until 9. Admission Prices: Adults \$9, Kids 12 and under FREE, Seniors (65+) \$7, Youth/College Students (13–21) \$5. Admission is free to members, all current UT ID-holders. For additional information call (512) 471-7324 or visit www.blantonmuseum.org.