

GAGOSIAN GALLERY

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Gagosian Pairs Richard Avedon and Andy Warhol for Celebrity-Studded Exhibition

Sarah Cascone



Richard Avedon, Audrey Hepburn (1967).

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Gagosian London is pairing the work of two 20th century artistic icons, Richard Avedon and Andy Warhol, in the first major exhibition to focus on the artists together.

Though the artists worked in different mediums (Avedon in photography, Warhol primarily in screenprinting), both relied heavily on repetition and serialization in their portraiture.

Similar themes in the artists' work will emerge through the exhibition, which spans the 1950s to the 1990s. Avedon's *The Family* (1976), comprising 69 portraits of important American political figures, for instance, will be shown with Warhol's iconic 1972 silkscreen *Mao*, a portrait of People's Republic of China chairman Mao Zedong.

Both artists were heavily influenced by celebrity, as illustrated by Avedon's prints *Brigitte Bardot* (1959) and *Audrey Hepburn* (1967) and Warhol's *Double Elvis* (1963) and *Four Marylins* (*Reversal Series*), 1986. Their shared subjects included Marella Agnelli, Bianca Jagger, Jacqueline Kennedy, Monroe, and Rudolf Nureyev.

The exhibition will also focus on the artists' embrace of individuals outside of the mainstream, pairing Avedon's monumental photographic triptych, *Andy Warhol and members of The Factory* (1969), with *Ladies and Gentlemen* (1975), Warhol's silkscreen portraits of drag queens.

Warhol was greatly inspired by drag queens, who he once described as "ambulatory archives of ideal moviestar womanhood." The recently deceased transgender actress Holly Woodlawn starred in the Pop artist's films *Trash* (1970) and *Women in Revolt* (1972). Avedon's portrait of Warhol and his entourage, including transgender actress Candy Darling, photographed nude in full frontal, offers a bold snapshot of a New York subculture that encapsulated the country's sexual and cultural revolution.

Also on view will be darker work from both artists, with Warhol's "Skull and Guns" paintings on view alongside photographs from Avedon's Brandenburg Gate portfolio, shot in Berlin in 1989 as the Berlin Wall fell.

"Avedon Warhol" will be on view at Gagosian Gallery, 6-24 Britannia Street, London, February 9–April 23, 2016.