

the warhol:

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Keith Haring
Untitled (Elephant), 1985
Acrylic on papier-mâché
© Estate of Keith Haring



Keith Haring
Untitled
Silkscreen
© Estate of Keith Haring

The Andy Warhol Museum

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THE ANDY WARHOL MUSEUM PRESENTS WORKS OF KEITH HARING AND ANDY WARHOL IN THE EXHIBITION *PERSONAL JESUS... THE RELIGIOUS WORKS OF KEITH HARING AND ANDY WARHOL*

(Pittsburgh, PA) May 22, 2007... *Personal Jesus...: The Religious Works of Keith Haring and Andy Warhol.*

Personal Jesus...: The Religious Works of Keith Haring and Andy Warhol, uncovers the spirituality of two American artists whose works often deviated from traditional religious art. The exhibition will be on view from June 1 through September 2, 2007 and will showcase a collection of Haring's works, including *Andy Mouse*, 10 versions of *Apocalypse*, *Prophets of Rage*, *The Blueprint drawings*, *Totem*, several untitled pieces, including the sculpture *Untitled (Elephant)* from the Warhol Museum collection. The majority of the Haring works are on loan from the Estate of Keith Haring. Although the collection reflects the central theme of religion, each work portrays the dangers and weaknesses of religion differently. Haring incorporates violence, sex and animals to reveal the power and influence of religion in people's lives.

"Post 1962, religious worship changed so that many young people viewed religion in a different light. They eschewed traditional religious figures and turned their back on churches that were purely seeking money. Jesus became more of a father figure rather than an untouchable deity. The 'second coming' in the 1980's saw a response to the psychedelic 70's in the form of evangelism combined with pop music, art and fashion." said Thomas Sokolowski, director of The Andy Warhol Museum.

Energetic and uninhibited, Haring was inspired by comic strips, graffiti and cartoons. His dedication to creating public art led him to the subways, where he would draw on empty, black advertising spaces with white chalk. Haring was recognized for his "tag image" of a crawling baby surrounded by halos. This "radiant baby" or "Christ child" became Haring's signature motif and symbolizes the celebration of life. Haring's work remains powerful in that it brings people together through a shared passion and faith.

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Personal Jesus... The Religious Works of Keith Haring and Andy Warhol

Haring hired many assistants to help him in the creation of murals, which frequently utilized the medium of magic marker on tarp. Consumed by semi-abstract torsos, “radiant babies,” and barking dogs, Haring’s murals brought a depth and flair to street art that gained public popularity.

Haring collaborated with various artists from various genre including Andy Warhol, Madonna, Grace Jones, Timothy Leary, and Jenny Holzer, and organized events at Club 57 and appeared in more than 40 magazine and newspaper articles in 1986 alone. Aside from his religious beliefs, Haring loved to party and was as into the club scene as he was art scene. Haring was diagnosed with AIDS in 1988 and utilized his artwork to address the AIDS crisis until his death in 1990.

“...when I paint, it is an experience that, at its best, is transcending reality. When it is working, you completely go into another place, you’re tapping into things that are totally universal, of the total consciousness, completely beyond your ego and your own self...” -Haring in an interview with *Rolling Stones*, 1989

Andy Warhol grew up as a Byzantine Catholic and attended mass almost every day of his life. Warhol volunteered at local soup kitchens and made donations to shelters on a regular basis. He and Haring recognized the weaknesses of traditional religion and observed the extent to which people use religion. They uncovered the possibility that one who does not conform may be more of a believer than one who conforms solely to follow tradition.

Warhol collaborated with Haring, Francesco Clemente and Jean-Michel Basquiat, and more, all of whom inspired him to return to painting prior to his death. One of Warhol’s last works was a reproduction of Leonardo da Vinci’s *The Last Supper*.

Part of the exhibition title, *Personal Jesus*, pays homage to a song originally performed by the British rock n’ roll Band, Depeche Mode. Depeche Mode explored religious themes and gained influence and popularity with *Personal Jesus*, which reveals the consequences of being blinded by love.

Personal Jesus... The Religious Works of Keith Haring and Andy Warhol

The exhibition's opening reception will take place at The Andy Warhol Museum on Thursday, May 31, from 8 to 11 p.m. Lou Reed will be on hand for a special book/CD signing during the opening celebration as part of the Museum's second special exhibition opening the same evening titled *Lou Reed: New York*. Special guest DJ, Dean Wareham, of the band Luna fame and Haring inspired art activities will also be part of the celebration. Tickets are \$15 – Cash bar with light bites.

This project was financed in part by a grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Community and Economic Development.

The Andy Warhol Museum receives state arts funding support through a grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency and The Heinz Endowments. Further support is provided by the Allegheny Regional Asset District.



Located in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the place of Andy Warhol's birth, The Warhol is one of the most comprehensive single-artist museums in the world. The Andy Warhol Museum is one of the four Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh. Additional information about The Warhol is available at www.warhol.org.

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Phone: 412.237.8300
Hours: Tues, Wed, Thurs, and Sun 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Fri, 10 a.m. – 10 p.m.
Sat, 10 a.m. – 9 p.m. (Through March 18, 2007)
Mon closed

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Admission: Members – free

Good Fridays 5-10 p.m., Half-price Museum admission

Adults - \$12, Sr. Citizens - \$9, Children/Students - \$8

The Warhol Store/The Warhol Café – free