

the warhol:

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Andy Warhol, *Flowers*, 1964 © AWF



Edouard Manet, *Flowers in a Crystal Vase*, c. 1882.
Courtesy National Gallery

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THE ANDY WARHOL MUSEUM ANNOUNCES 10TH ANNIVERSARY KICK OFF EXHIBITION, *FLOWERS OBSERVED, FLOWERS TRANSFORMED*

(Pittsburgh, PA) . . . March 15, 2004... As the start of the yearlong celebration of its 10th anniversary, The Andy Warhol Museum will present a new exhibition, *Flowers Observed, Flowers Transformed*, May 16 through September 5, 2004. The exhibition will use Andy Warhol's flower-themed artworks as the foundation for a broader art historical investigation of the subject of flowers. Work will include 17th century Northern European still-life paintings, photography, botanical prints and drawings, decorative arts, textiles and contemporary works commissioned especially for the exhibition. More than 30 paintings, drawings and prints from Warhol's oeuvre will be featured in the exhibition, along with works by Edouard Manet, Claude Monet, Pierre Bonnard, Edward Steichen, Imogen Cunningham, Takashi Murakami, Robert Mapplethorpe, Ross Bleckner, Alex Katz, Jim Hodges and other artists who have at one time or another found inspiration in the floral motif.

Organized by The Andy Warhol Museum and curated by John W. Smith, assistant director for collections and research, the exhibition will examine the beauty, symbolism, and scientific and social significance of flowers by looking at how Warhol and others artists have observed, transformed and interpreted them.

“The motif of flowers is one that attracted Andy Warhol for more than 30 years. In his commercial work from the 1950s he approached the subject much like the 17th Dutch still life painters did. In the 1960s however, he approached the subject more abstractly, transforming daisies and hibiscus flowers into Technicolor, Pop Art blooms.”

Spread out through the Museum's sixth, seventh and fourth floor galleries, the exhibition will be loosely organized under two sections: *Flowers Observed* and *Flowers Transformed*.

Flowers Observed

Flowers Observed will feature works that attempt to realistically depict the natural world for either scientific or artistic reasons. This section will include botanical prints and drawings from the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation at Carnegie Mellon University and still-life paintings from the 17th – 20th centuries from artists such as Ernst Stuken, Edouard Manet and Florine Stettheimer. Decorative vases, plates, porcelain tea cups and silver pieces from the Tiffany Archive and the Carnegie Museum of Art will be displayed alongside 18th century floral brocade fabrics and accessories. Japanese prints, screens and pottery will be

on view with Warhol's rarely seen 1974 series of prints depicting ikebana flower arrangements.

The notion of artists and scientists "looking closely" and examining flowers as natural specimen, will also be explored in the *Flowers Observed* portion of the exhibition. Adolphe Braun's mid-19th century sienna-tinted photographs of floral arrangements will be on view along with black and white photographs by Imogen Cunningham that examine the beauty of individual blossoms through extreme close-up views. Scientific flower specimens from the Carnegie Museum of Natural History will give visitors the opportunity to make their own close observations of the flower's delicate parts.

Flowers Transformed

The section *Flowers Transformed* will comprise of work that uses the motif of flowers as a point of departure to explore such wide-ranging themes as abstraction, pattern and decoration, sexuality, sensory perception, memory and loss. This section will include contemporary works by artists as diverse as Ross Bleckner, Alex Katz and Polly Apfelbaum. This portion of the exhibition will also include several examples of abstract decorative arts, such as wallpaper by Trenton Doyle Hancock and a floral curtain by contemporary artist Jim Hodges. An acclaimed video piece by Kutlug Ataman entitled, *The 4 Seasons of Veronica Read*, will illustrate the passionate interest one woman has for her large Amaryllis collection.

A variety of other related programs will be scheduled throughout the run of the exhibition, including talks, floral still life drawing workshops and demonstrations. The opening event for *Flowers Observed, Flowers Transformed* and 10th anniversary kick-off party will be held at The Warhol on Saturday, May 15. Details to come.

This exhibition has been supported in part by The Roy A. Hunt Foundation.

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 and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

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, Sat, and Sun 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Fri, 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Mon closed

Admission: Members - free

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

Adults - \$10, Sr. Citizens - \$7, Children/Students - \$6

The Warhol Store/The Warhol Café – free