

the warhol:

Contact(s)

Gina Frey

T 412.237.8339

E freyg@warhol.org

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THE WARHOL PRESENTS MORE THAN 2,000 LP RECORD COVERS IN SUMMER EXHIBITION *THE LP SHOW*

(Pittsburgh, PA), February 26, 2002. . . Before MP3s and CDs, vinyl record albums

were wrapped in paper and inserted into plain cardboard sleeves. It was not until 1939, when a young graphic designer at Columbia Records named Alex Steinweiss recognized the bare packaging as a potential canvas for creative advertising that the modern-day album cover was born. In celebration of the medium that brought art and music together, The Andy Warhol Museum announces that it will present the acclaimed exhibition *The LP Show*, June 23, 2002 through August 18, 2002.

Organized by New York's Exit Art gallery and curated by *Paper* magazine's Carlo McCormick, *The LP Show* will feature an eclectic assemblage of more than 2,000 LP album covers gathered from nearly 50 collections.

On display on the Museum's seventh floor, *The LP Show* will trace the history of album cover design from its beginnings in the 1940s to contemporary graphics that have endured the rise of the compact disc. During the last half of the 20th century, the album cover was one of the most widely distributed popular art mediums.

Chosen purely for their design and organized thematically rather than chronologically, the album covers in *The LP Show* will feature everything from Christian ventriloquists to clowns, couples, aliens and monochromes. Through this visual archive, the exhibition will examine the tremendous impact commercial artists had on post-war popular culture.

The Andy Warhol Museum

117 Sandusky Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15212-5890

T 412.237.8300

F 412.237.8340

W www.warhol.org

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“For me, this exhibition is a paen to a medium that embodies the joys, fears, aspirations and vices of several generations,” says Thomas Sokolowski, director of The Warhol. “The LP may be a lost art form, but its legacy lives on in the images and sounds that have defined our youth.”

The LP Show features surveys of the album cover work of artists such as J.G Thirwell (aka Foetus) and punk and underground graphic designers Art Chantry and Frank Kozik. For the exhibition, Alex Steinweiss, the man credited with “inventing” the graphic album cover with his design for the album *Smash Hit Songs* by Rodgers & Hart, has selected his favorite covers spanning from 1940 to 1961. Included in this section will be several drawings and thumbnail sketches for his realized covers as well as the eight step progression of artwork from concept to completion that was utilized by the design industry before the advent of computers.

Musicians, artists, DJs and many others have also contributed their album cover collections to *The LP Show*. An installation by artist Christian Marclay will feature over 80 copies of Herb Alpert’s Tijuana Brass’ *Whipped Cream & Other Delights*, a popular 1965 album cover featuring a sultry whipped-and-shaving cream-adorned woman. Sonic Youth guitarist Thurston Moore and composer John Zorn have also lent some of their favorite album covers to the exhibition.

The LP Show runs concurrently with another exhibition, *Off Guard: The Photographs of Ron Galella*, a new retrospective that examines the work of this infamous paparazzi photographer — on view June 23, 2002 through September 1, 2002.

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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

Good Fridays - Every Fri, 5 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Admission: Members - free, Adults - \$8,

Sr. Citizens -\$7, Children/Students - \$4,

The Warhol Store/The Warhol Café - free