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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE WARHOL TO PRESENT TWO CELEBRITY PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITIONS TO KICK OFF ITS SUMMER-LONG CELEBRATION OF ANDY WARHOL'S 75TH BIRTHDAY

(Pittsburgh, PA) . . . March 25, 2003... To celebrate Andy Warhol's 75th birthday, The Andy Warhol Museum announces that it will present two star-studded photography exhibitions featuring Elvis Presley, Marilyn Monroe, Bette Davis and many of Warhol's favorite celebrities and icons. The exhibitions, *Where is Elvis? The Man and His Reflection* and *Douglas Gordon: Blind Star* will be on view at The Warhol June 15 through August 31, 2003. Their opening will kick off a series of programs, events and exhibitions planned for a summer-long Warhol birthday celebration.

Where is Elvis? The Man and His Reflection

One of Andy Warhol's most famous works, and a standout piece in The Warhol's permanent collection is a 1963 silkscreen of a young, gun-slinging Elvis Presley, *Elvis (Eleven Times)*. The source photograph for the work, a 1960 publicity shot for the western film, *Flaming Star*, is one of more than 70 photographs of Elvis included in the exhibition *Where is Elvis? The Man and His Reflection*. One of the world's most photographed and photogenic individuals, Elvis seemed to live life in front of the camera - from public to the most private displays. From his hip-swinging appearance on the *Ed Sullivan Show*, to his induction in the U.S. Army, cameras documented the making of a cultural icon. *Where Is Elvis?* reveals some of the defining moments of Elvis's rise to stardom in the 1950s and 1960s as captured and interpreted by the photographers who were there to witness it all.

On view with Warhol's *Elvis (Eleven Times)* in the Museum's first floor gallery, the exhibition includes black and white photographs by artists Norman Bergsma, Roger Marshutz, Ernest Withers, Bill Avery, and Bill Ray, among others. An often-published photograph by Marshutz, taken at a 1956 concert in Tupelo, Mississippi, depicts Elvis straddling the microphone to reach out to the outstretched hands of his hungry audience. In a 1958 photograph, Bergsma captures Elvis, the good son, kissing his mother on the cheek. *Where is Elvis?* also includes many works by renowned photographer Alfred Wertheimer, who created a series of candid and intimate images of Elvis while working for RCA in 1956. Wertheimer was one of the last photographers to experience a kind of intimacy with his famous subject, snapping his portfolio just before Elvis established international recognition and his manager, Colonel Parker, began controlling every public image of his star.

Elvis-related material from The Warhol's archives will also be on view.

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The exhibition was originally organized by Karen Marks of the Howard Greenberg Gallery, New York City. The presentation at The Warhol is curated by John W. Smith, assistant director for collections and research.

Douglas Gordon: Blind Star

From the Scottish-born artist, Douglas Gordon, a never-before-seen series of approximately 100 collaged photographs of Hollywood glamour publicity stills featuring celebrities from the 1940s and 1950s, including Cary Grant, Kim Novak, Bette Davis and Marilyn Monroe. Concerned with media, communication technologies and representation, much of Gordon's previous work has explored themes such as trust, guilt, madness, confession, deception, and doubling through film, video, photography and the use of appropriated material. He is best known for his video installations that manipulate and re-present classic Hollywood films such as *Psycho* and *The Searchers*, but is equally active with photography and text works. Gordon has described his work as being, "about researching, about memory, about stories that happened, films I saw... I'm interested in finding out what happens when you look at something so long, it disappears. You look at a picture, you start looking through the picture and you get to the other side- and then you go back to the front view." Gordon is considered one of the most important artists of his generation and was awarded Tate Britain's Turner Prize in 1996 for his innovative use of film, video and text. The exhibition will be on view on The Warhol's fourth floor.

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. The 2003 exhibition program has been supported, in part, by The Juliet Lea Hillman Simonds Foundation, Inc.

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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**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., \$3 cover
Adults - \$8, Sr. Citizens - \$7, Children/Students - \$4
The Warhol Store/The Warhol Café – free**