

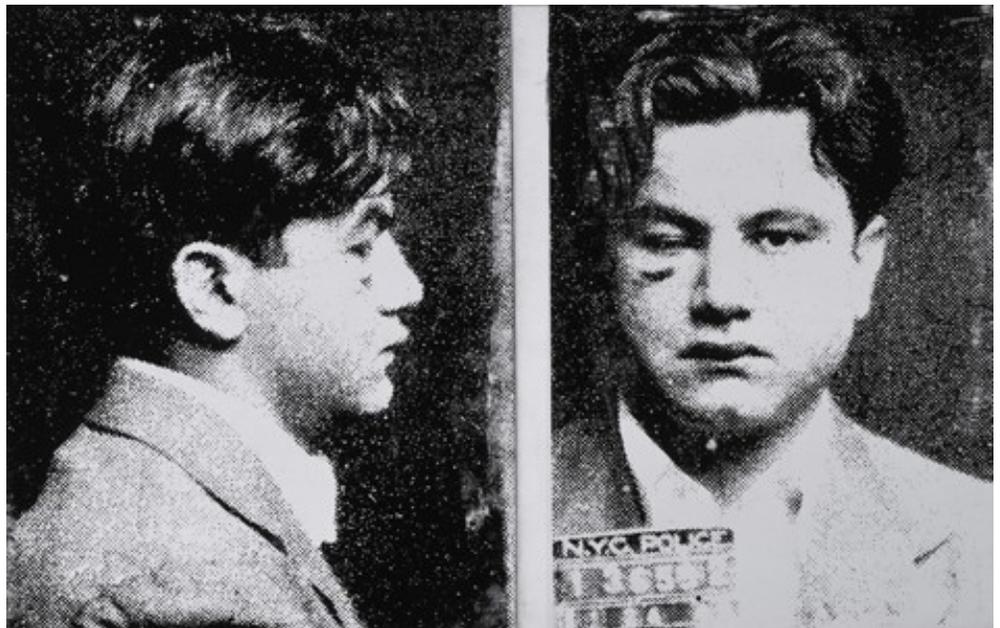
QUEENS MUSEUM

For Immediate Release

13 Most Wanted Men: Andy Warhol and the 1964 World's Fair
Queens Museum: April 27, 2014 – September 7, 2014
The Andy Warhol Museum: September 27, 2014 – January 4, 2015

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Andy Warhol (American, 1928-1987), *Most Wanted Men No. 2, John Victor G.*, 1964. Silkscreen ink on linen, 48 1/2 x 37 1/8 in. (123.2 x 94.3 cm.), 48 5/8 x 38 1/2 in. (123.5 x 97.8 cm.) The Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh; Founding Collection, Contribution Dia Center for the Arts © 2014 The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc. / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York

QUEENS, NY (April 10, 2014) – 50 years have passed since an up-and-coming Pop provocateur named Andy Warhol sparked a minor scandal at the 1964 New York World's Fair. As part of a prominent set of public commissions for the Philip Johnson-designed New York State Pavilion, Warhol chose to enlarge mug shots from a NYPD booklet featuring the 13 most wanted criminals of 1962. Forming a chessboard of front and profile views, *13 Most Wanted Men* was installed by April 15, 1964, and painted

over at Fair officials' direction with silver paint a few days later. When the Fair opened to the public, all that was visible was a 20 x 20' silver square.

Later in the summer of 1964, Warhol produced a set of *Most Wanted Men* paintings, adding first names and numbers from the NYPD booklet, with the screens he had used to make the mural. Nine of these are assembled in New York forming the core of the 175 or so objects in the exhibition.

The exhibition takes Warhol's *13 Most Wanted Men* as its single subject, addressing its creation and destruction and placing it in its artistic and social context by combining art, documentation, and archival material. Parallel to the striking, somber *Men* canvases, materials in the exhibition are organized in chronological order so the viewer can appreciate the intersection and overlap of underground and establishment; of art, protest, and gay life; the lives and careers of the major players; and painting, sculpture, and film in a key year for Warhol.

Artists' and photojournalists' documentation of the Fair and of Warhol's Factory are interwoven with never-before-displayed materials from The Andy Warhol Museum archives, unwinding the mystery behind who ordered the painting-over of the *Men* and the people and places that shaped the work and the incident.

Key objects in *Andy Warhol and the 1964 World's Fair* include:

- Nine of the *13 Most Wanted Men* paintings;
- Original documentation spanning the entire mural project from its inspiration—Warhol's copy of the NYPD booklet of 1962's *Most Wanted Men*—to its controversial culmination in the letter from Warhol to the State of New York allowing for the painting over of his mural;
- A work closely related to *Most Wanted Men*, the *Screen Test* conceptual series *Thirteen Most Beautiful Boys*, to be screened in its first-ever near-complete presentation; and
- A selection of Warhol's seminal 1964 works including his Heinz, Del Monte, Campbell's and Brillo box sculptures, portraits of Jackie Kennedy, and film projects including *Empire*.

"This exhibition explores a powerful and much-overlooked moment in 1964 that intertwined art, history, politics, cultural mores, sexuality, architecture, and freedom of expression," said Tom Finkelpearl, Executive Director of the Queens Museum. "Andy Warhol's return to Queens will allow for new audiences to engage in these same discussions in a new era and new setting, while bringing these iconic works of art to the public."

"We are thrilled to be collaborating with the Queens Museum on this historic exhibition, celebrating the 50th anniversary of Warhol's *Most Wanted Men* debut at the 1964 World's Fair," said Eric Shiner, Director, The Andy Warhol Museum. "I am deeply indebted to our colleagues at the Queens Museum, as well as my own team, for their groundbreaking research and new insights on the many social and political ramifications that the work engendered at this most exciting time in New York City's history."

Exhibition Publication

The exhibition is accompanied by *13 Most Wanted Men: Andy Warhol and the 1964 World's Fair – Conversations*, a full color publication that brings expert opinion and first-hand testimony to bear upon of the events surrounding the creation and destruction of Andy Warhol's *13 Most Wanted Men* at the 1964 World's Fair. A collection of thirteen interviews exploring the complex constellation of art, politics, and

class surrounding Warhol's mural and its removal, *Conversations* includes contributions by Hilary Ballon, Nicholas Chambers, Douglas Crimp, Diane di Prima, Richard Elman, Albert Fisher, Tom Finkelppearl, Brian Frye, John Giorno, Anthony Grudin, Larissa Harris, Felicia Kornbluh, Gerard Malanga, Jonas Mekas, Timothy Mennel, Richard Meyer, Billy Name, Brian Purnell, Anastasia Rygle, Eric Shiner, Richard Norton Smith, Lori Walters, and Mark Wigley. Edited by Larissa Harris and Media Farzin and published jointly by the Queens Museum and The Andy Warhol Museum.

Organization and Funding

13 Most Wanted Men: Andy Warhol and the 1964 World's Fair is presented in collaboration with The Andy Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh, PA., where the exhibition will be on view September 27, 2014 - January 4, 2015. It is curated by Larissa Harris, Curator, Queens Museum, and Nicholas Chambers, Milton Fine Curator of Art, The Andy Warhol Museum, with Anastasia Rygle, assistant curator for the project, and Timothy Mennel, curatorial advisor. The exhibition and publication are supported by The Henry Luce Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts and Delta Airlines. Additional support comes from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs and New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

Related Events

A series of film screenings and discussions featuring friends and contemporaries of Warhol discussing the controversy and the setting from within his circle as well as catalogue contributors focusing on the key subjects from the outside. Please visit queensmuseum.org for details.

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The Queens Museum is a local international art space in Flushing Meadows Corona Park with contemporary art, events and educational programs reflecting the diversity of Queens and New York City. The Museum presents the work of emerging and established artists, changing exhibitions that speak to contemporary urban issues, and projects that focus on the rich history of its site. In November 2013, the Museum opened its new space, a 105,000 square foot venue with a soaring sky lit atrium, suite of day lit galleries and improved flexible event space. Some highlights of the newly expanded Queens Museum include the re-opening of the Panorama of the City of New York, a 9,335 square foot scale model of the five boroughs, a reinstallation of the Neustadt Collection of Tiffany Glass, a new visible storage facility for the Museum's collection of artifacts from the 1939/40 and 1964/65 New York World's Fairs, and a new studio residency program with 9 artists studios. It also features a new exhibition in partnership with the NYC Department of Environmental Protection centered on the 1939 World's Fair WPA model of the watershed and contemporary conservation efforts and the second installment of the Shelley and Donald Rubin Exhibition Series, *Entre Fronteras/Between Borders: An Architectural Intervention*. The museum seeks to exact positive change in surrounding communities through engagement initiatives ranging from the multilingual outreach and educational opportunities for adult immigrants, to the residency program, Corona Studio, which embeds artists in the local community. The museum also conducts educational outreach tailored toward schoolchildren, teens, families, seniors as well as those individuals with physical and mental disabilities. The Queens Museum is located on property owned in full by the City of New York, and its operation is made possible in part by public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. The Museum's hours are: Wednesday – Sunday: 12 - 6 pm. Admission to the Museum is by suggested donation: \$8 for adults, \$4 for seniors, students and children, and free for members and children under 5. For general visitor information, please visit the Museum's website www.queensmuseum.org or call 718.592.9700.