

## JACK SHAINMAN GALLERY

### ANDY WARHOL PHOTOGRAPHY: 1967 - 1987

January 9 – February 15, 2020

Jack Shainman Gallery is pleased to present an insightful exhibition of Andy Warhol's photographs, which span two decades of the artist's creative process. This exhibition creates a unique opportunity for viewers to appreciate this lesser known element of Warhol's practice, the subjects and techniques of which shed new light on Warhol's process and personal life.

Warhol's photographic oeuvre remains one of the most central and enduring aspects of his creative process. Initially inspired by commercially available press photos of celebrities, such as iconic images of Marilyn Monroe, Elvis Presley, and Marlon Brando, as well as newspaper photographs of death and disasters, Warhol incorporated photographs as source material for the creation of his silk-screened paintings and prints. With the creation of a singular visual vocabulary, Warhol articulated his sensibilities while conveying his detached, observing eye through the use of a dispassionate machine: the camera. Photography spanned the entirety of Warhol's career as he fused numerous genres of photo-making.

By the mid-1960s, Warhol's eye turned to the moving image as he began making 16mm black and white short films, dubbed *Screen Tests*, which featured his "Superstar" Factory crew. Several *Screen Tests* are on view in this exhibition, including films that highlight Factory life, some very early notions of performance art, and the raw visual materials for Lou Reed's *The Velvet Underground* EP. These films catalyzed into Warhol's revolutionary conceptual feature-length films, including *Sleep*, *Empire*, and *Heat*.

Concurrent with his exploration of film, Warhol utilized photobooths in Times Square to create serial images of art dealers, collectors, and bright young creatives who frequented the Factory. These strips became source material for some of Warhol's most iconic early portraiture, including paintings of art dealer, Holly Solomon, collectors, Judith Green and Ethel Scull, and Warhol Superstars, such as Jane Holzer and Edie Sedgwick. Towards the end of the 1960s, Warhol began carrying with him a Polaroid camera used largely to document friends in his inner circle, including Mick Jagger, Diana Vreeland, Lee Radziwill, and Nan Kempner. Warhol referred to the Polaroid camera as "his date" – always with him, a tool for both engaging with his subjects, as well as a distancing mechanism.

In 1977, Warhol's Swiss dealer, Thomas Ammann, presented him with the gift of a 35mm Minox camera, which became the artist's primary photo-making instrument until the time of his death in 1987. The resulting unique silver gelatin prints, which were produced during the final decade of Warhol's life, illuminate most comprehensively the artist's personal and artistic sphere. Warhol's final and most obscure body of work, a series of "stitched photos," was created by sewing together these silver gelatin prints in serial panels of four, six, or nine identical images. Nearly five-hundred stitched photo works were created in all, most of which are now in the permanent collections of global institutions.

This exhibition brings together one of the largest selections of Warhol's stitched photos, created within the culminating moment of Warhol's photographic oeuvre and, indeed, his entire career. In January 1987, Robert Miller Gallery opened the sole photography show ever presented during the artist's life, as Warhol intended to make an incredible push for photography as a medium to be appreciated as a central part of his narrative and art-making processes. Six weeks later, Warhol died unexpectedly. Co-curated with Warhol specialist Jim Hedges, Jack Shainman Gallery is proud to cast Warhol's photography in a fresh new light.

Concurrently on view through March 2020 is ***Meleko Mokgosi: Democratic Intuition*** at Jack Shainman Gallery | The School, 25 Broad Street, Kinderhook, NY.

Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 am to 6 pm. For press inquiries please contact Emily Alli, Sutton, [emily@suttoncomms.com](mailto:emily@suttoncomms.com), +1 212 202 3402. For other inquiries please contact the gallery at [info@jackshainman.com](mailto:info@jackshainman.com).