



For Immediate Release

September 5, 2008

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**Cranbrook Art Museum presents
Andy Warhol: Grand Slam
With more than 200 signature works by the celebrated pop artist
Opening October 19, 2008**

Press Interviews with Warhol Associate and Collector—Richard Weisman
Friday, October 10, 2008

Press Exhibition Previews October 13-17, 2008

Bloomfield Hills, MI-- Exclusive to Cranbrook Art Museum, the retrospective "Andy Warhol: Grand Slam," brings together more than 200 signature works spanning all areas of his practice from the 1960s until his death in 1987 — paintings, photographs, prints and films. "Andy Warhol: Grand Slam," opens to the public on Sunday, October 19 and will run through January 11, 2009.

One of the most influential and important artists of the late-twentieth century and the figurehead of Pop art, Andy Warhol created some of the most recognizable images of modern culture. The exhibition includes the recent gift to Cranbrook Art Museum of 150 photographs previously held by the Andy Warhol Foundation; his important *Athlete Series* from the Collection of Richard Weisman; and Warhol's famous screen printed works including the iconic Campbell's soup cans and *Electric Chair Series* as well the later works *Ten Jews of the Twentieth Century* and *Endangered Species*. The exhibition also will provide insight on Warhol's career as a maker of art through the presentation of a new film by the artist each week in the Center Gallery at Cranbrook Art Museum.

"Grand Slam" focuses on the ten paintings that comprise *The Athletes Series* from the collection of Richard Weisman. On request from Weisman, an extremely important collector of modern and contemporary art and longtime friend of the artist, between 1977 and 1979 Warhol created paintings of ten of the greatest sports figures of the late 1980s, including Muhammad Ali, Jack Nicklaus, and Chris Evert. Weisman will be at the opening of "Andy Warhol: Grand Slam" to lecture on his experiences as a patron and friend of Warhol's, as well as to sign copies of his book *Picasso to Pop: The Richard Weisman Collection*. The general public may purchase tickets for the lecture, book signing, and reception on Friday, October 10 for \$10 at Cranbrook Art Museum's Front Desk.

In 2001, Cranbrook Art Museum received an extraordinary gift of the Dr. John and Rose M. Shuey Collection of modern and contemporary art, which included one painting from *The Athletes Series* that may already be familiar to local audiences: an image of the Brazilian soccer star Pelé. Cranbrook Art Museum's current presentation of *The Athletes Series* unites this work with the other nine paintings from the series, showcasing in full Warhol's uncanny ability as a portraitist of contemporary personalities.

“Grand Slam” also celebrates the gift of over 150 photographs previously held by the Andy Warhol Foundation to Cranbrook Art Museum. These images, many of which were taken using a Polaroid camera, showcase Warhol’s use of the camera as a compositional aid for the creation of prints and paintings, including Warhol’s portrait of Pelé from *The Athletes Series*. They also provide a glimpse into the avant-garde world of downtown New York through images of Warhol’s intriguing social circle, including such personalities as Julian Schnabel, Jerry Hall, Buzz Aldrin, Lou Reed, and Carolina Herrera.

Cranbrook Art Museum will also present an unprecedented look into Warhol’s process working as an artist through a presentation of two large paintings of Susu Sosnick, a local collector, alongside snapshots by Sosnick’s husband Robert that document Warhol at work on his preparatory photographs for the paintings. The exhibition also includes two polaroids that Warhol took of Mrs. Sosnick in his apartment in Paris in September 1981.

Grand Slam finally, demonstrates the richness of Warhol’s famous screen printed works in regional collections. Cranbrook Art Museum will feature four important print series by Warhol, including both well-known early works and later treasures. Warhol’s “Campbell’s Soup I” (1968) and “Electric Chair Series”(1965) helped to establish the artist as an American pop icon. Subsequent works such as Warhol’s “Endangered Species Series” (1983) and “Ten Jews of the Twentieth Century” (1980) suggest the artist’s continuing fascination with serial images, celebrity, and the power of art to both affirm and question cultural myths and ideas.

The final component of “Andy Warhol: Grand Slam” focuses on Warhol’s extraordinary career as a maker of art and narrative films. For the duration of the exhibition, Cranbrook Art Museum will present a veritable Warhol film festival, showcasing a new film by the artist every week. Highlights include both classic Warhol films such as, lesser seen gems like Mrs. Warhol, Sunset, and Paul Swan, and screen tests of personalities such as Salvador Dali, Marcel Duchamp, Lou Reed and Cass Elliot (Mama Cass) shot at Warhol’s Factory studio in New York. Many of the figures who grace Warhol’s films are also subjects of his photography. Cranbrook Art Museum’s unique display of works in both media allows the viewer to draw parallels between Warhol the filmmaker and Warhol the photographer.

In addition to works from The Andy Warhol Museum and Cranbrook Art Museum Collection, the exhibition includes loans from: the Grand Rapids Art Museum; and the private collections of Robert and Lisa Katzman, Marc Schwartz, Susu Sosnick, and Richard Weisman.

CRANBROOK ART MUSEUM: GENERAL INFORMATION

MUSEUM HOURS

Regular museum hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 11:00 am – 5:00 pm; 4th Friday of each month, 11:00 am – 9:00 pm. The Museum is closed on Mondays, Tuesdays and selected holidays, including Thanksgiving Day.

ADMISSION FEES AND LOCATION

Cranbrook Academy of Art and Art Museum are located at 39221 Woodward Avenue in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. Enter on the west side of Woodward Avenue between Lone Pine and Long Lake Roads. Free parking is available adjacent to the Art Museum and in the parking deck, located between Cranbrook Art Museum and Cranbrook Institute of Science. Museum admission is free for ArtMembers@Cranbrook. General admission for the Andy Warhol: Grand Slam exhibition is: \$10 adults; \$5 teens and full-time students with ID; children 12 and under are admitted free with adult admission. For more information, please call 1-877-GO-CRANBrook (1-877-462-7262) or visit the website at www.cranbrook.edu.

Images available upon request.

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