

## “Becoming Andy Warhol” at UCCA Edge

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The most comprehensive exhibition of Andy Warhol in China to date opens in Shanghai, reconsidering the breadth of the legendary Pop artist’s output, including a body of drawings, paintings, photographs, and films from The Andy Warhol Museum.

### Exhibition Period:

2021.11.6 – 2022.3.6

### Exhibition Location:

UCCA Edge  
2F, No. 88 Xizang Bei Lu  
Jing’an District, Shanghai  
China

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SHANGHAI, China — “Becoming Andy Warhol” is the first comprehensive exhibition of Andy Warhol (1928-1987) staged to date in China. First shown at UCCA Beijing in the spring and summer of 2021 and now specially designed for the space at UCCA Edge to be on view from November 6, 2021 to March 6, 2022, this exhibition brings works selected exclusively from the collection of The Andy Warhol Museum (Pittsburgh), including works that are displayed for the first time outside of The Warhol, with new attention paid to Warhol as a photographer and filmmaker. “Becoming Andy Warhol” reconsiders Warhol’s innovative and versatile artistic legacy and is informed by recent scholarship that candidly examines his life and prolific output with a more holistic understanding. It includes both representative and lesser-known works from various phases and aspects of his career, asserting Warhol’s anticipation of hybridity and repetition as primary influences in contemporary visual culture. “Becoming Andy Warhol” is produced in collaboration with The Andy Warhol Museum and curated by José Carlos Diaz, Chief Curator, and Patrick Moore, Director. The exhibition is designed by Xiaoxi Chen.

Structured in five sections, the exhibition crafts a non-linear exploration of the artist’s life and career through paintings, photographs, objects, and films, as well as archival items from his youth and images of Warhol as documented by contemporaries such as Stephen Shore and David McCabe. Through early drawings and historical photographs, “Origins” introduces the artist and his immigrant, Byzantine Catholic beginnings in working class Pittsburgh, his close relationship and creative collaboration with his mother Julia Warhola, and Warhol’s successful foray into commercial art upon his move to New York City, where he created some of his first Pop paintings. This exhibition includes photographs and reconstructions of Warhol’s New York City department storefronts from the same period that were never before shown. Approaching with the thematic angles of “Experimentation,” “Nightlife,” and “Portraits,” “Warhol the Photographer” surveys the breadth of Warhol’s photographic practice throughout his career, both in subject matters and the variety of formats he experimented

with, including portraits of his contemporaries and collaborators that served as source materials for his silkscreen portraiture, stitched photography, photobooth photographs, Polaroids, and more traditional black-and-white prints of nature, nightlife, and events Warhol occasioned—Warhol as an artist-photographer and as a documentarian of the world around him. Juxtaposed with his silkscreen paintings such as *Flowers* (1964) and a series of portraits, also on view are rarely exhibited equipment used by Warhol, such as Polaroid Big Shot cameras, an overhead projector used for hand painted Pop canvases, a 16 mm film camera, acetate studies, and original source material.

Warhol's experimental films from the 1960s, after his Pop career took off, are presented in "Cinema as Object," rooted in his Silver Factory studio that gave rise to the Superstars who starred in his films. Typically shown in isolated theater settings, the works on film in this section can be viewed in a double-height, open space within the galleries. Over 24 newly remastered works on view include rare Screen Tests, the iconic film *Empire* (1964), infrequently screened 16 mm works, and television productions from the 1980s. These artistic experiments were often supported by Warhol's commercially successful paintings and editions of iconic brands, revisited here in "Warhol Remixed." Warhol's legacy as a business artist, as he remixed images and brands in his previous work with the culture of 1980s New York, highlight the artist's deft understanding of commercial imagery in a suite of now-iconic works such as Campbell's, Brillo soap pads, and Coca-Cola, as well as updated versions of his Marilyn Monroe screen prints. The evolution from the gestural, hand-painted nature of the 1960s to the slick flatness emblematic of American visual style in the 1980s tracks the innovative techniques and stylistic twists Warhol adopted for the changing trends and norms in America, as well as his own artistic development.

Lastly, "The Immaterial" explores Warhol's confrontation with the spiritual and his turn towards abstraction and conceptual art towards the end of his life, in series such as *Camouflage* (1986) and *Rorschach ink blots* (1984). This section also includes Warhol's self-portraits from the late 1970s and the *Myths* series (1981) in the early 1980s that would elevate the artist as an American myth and Pop saint he became after his unexpected passing in 1987. The exhibition refreshes the particular relevance of Warhol's connection to contemporary pop culture, communication, and youth culture in his ravenous, generative approach to a wide range of media—fine art, commercial illustration, experimental filmmaking, masterful appropriation. It highlights the central role he played in shaping culture

through the integration of art and urban life, and his observant engagements with nightlife, Hollywood, fashion, and music during America's postwar period of economic growth and societal progress. "Becoming Andy Warhol" positions the artist as an exemplar of self-invention and the American dream, taking on a new endurance in a world that continues to arch towards his influences and legacy.

Transporting Warhol's influence into the present, the interactive Pop Factory section of the exhibition pays homage to the spirit of Warhol's Factory as both the artist's studio and a meeting place for gathering among friends. Outfitted with a replica of the ironic red couch that was a staple at Warhol's Factory, this Pop Factory is a space for visitors to experience the artistic bustle of Warhol's Factory hands-on, where visitors can pose on the red couch as the Superstars had done, as well as create their own silkscreen artwork with a special edition heat press kit produced in collaboration with MIYA, available at UCCA Store.

#### **About the Artist**

Andy Warhol was born Andrew Warhola on August 6, 1928, in a two-room apartment at 73 Orr Street in a working-class neighborhood in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He attended Carnegie Institute of Technology (now Carnegie Mellon University) from 1945 to 1949, and began his career in New York City as a commercial illustrator after graduation. From the 1940s to his death in 1987, Warhol was a prolific artist and entrepreneur. He was a painter, sculptor, illustrator, photographer, and experimented with new media—publishing, film, music production, television, fashion, theater—throughout his career.

#### **About The Andy Warhol Museum**

Located in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the place of Andy Warhol's birth, The Andy Warhol Museum holds the largest collection of Warhol's artworks and archival materials and is one of the most comprehensive single-artist museums in the world. The Warhol is one of the four Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh. Additional information about The Warhol is available at [warhol.org](http://warhol.org).

#### **Exhibition Catalogue**

In conjunction with the exhibition, UCCA has released a bilingual catalogue by the same exhibition title that features images of the hundreds of artworks and archival objects in the show alongside extensive annotations. These are accompanied by three major essays: exhibition curator José Carlos Diaz discusses the idea of becoming with a series of anecdotes surrounding the artist's birthdays; Blake

Gopnik, whose exhaustive biography of Warhol was published in 2020, explores the Pop icon's often overlooked background in classical and modern art; and art critic Zhou Wanqing probes the enduring resonance of the pursuit of newness in the twenty-first century. The catalogue is designed by Hubert & Fischer and published by Zhejiang Photographic Press.

### **Public Programs**

During the exhibition period of "Becoming Andy Warhol," UCCA Edge will present a series of enriching public programs every weekend, including five Inspiring Guides by special guests, four screenings and talks, seven conversations and workshops closely related to the creation of Andy Warhol, and other panels with artists and scholars. Follow UCCA Edge on our official website, WeChat account, and other social media platforms for more details. All events are free to the public, with limited capacity. Please register in advance. Please see our official event and announcements for the most updated information.

### **Sponsorship and Support**

The exhibition is proudly presented by Cadillac. UCCA thanks executive sponsor CHANEL for their generous support. Dulux contributed exclusive wall solutions support. UCCA thanks Douyin, official short video platform partner, and Tencent Music Entertainment for their special support. Gratitude to the members of its Foundation Council, International Circle, and Young Associates, as well as Lead Partner Aranya, Presenting Partner Bloomberg, and Supporting Partners Active House, Barco, BenQ, Clivet, Dulux, and Genelec. City Window Outdoor Media Platform also provided support for this exhibition.

### **About Cadillac**

Marking Cadillac's 118 years of "art and science" design philosophy and the influence of Cadillac vehicles as a subject of Andy Warhol's pioneering Pop artworks, Cadillac's support for the exhibition "Becoming Andy Warhol" is a tribute from the car brand to art and its legacy, with a spotlight appearance by the featured model in Cadillac's luxury rear-wheel drive sedan family—the new American sedan CT5.

### **About CHANEL**

CHANEL's support of the exhibition "Becoming Andy Warhol" at UCCA Center for Contemporary Art in Beijing, aligning with the 100th anniversary of N°5, extends the House's legacy of cultural engagement by bringing new audiences to the work

of a visionary artist who recognized N°5 as a powerful icon of celebrity and luxury worldwide.

#### **About UCCA Edge**

Opened in May 2021, UCCA Edge occupies 5500 square meters over three levels of the new EDGE tower in Shanghai's Jing'an District. Designed by New York-based architects SO – IL, the museum includes 1700 square meters of gallery space as well as a wraparound outdoor terrace and public spaces including a lobby and auditorium. As an integral part of the UCCA constellation, UCCA Edge mounts exhibitions of leading Chinese and international artists, some developed exclusively for the Shanghai audience, some touring from other UCCA locations. In 2021, UCCA Edge featured an opening show reflecting on the globalization of the Chinese art world through the prism of Shanghai, curated by UCCA Director Philip Tinari, a solo show of new paintings and archival materials by renowned artist Liu Xiaodong, and an Andy Warhol retrospective presented in collaboration with The Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh. It will also host a bistrot, NEW WAVE by DA VITTORIO, developed by the Michelin-starred team of DA VITTORIO SHANGHAI, an outpost of UCCA Store, as well as Juanzhong Books. Situated just north of People's Square and Suzhou Creek, and directly above the Qufu Lu station of the Shanghai Metro in a bustling revitalized neighborhood, UCCA Edge will quickly become an essential destination and an integral part of Shanghai's vibrant cultural fabric.

[ucca.org.cn/en](http://ucca.org.cn/en)