



Galleria nazionale d'arte moderna e contemporanea

12th of June – 9th of September

WARHOL: HEADLINES

Curated by Molly Donovan

June 11th, 2012 :
Press Preview 12:00 noon
Inauguration 6:30 pm

This exhibition is the first to fully examine the works Andy Warhol created on the theme of news headlines. *Warhol: Headlines* defines and presents some 80 works—paintings, drawings, prints, photographs, sculpture, film, video, and television—based largely on the tabloid news, revealing the artist's career-long obsession with the sensational side of contemporary media. Source materials for the art are presented for comparison, demonstrating the ways in which Warhol cropped, altered, obscured, and reoriented the original texts and images, underscoring his role as both editor and author.

Andy Warhol (1928–1987), among the top American artists of the last century, became famous in the early 1960s for his work that drew from sources in popular culture. The headlines Warhol made into works of art parallel and intersect the artist's own story at times, weaving his life and art into one epic account of post-World War II America and the media age. In 1968 Warhol himself became the subject of front page news when he was shot by writer Valerie Solanas. On the occasion of his death in 1987, he was again the subject of the headlines, owing to his own celebrity.

Warhol scoured newspapers, particularly tabloids like the Daily News and New York Post, for their stories and images. The exhibition opens with the artist's earliest drawings and hand-painted headline canvases from the 1950s and '60s based on supermarket tabloids. By giving equal attention to celebrity gossip (treating subjects from Princess Margaret of Great Britain to pop singer Madonna) and catastrophic events (from airplane crashes to earthquakes), Warhol revealed the commodified news value assigned to the passions and disasters of contemporary life. By extension, he implicated the reader as consumer of the news. Warhol's headline works also chart the great shift in the technological means employed by the media to present the news, from the printed page to television. The show ends with works from the 1980s made in collaboration the younger graffiti artists Keith Haring and Jean-Michel Basquiat.

The exhibition is organized by the National Gallery of Art, Washington, in association with The Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh, the Galleria nazionale d'arte moderna, Rome, and the Museum für Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt. Each venue owns important works by Warhol. The Italian venue was key owing to the inclusion of the monumental triptych, *Fate Presto*, Warhol's largest and only non-English language headline work. It comes from the Reggia of Caserta and is based on the front page of Il Mattino, the Naples newspaper from the 23rd of November of 1981. This work was commissioned by Neapolitan gallerist Lucio Amelio on the occasion of the Irpinia earthquake. The curator is Molly Donovan of the Modern and Contemporary Art Department at the National Gallery of Art, Washington, and the commissioner of the exhibition in Rome is Angelandreina Rorro. The Terra Foundation for American Art is the foundation sponsor of the international tour of the exhibition.

Technical Information:

- Venue :** Galleria nazionale d'arte moderna e contemporanea
Viale delle Belle Arti 131, Roma
Entrance for special needs: via Gramsci 73
- Opening hours:** Tuesday – Sunday from 10.30 a. m. to 7.30 p.m.
(ticket office closes at 6.45 p.m.)
Monday closed
- Tickets:** Full price: euro 10,00
Reduced: euro 7,50 (to European Union citizens between 18 and 25 years; to European Union teachers)
- Special reduction only for temporary exhibitions: euro 5,00
(under 18 and over 65 years)
- Free entry: under 18 and over 65 years
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