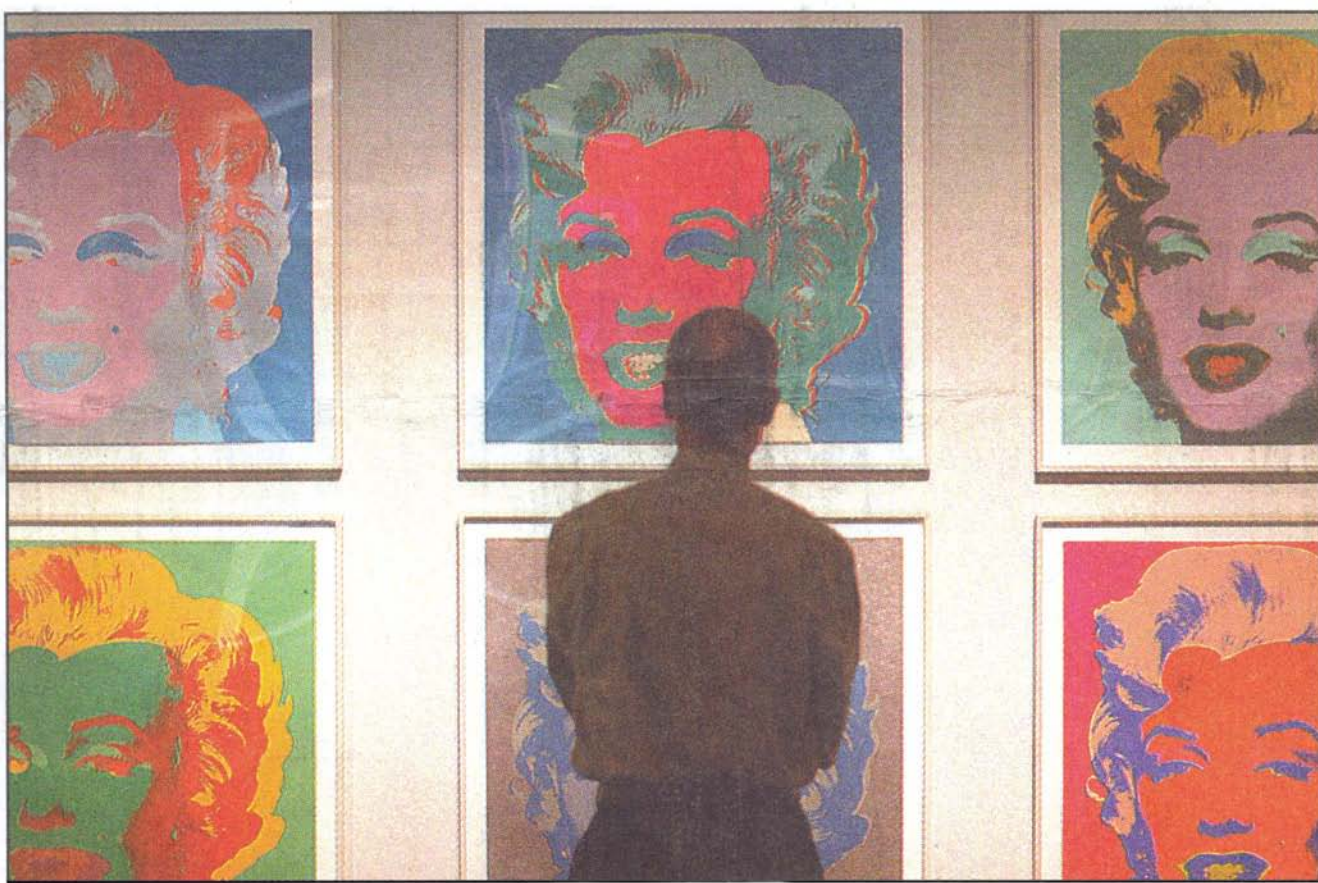


# CASPER Star Tribune

'Andy Warhol's Dream America'



DAN CEPEDA/Star-Tribune

David Erk examines Andy Warhol's 'Marilyn Monroe (Marilyn)' screenprint series from 1967 during the opening of 'Andy Warhol's Dream America' on Friday afternoon at the Nicolaysen Art Museum in Casper. The exhibit will be displayed through Nov. 8.

## pop art

Collector: It's  
'like a machine  
gun of images'

By NINA McCONIGLEY  
Star-Tribune staff writer

If Andy Warhol was alive today, yesterday would have been his 76th birthday.

The occasion was marked Friday in Casper by the opening of the "Andy Warhol's Dream America" exhibit at the Nicolaysen Art Museum.

The exhibit, which features 88 screen prints by Warhol, opened to a large crowd of Casper art lovers.

With the Velvet Underground playing the background and muted lighting, the intense colors of Warhol's prints radiated throughout the gallery space.

The collection is part of the Jordan Schnitzer Family Foundation of Portland, Ore. Jordan Schnitzer was on hand at the opening and gave a gallery talk.

For Ben Mitchell, curator of the Nicolaysen Art Museum and Discovery Center, seeing the show come together was gratifying.

## WARHOL: Exhibit will be on display through Nov. 8

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"For as small of a community as Casper is, this is a very large exhibit and it's a treat to have this show," he said.

He noted that the show is an overview of Warhol's entire printmaking career, from his start with Campbell's Soup cans to the prints of Cowboys and Indians, which were made toward the end of his life.

The fact that many of the screen prints are not stand alone art, but in a series, is what makes this exhibit so unique.

"It's a post-modernist gesture to work in series and Warhol is a pioneer," said Mitchell.

He commented that the Schnitzer collection is "unique in that he owns whole portfolios."

"Jordan is a very knowledgeable collector. To have complete collections, to view the art as Warhol wanted it to be seen," he said, was what is extraordinary about Schnitzer's collection.

Warhol himself said, "Isn't life a series of images that change as they repeat themselves?" and the changing nature of one subject, like Marilyn Monroe or Mick Jagger, are splashed out on the Nic's walls in full force.

Jordan Schnitzer says seeing the pieces this way is "more powerful than just one. They need to be seen in multiples, like a machine gun of images."

Schnitzer was jubilant to see his art on display here in Casper.

For him, New York may have the Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney, or places like Chicago have the Art Institute or for Minneapolis, the Walker. He thinks it is important for art to not always be housed in urban spaces.

He commented that "work like this doesn't often come to smaller communities."

Schnitzer has a "passion for collecting prints" and "like any hobby — like stamp collecting, orchids, quarter horses — it adds to my life when I am able to share my passions with others."

He is impressed with the Nicolaysen and the way the installation came together.

Schnitzer felt "Ben Mitchell and the staff did a brilliant job. This is as good as it gets in terms of the display," he said.

When asked about his affinity for Warhol, Schnitzer said, "I love all the contemporary artists, like Lichtenstein or Hockney — but Warhol stands out as one of the preeminent artists of the latter half of the 20th century."

He thinks the title of the exhibit, "Dream America," is a fitting moniker.

"'Dream America' — this title wasn't an accident. Dreams sum up what Warhol is about. Warhol dreams about the latter half of the 20th century. There

are broken dreams, like the JFK series. The work is of our times."

The exhibit does encapsulate the dreams, hopes, and fears of America in the form of images of cultural icons to everyday objects.

Schnitzer asks visitors to really look at Warhol's pieces and the common consumer items — like soup cans, which no one had thought of as art.

"Warhol taught us to stop a second and say art is all around us," he said.

Mitchell also finds the themes of the exhibit fascinating as the many different sides of Warhol — still lives, fame and portraiture, extraordinary abstractions — all are represented.

He finds the paradox of Warhol and his work part of what makes Warhol so enduring.

"Warhol is a solidly traditional artist, doing things like portraiture, yet he is working with what is at hand," said Mitchell.

The fact that screenprinting

is one of the most elementary of any art forms and that Warhol took a technique of the masses and made it into fine art is what still captivates audiences of his work.

When thanked on bringing the exhibit to Casper, Schnitzer said, "No, I am the one that's grateful. The community of Casper has loaned me their art museum so these works can be shown, and so I can see them."

He added, "This is an amazing museum, you are blessed to have this."

"Andy Warhol's Dream America" will be on display through Nov. 8. The Nic is open Tuesday through Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sundays noon to 4 p.m. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children under 12 years old, and members are admitted free of charge. There is a \$1 discount off admission for visitors bringing a can of Campbell's soup for donation to the Central Wyoming Rescue Mission.

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