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Press Release

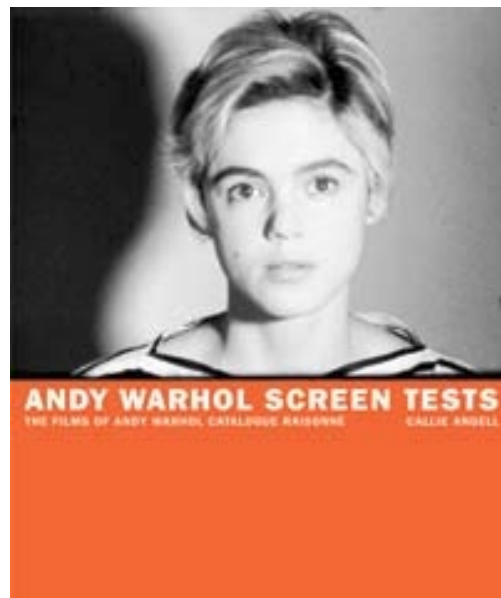
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DEFINITIVE BOOK ON ANDY WARHOL'S *SCREEN TESTS*, UNDERWAY FOR 15 YEARS, PROVIDES UNIQUE PORTRAIT OF WARHOL'S WORLD



Shot over the course of a three-year period from 1964 through 1966, Andy Warhol's legendary series of three-minute cinematic portraits, the *Screen Tests*, was one of the most revealing and ambitious projects of the artist's career. The series of 472 silent, black-and-white films chronicling Warhol's friends, colleagues, and acquaintances became an extraordinary testimony of *tout le monde* of the time.

This spring, Harry N. Abrams, Inc., in association with the Whitney Museum of American Art, publishes *Andy Warhol Screen Tests: The Films of Andy Warhol Catalogue Raisonné, Volume One*, by Callie Angell, Adjunct Curator of the Andy Warhol Film Project at the Whitney Museum of American

Art. Lavishly illustrated with over 780 photographs, the book provides an unprecedented look at the artist's working methods and a unique record of his social and professional life.

"Taken as a whole, the *Screen Tests* are a conceptual portrait of a New York era—the complex, interconnected avant-garde art world of the mid-1960s," notes author Callie Angell. "They also offer a reflected portrait of Warhol himself—his friendships and connections, his egalitarianism and his ambition, his fascination with personality and the human face, his eye for talent and for beauty, his mastery of the photographic, cinematic image."

The people in this series constitute a who's who of the 1960s avant-garde, including art world celebrities (Marcel Duchamp, Salvador Dali, James Rosenquist, Marisol); icons of popular culture (Allen Ginsberg, Bob Dylan, Donovan, Mama Cass Elliot); Warhol Factory superstars (Edie Sedgwick, Nico, Ondine, Billy Name, Paul Morrissey, Gerard Malanga); drag performers (Mario Montez); underground filmmakers (Jonas Mekas, Barbara Rubin, Jack Smith, Harry Smith); avant-garde dancers (Freddy Herko, Lucinda Childs, Kenneth King); poets (Ted Berrigan, John Giorno, Ron Padgett, Joe Brainard); art historians and critics (Susan Sontag, Grace Glueck, Robert Pincus-Witten, Barbara Rose, Andrew Sarris); musicians (Eric Andersen, Lou Reed, John Cale, and other members of the Velvet Underground); representatives of high society (Isabel Eberstadt, Jane Holzer) and high fashion (Donyale Luna, Kenneth Jay Lane, Bea Feitler); as well as speed freaks, teenage dropouts, and other countercultural figures.

"This first volume of the catalogue raisonné of films will be an invaluable resource for anyone with a serious interest in the artist's work," said Donna De Salvo, the Whitney's Associate Director for Programs and Curator, Permanent Collection. "It is the missing link in Warhol scholarship. Not only will it make possible a fuller appreciation of the technical and conceptual innovations of Warhol's approach to filmmaking, but, perhaps even more importantly, the insights it offers will stimulate new debate about the artist's revolutionary rethinking of 'media' in all its permutations."

"Thanks to the publication of this catalogue raisonné, Warhol's film work will now be recognized as one of the most significant achievements of his career. The Warhol Foundation is extremely grateful for Callie Angell's dedication and unparalleled scholarly effort," said Joel Wachs, President of The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, which has funded the catalogue raisonné of Warhol's films at the Whitney.

Since Warhol withdrew his films from public circulation in the early 1970s, much of his cinema has been shrouded in myth. This book, the first installment in the two-volume authorized catalogue raisonné of Warhol's cinema, is the result of nearly 15 years of original research by Callie Angell, Adjunct Curator of the Andy Warhol Film Project at the Whitney Museum of American Art. Angell, who has worked closely with The Museum of Modern Art since 1991 on the preservation of Warhol's movies, has had unprecedented access to the original films and has identified and illustrated all of the *Screen Tests* for the first time.

In addition to descriptions of all the *Screen Tests* and the people in them, the history and making of these films are detailed in a lengthy introduction. Additional chapters are devoted to the conceptual series and compilations which Warhol created from the *Screen Tests* (*The Thirteen Most Beautiful Women*, *The Thirteen Most Beautiful Boys*, *Fifty Fantastics* and *Fifty Personalities*) as well as a previously unknown seven-hour serial portrait of Warhol's boyfriend Philip Fagan (*Six Months*). Another chapter catalogues the reels of assembled *Screen Test* prints, which were projected behind the Velvet Underground during performances of the Exploding Plastic Inevitable.

The result is a detailed and accurate picture of Warhol's working methods as a filmmaker, a record which should overturn many of the myths about Warhol's cinema that persisted during the years when his films were unavailable.

ANDY WARHOL SCREEN TESTS:

The Films of Andy Warhol Catalogue Raisonné

By Callie Angell

Abrams/Whitney Museum of American Art

\$60.00; May; ISBN 0-8109-5539-3

780 photographs, 15 in full color, 320 pages, 9 x 11"

About the Author

Callie Angell has been adjunct curator of the Andy Warhol Film Project at the Whitney Museum of American Art and consultant to The Museum of Modern Art, New York, on the preservation of Warhol's films since 1991. Angell has curated two exhibitions of Warhol's films at the Whitney Museum, "The Films of Andy Warhol: Part II" (1994) and "Andy Warhol: Outer and Inner Space" (1998), as well as exhibitions in St. Petersburg, Sydney, and Tokyo. She has published a number of essays and catalogues on Warhol's cinema, including *The Films of Andy Warhol: Part II* (Whitney Museum of American Art, 1994), and "Andy Warhol, Filmmaker" in *The Andy Warhol Museum*. Angell has lectured on the Warhol films at museums and universities across the United States and

around the world, including the Hermitage State Museum in St. Petersburg, The Corcoran Gallery of Art, the Menil Collection, Princeton University, Brandeis University, the Milwaukee Museum of Art, the Tokyo Museum of Contemporary Art, and the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao. In 1996, Angell received the Anthology Film Archives Film Preservation Honors for her work in cataloguing and preserving the motion picture works of Andy Warhol.

About the Andy Warhol Film Project

The Andy Warhol Film Project is a joint undertaking between the Whitney Museum of American Art, The Museum of Modern Art, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc., and The Andy Warhol Museum. The project originated in the early 1980s as a collaborative effort between the Whitney and MoMA to preserve, restore, catalogue, exhibit, and distribute the entirety of Warhol's cinema. Warhol gave his cooperation to the project, and in 1984 placed his original films on deposit with MoMA.

Following Warhol's death in 1987, the Whitney presented "The Films of Andy Warhol: An Introduction" in 1988, an exhibition of vintage prints from the collection which was the project's inaugural event. In 1989, MoMA restored the first group of thirteen film titles and put them into distribution through their Circulating Film Library. In 1991 the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, which had assumed ownership of Warhol's estate, began providing major funding to the Whitney for research of a catalogue raisonné of Warhol's cinema. The Museum of Modern Art has housed Warhol's original film materials since 1984. Since 1989 MoMA has restored over ninety hours of Warhol's cinema, including 279 *Screen Tests* and more than fifty other titles. The Andy Warhol Museum, which opened in Pittsburgh in 1994, now administers the rights for the Warhol films, and holds copies of all restored films in their collection.

About The Whitney Museum

The Whitney Museum of American Art is the leading advocate of 20th- and 21st-century American art. Founded in 1930, the Museum is regarded as the preeminent collection of American art and includes major works and materials from the estate of Edward Hopper, the largest public collection of works by Alexander Calder, Louise Nevelson, and Lucas Samaras, as well as significant works by Jasper Johns, Donald Judd, Agnes Martin, Bruce Nauman, Georgia O'Keeffe, Claes Oldenburg, Kiki Smith, and Andy Warhol, among other artists. With its history of exhibiting the most promising and influential American artists and provoking intense debate, the Whitney's signature show, the Biennial, has become the most important survey of the state of contemporary art in America today.