

Pop over to the Andy Warhol exhibit at LI museum



The Nassau County Museum of Art in Roslyn hosts an exhibition of more than 100 works by Andy Warhol, including those famous Campbell soup cans, May 8 to Nov. 7. Credit: Corey Sipkin

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"They always say time changes things, but you actually have to change them yourself," Andy Warhol once stated.

Half a century ago, he changed art, and now his art is popping into the Nassau County Museum of Art for a surprise visit. "Andy Warhol: A Life in Pop, Works From the Bank of America Collection" is a career-spanning exhibition of a dozen portfolios with close to 100 major works that opens May 8 and runs through Nov. 7.



Prints from the "Flowers" series are among the Andy Warhol masterworks on display at Nassau Museum of Art.
Credit: Corey Sipkin

MARILYN, MICKEY AND 'MYTHS'

Warhol, who had a home in Montauk, is overdue for 15 minutes of fame here — this will be his first retrospective show on Long Island. In the early 1960s, when the fervor for Abstract Expressionism waned, Warhol turned his uncannily canny eye on the American landscape, both cultural and physical, and gave us back what he saw — movie stars like Marilyn Monroe, events from the headlines and lots of soup cans. High and low, urgent or mundane, they were all worthy of Warhol's cool gaze, and all show up in his art, and in the exhibition.

"Everything is here," said Charles Riley, director of the museum. "Marilyn is here, Campbell's soup cans in multitudes, Muhammad Ali, celebrity portraits, and another portfolio called 'Myths,' where you've got Uncle Sam, Mickey Mouse and the Wicked Witch from 'The Wizard of Oz.' " Riley promises surprises, as well, including works that show the artist's more thoughtful side. "One is a group called 'Sunsets' that are really soothing and tranquil," Riley said.

While scores of iconic Pop images will be on view, they almost weren't. In early April, Riley said he received a call from Connie Verducci, the senior vice president at Bank of America who manages its not-for-profit partnerships in New York and on Long Island. She told him about an unexpected availability of the exhibition that has been presented in top museums in England, Italy, South Africa, and across the United States. While a show of this size usually takes years to develop, Riley jumped at the opportunity, juggled schedules, cajoled, wrangled and brought it all together in a matter of weeks.

"I didn't think of anyone else. I really wanted this to be at the Nassau County Museum," said Verducci.



Portraits of Campbell's soup cans are among the most iconic of Andy Warhol's artworks.
Credit: Corey Sipkin

This is the second major exhibition Bank of America has sponsored on Long Island. In 2019, its collection of American Impressionist works appeared at the Heckscher Museum in Huntington. The bank's "Art in Our Communities" program covers all exhibition costs, including outreach and educational programs. As Verducci eyes other local museums for future shows, the bank has become a major cultural supporter on Long Island.