

*Warhol: Flowers in the Factory*  
Feb. 11-June 2018

**1. The surprise of Andy Warhol as conservationist**

Pop artist Andy Warhol said everyone would be world-famous for 15 minutes, and he himself is renowned for his engagement with popular culture, from his iconic Campbell's Soup cans and Coca-Cola bottles to portraits of the celebrities of his era. There is one aspect of Warhol, however, that is not quite famous: he was a champion of nature. Warhol had an abiding passion for preserving the natural world and often investigated nature through his work, depicting landscapes and plant life.

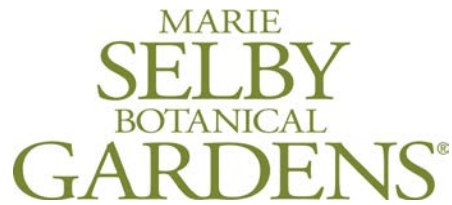
*Warhol: Flowers in the Factory*, the second exhibition in the Jean and Alfred Goldstein Exhibition Series at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota, Florida, will highlight Warhol's surprising interest in exploring and celebrating nature. Warhol consistently tested traditional boundaries between art and life, and thanks to his perpetual curiosity, the natural world offered a still underappreciated influence on his career.

**2. Selby Gardens, a living museum: beautiful grounds, environmental education and history**

Located on the picturesque Sarasota Bay, Marie Selby Botanical Gardens provides an oasis of inspiration and tranquility, while connecting visitors with nature and furthering the understanding and appreciation of plants and conservation. It is the only botanical garden in the world dedicated to the display and study of epiphytes such as orchids, bromeliads and gesneriads and other tropical plants with a focus on botany, horticulture and environmental education. In addition to the diverse collection of plants, Selby Gardens boasts an extensive library featuring more than 124,000 books, including a collection of rare titles, and the Christy Payne Mansion, home to the Museum of Botany & the Arts. This Sarasota treasure has flourished as the result of Marie Selby's generous bequest of her home and property to the community in 1971 to establish a botanical garden "for the enjoyment of the general public."

**3. An immersive Warhol and nature experience**

Marie Selby Botanical Gardens provides a stunning backdrop for examining Andy Warhol's conservationist leanings in *Warhol: Flowers in the Factory*, on view Feb. 11-June 2018.



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The artist's particular interest in plants is spectacularly illustrated in the context of a world-renowned botanical garden. This colorful, focused exhibition will feature four iconic Warhol silkscreens of hibiscus, on loan from Williams College, from the original series of 10 flower silkscreens produced in the mid-1960s. Archival photographs depicting the artist in nature will further reveal his fascination with the natural world. Two poinsettia prints by Warhol, on loan from a private collector and originally created by the artist as holiday gifts for friends, will also be on view. Dr. Carol Ockman, curator at large for Selby Gardens and the Robert Sterling Clark professor of Art History at Williams College, returns to curate the exhibition.

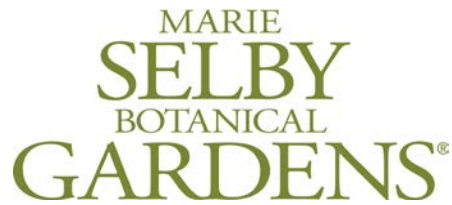
The grounds of the 15-acre tropical garden overlooking Sarasota Bay on the Gulf Coast of Florida will serve as a floral playground inspired by Warhol. Visitors will experience spectacular living displays both outdoors and in the glass house conservatory that capitalize on the artist's motifs of repetition, modular designs and juxtaposition. Expect explosions of color, texture and height that capture Warhol's energy in a tropical setting.

Observing Warhol's work alongside the nature that inspired him encourages a mutually enriched experience of art and the natural world. In addition, special Warhol-inspired performing arts programs by Sarasota's top cultural institutions will delight visitors' senses.

**4. The Jean and Alfred Goldstein Exhibition Series: Connecting nature and art**

*Warhol: Flowers in the Factory* is the second exhibition in the Jean and Alfred Goldstein Exhibition Series. The series combines nature and fine arts exhibitions, illuminating the connection between creativity, the natural world and artistic inspiration.

The new exhibition series is a direct connection to one of the original purposes of the Christy Payne Mansion, which houses the Museum of Botany & the Arts at Selby Gardens. At the time of its founding in 1979, part of the plan was to display major fine arts exhibitions and relate them to nature and to the botanical collections in the gardens. This exhibition will examine Warhol's



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work through the lens of flowers and nature, showcasing the artist's natural sensibilities through dynamic horticultural interpretations of his work.

**5. The work and legacy of Andy Warhol**

Andy Warhol remains one of the most influential figures in contemporary art and culture, an entrepreneur and innovator who considered almost anything as art and leveraged his fame into a worldwide brand.

Born in Pittsburgh in 1928 to a working class immigrant family, Warhol suffered from a rare neurological disorder beginning at a young age and took solace in art. After graduating with a degree in Pictorial Design at the Carnegie Institute of Technology, he began his career in New York as a commercial artist, illustrating magazines and ads with great success. He turned to painting and drawing in the 1950s, and by the early 1960s, he emerged at the forefront of the Pop Art movement by painting familiar consumer objects such as soup cans and vacuum cleaners. He also received hundreds of portrait commissions, painting celebrities and socialites in vivid colors.

In the artist's own words, "The Pop idea was that anybody could do anything. So naturally, we were trying to do it all." Warhol was prolific in a wide variety of media, including film, performance art, sculpture, photography, music and writing. Now, 30 years after his death, his works are highly valued. His infatuation with celebrity, signature style, celebration and critique of American culture, and obsessive documentation of his everyday life contribute to the enduring Warhol legacy, making him one of the most paradigm-shifting/game-changing/groundbreaking artists of our time.