

Ronald Feldman Fine Arts

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ANDY WARHOL: *MYTHS*, 1981

PAINTINGS, DRAWINGS, TRIAL PROOF SCREENPRINTS, POLAROIDS, PHOTOGRAPHS & SOURCE MATERIAL

JANUARY 8 – FEBRUARY 12

Warhol seemed not to be part of the crowd that evening at the Feldman gallery, roaming the margins of the crowd whose common inner self he had made objective in the great portfolio of prints whose images were drawn entirely from popular culture: a movie star (Greta Garbo as Mata Hari), Superman, Mickey Mouse, and Santa Claus as forces of good, Dracula and the Wicked Witch of the West as forces of darkness...and, of course, himself....He was "The Shadow," the absolute outsider, whom only the Shadow knew!

Arthur Danto, *Andy Warhol Prints: A Catalogue Raisonné 1962-1987*

The Feldman Gallery will exhibit paintings, drawings, and unique trial proof screenprints by Andy Warhol from *Myths*, a series commissioned by the gallery in 1981. Warhol's Polaroids, photographs, and outside source material illustrate the artistic process and capture the vitality of the two-year project. The ten myths are *Dracula*, *Howdy Doody*, *Mammy*, *Mickey Mouse*, *Santa Claus*, *Superman*, *The Shadow*, *The Star*, *The Witch*, and *Uncle Sam*. The Tooth Fairy, Betty Crocker, and Mother Goose were rejected.

The powerful images, conveyed with vivid color, energetic line, and the sparkle of diamond dust, were Warhol's first depiction of imaginary people in a print version and echoed his early paintings of cartoon characters from the '60s. Selected from collective childhood memories that were shaped by the mass media, the images encompass the legends that define American culture.

More than forty original Polaroids by Warhol, from which he selected seven of the images, can be seen for the first time in this context. These include Margaret Hamilton recreating her role from *The Wizard of Oz*; models and a friend transformed into Uncle Sam, Santa Claus, Mammy, and Dracula; the original Howdy Doody; and himself as *The Shadow*.

The exhibition includes a portfolio of trial proofs, unique prints that evolved from the proofing of the regular edition, in which Warhol experimented with various color combinations. Also included are drawings, created to overlay and accent the photographic images used to create the prints. Paintings, inspired by the print edition, include single subjects and large-scale composites.

Other source material also illustrates the importance of the photographic image as a starting point, once the subjects were selected. Three appropriated images, a movie still of Greta Garbo as Mata Hari and cartoons of Superman and Mickey Mouse, were used. Warhol expressed amazement that the gallery was able to obtain the rights from Disney, whom he had often identified as his favorite American artist.

There will be a reception on January 8 from 6 – 8. Gallery hours: Tuesday – Saturday, 10 – 6. Monday by appointment. For information contact Breck Hostetter 226-3232 or breck@feldmangallery.com.