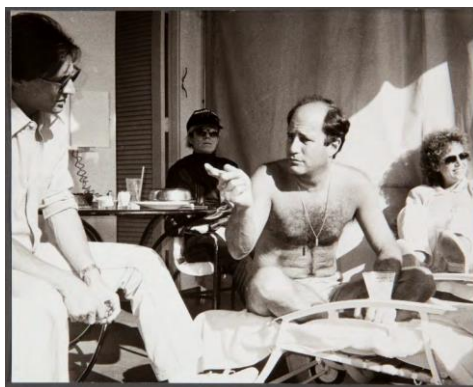


Press Release

The Hedges Collection and Hotel Bel-Air host dual exhibitions showcasing artists Andy Warhol and Maripol



The exhibitions will take place in the hotel's lobby and suite 361 from February 14 – April 14, and will showcase the best of New York night life and Hollywood Glamour.

Guests and locals alike will have the chance to discover dozens of never-before-seen Andy Warhol images from the James R. Hedges IV Collection of Andy Warhol Photography – the largest collection of its sort in private hands in the world. A prolific collector since Warhol's death in 1987, Hedges has acquired an impressive selection of Warhol's photos, including hundreds of Polaroids, photo booth strips, screen tests, silver gelatin prints and more. In addition, Maripol has taken seven of her most notable images and produced a very limited edition in monumental scale. Drawing on her most famous images, the exhibition will showcase her most glittering subjects in a grand scale.

All Andy Warhol photos on display at Hotel Bel-Air were taken by the artist in the last decade of his life and include celebrity portraits, Hollywood stars, Studio 54 moments and still life photos. All images were acquired either from Warhol's Estate and Foundation or from members of Warhol's inner-most circle of confidants and collaborators, such as [The Andy Warhol Diaries](#) Editor, Pat Hackett. The show will provide a unique view into the artist's mind and day-to-day life, as well as a heavy dose of celebrity and glamour.

Andy Warhol was a life-long advocate of photography. As a child in Pittsburgh, the young artist had a dark room in his family's home basement and carried a camera with him, known as "his date," throughout most of his entire adult life. For Warhol, photography was a tool to document his own life, that of his friends and associates, and ultimately as a critical element used to create the vast majority of his art work.

Hotel Bel-Air

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Initially in the 1950's, the artist used a hand-held Polaroid camera to memorialize his friends and social outings. Next, Warhol began experimenting with film in the 1960's and created 16mm short portraits he called "screen-tests." Later, his work included long-format, conceptually-driven narrative feature films including titles such as "Heat," "Bad," "Empire," and "Sleep."

Well known for his use of photo appropriation from Hollywood film stills and newspapers (e.g. Marilyn Monroe, Elvis, Marlon Brando, Jackie O, etc.), in the late 1960's Warhol was sued for copyright infringement for the use of an appropriated image. From that point on, Warhol committed to using his own photographs as source material for his prints and paintings.

In the latter 1960's, Warhol would take friends, art patrons, gallery owners and anonymous people he encountered to Times Square for Photo Booth portraits. Removing the hand of the artist, using a machine to make art, serial repetition of the image, and distancing himself from the process all became hallmarks of the artist's practice from that point forward.

While Warhol used the Polaroid camera throughout his career, it became the primary tool from which he created prints and paintings for the last ten years of his life. During that same period, Warhol used a 35 mm camera daily and took over 100,000 photos but printed only a fraction of those. It is these unique 35mm black-and-white silver gelatin prints that provide the greatest insight into the artist's mind, and a perspective understood by very few.

The exhibitions are complimentary and open to the public February 14- April 14, 7 days a week. All photos are available for purchase through the hotel's concierge.

*****All images copyright The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Courtesy Hedges Projects, Los Angeles.**

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About Hedges

James R. Hedges, IV has been an active art collector and patron for over 30 years. He has served on The Drawings Acquisition Committee at the Museum of Modern Art, as a National Council Chair for the Aspen Art Museum, a member of the National Committee of The Anderson Ranch, a Director of The Aspen Institute's Arts Panel, as a Trustee for The Drawing Center, a Founder of The American Friends of the Tate Gallery, a Founder of The Aspen Conversations, a Trustee of The DIA Foundation, a Trustee of ArtPace, and member of the National Committee for the Whitney Museum of American Art. He is also a former Director of The National Public Radio Foundation (NPR).

Hedges' activities in the art world led Art and Antiques magazine to name Mr. Hedges as one of "The Top 100 Collectors in America." Hedges has the distinction of being the world's largest private collector of Andy Warhol photographs.

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About Maripol

Maripol has been described as “the gatekeeper of ‘80s club culture”. Her effortlessly stylish one-take Polaroid images of Jean-Michel Basquiat, Madonna, Keith Haring, Deborah Harry, Andy Warhol and many other luminaries document one of the most vibrant times of New York City’s artistic history.

Maripol first travelled to New York in 1976 where she became a designer at Italian fashion label Fiorucci, where she went on to become Art Director. She also founded an accessory design company called “Maripolitan,” which became a staple in the Downtown New York style scene and gained global fame with its rubber bracelets adorning Maripol’s friend Madonna. The rubber bracelets and crucifixes which Maripol designed became the most popular items in 1984 at the Maripolitan Gallery Store attracting the patronage of Andy Warhol and countless fashionistas. Maripol’s work has been included in exhibitions at MoMA P.S.1 (“New York / New Wave” curated by Diego Cortez), La Fondation Cartier, The Brooklyn Museum, The MFA Houston, The Portland Museum of Art, The Musée d’Art Moderne in Paris, The Guggenheim Bilbao, and NGV Melbourne.

Dorchester Collection

Dorchester Collection is a portfolio of the world’s foremost luxury hotels and residences. The unique properties are all legendary in their own right, with rich heritages and worldwide reputations as places offering the most sought-after experiences of good living, charm, elegance and unparalleled standards of service.

The current portfolio includes the following hotels: **The Dorchester**, London; **45 Park Lane**, London; **Coworth Park**, Ascot, UK; **Le Meurice**, Paris; **Hôtel Plaza Athénée**, Paris; **Hotel Principe di Savoia**, Milan; **Hotel Eden**, Rome; **The Beverly Hills Hotel**, Beverly Hills; and **Hotel Bel-Air**, Los Angeles; **The Lana**, Dubai (opening 2022). Luxury residences include Mayfair Park Residences, London; The Residences, Dorchester Collection, Dubai and One at Palm Jumeirah, Dorchester Collection, Dubai.