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Private stash of Warhol portraits to go on show

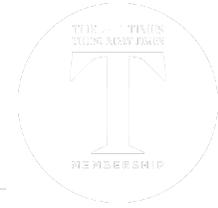
Richard Brooks, Arts Editor Published: 31 January 2016



The Warhol exhibition will open in Oxford this Thursday (Bolton Quinn td)

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AN EXHIBITION of largely unseen works by Andy Warhol will show the more traditional skills of a man synonymous with pop art.

The collection of 140 works includes line drawings of film stars including Jane Fonda, Ingrid Bergman and Isabelle Adjani and a series of paintings of Paul Anka, the 1950s pop star whose hits included Diana and Put Your Head on My Shoulder.

Artists including Roy Lichtenstein and Joseph Beuys feature in other artworks that will be shown at the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford from Thursday.

The works — a contrast to the tins of Campbell's soup or the screenprints of Marilyn Monroe for which Warhol is better known — come from the private collection of Andrew Hall, the American millionaire hedge fund manager, and his wife, Christine.



“His

The works are from the collection of American tycoon Andrew Hall (Bolton Quinn td)

portraits were overlooked yet they are pivotal in his work,” Hall writes in the exhibition catalogue.

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 “I think Warhol is the greatest portraitist of the century. He also influenced pretty much everybody
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 who came after him.”

The Ashmolean secured the collection partly because Hall graduated from Oxford with a degree in chemistry in the 1970s. He was also a rowing blue.

Norman Rosenthal, the exhibition's curator, who put on the Sensation exhibition of the Young British Artists in 1997, likened Warhol's later drawings to those of Pablo Picasso, adding: "I'm most pleased with the room of portraits at the Ashmolean."

Previously unseen works on display also include images of Soviet missile bases in eastern Europe, flower paintings and a number of Warhol's oxidation paintings where urine was poured on copper to make a colourful painting.

Recalling meetings with Warhol in the 1970s and 1980s at London's Institute of Contemporary Arts, the Royal Academy and in Berlin, Rosenthal said: "He was fairly monosyllabic, but seemed to want to please. He was a man who would usually say yes to a question rather than no.

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