



## Summer Reading & Viewing

continued from Page 12

available about many of the artists. I hope this book will bring greater attention to this type of art and the extraordinary people who make it."

What they all have in common is an unquenchable desire to make art. Often defying the expectations of family and friends, they have pursued this inspiration. In many cases, these artists began to create in response to a personal crisis. Others harbored an interest in art for many years but only had the time to create following retirement. Most were initially unaware of the academic art world, either because they were unable to afford an art education or because their families considered such an aspiration impractical. These stories of perseverance, struggle and triumph illustrate the strength of the creative impulse, which is a part of us all.

Size: 8 1/2" x 11", 144 pages, 200 photographs (color), ISBN: 978-0-7643-4731-3,

Binding: hard cover, \$34.99 US

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When the *Spirit Speaks: Self-Taught Art of the South* may be purchased from the Hickory Museum of Art gift shop, ([amazon.com](http://amazon.com)), the publisher, and from numerous independent bookstores.

## Columbia Museum of Art in Columbia, SC, Features Works by Andy Warhol

Columbia Museum of Art in Columbia, SC, will present *From Marilyn to Mao: Andy Warhol's Famous Faces*, on view June 12 through Sept. 13, 2015.

The exhibition is a thematically-focused look at the artist's influential silkscreens and his interest in portraits. Andy Warhol (1928-1987) is central to the pop art movement and one of the best-known 20th-century American artists. *From Marilyn to Mao* uses 46 of Warhol's famous portraits to explore pop art's tenet of the cult of celebrity, the idea that pop culture adores the famous simply because they are famous. Warhol exploited society's collective obsession with fame like no artist before or after him. The exhibition celebrates the Mao suite, an anonymous gift to the CMA of the complete



Andy Warhol, "Mao", 1972. © 2015 The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc. / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York

set of 10 silkscreens Warhol created in 1972 of Mao Zedong, chairman of the Communist Party of China (1949-1976).

"The CMA is very grateful for the generous gift of Warhol's complete Mao suite to our collection by an anonymous donor," says CMA Executive Director Karen Brosius. "In honor of the gift, we organized *From Marilyn to Mao* with this significant

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acquisition of 10 Maos as the centerpiece. The gift strengthens the museum's growing collection and its concentration on modern and contemporary art. Our deep thanks to The Andy Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh, PA, and to Bank of America for being major lenders to this exhibition and providing support which is essential to sharing this remarkable selection of Warhol's work with the Midlands."

Warhol first gained success as a commercial illustrator before becoming a world-renowned artist. His works explore the relationship between artistic expression, celebrity culture, and advertisement that flourished by the 1960s - concepts he continued to examine throughout his career. His art forms a mirror of the rise of commercialism and the cult of personality. He was not a judge of his subjects as much as a talented impresario who brought thousands of people into the pantheon of fame, if only for fifteen minutes. Some, such as Marilyn Monroe, got a few more minutes.

continued on Page 14



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upcoming exhibitions

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