MCA DNA Warhol and Marisol

Andy Warhol (American, 1928–1987) and Marisol (Marisol Escobar, American, b. France, 1930) were two prominent figures in New York City's lively art scene in the 1960s, a decade that marked a formative period in the development of their individual work. During this time, Warhol began using silk-screen techniques to produce serial paintings, often derived from mass-media photographs. Marisol began making portraits and developed her signature style: sculptures with boxy wooden forms, painted surfaces, and three-dimensional additions such as plaster castings or everyday objects.

Close friends during those years, Warhol and Marisol attended parties and exhibition openings together. Each also had solo shows at Eleanor Ward's Stable Gallery in New York in 1962 and 1964 and came to be identified with the rising pop art movement. Warhol and Marisol even turned to one another as occasional subjects: Marisol made a sculptural portrait of Warhol in the early 1960s, fondly titled *Andy*; around the same time, Warhol featured Marisol in some of his early, now legendary, films.

Inspired by the multifaceted relationship of these two artists, *MCA DNA: Warhol and Marisol* presents a focused selection of their works, primarily from the collection of the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago. The pairing of their work brings certain affinities into view, including a similar use of repeating figures. At the same time, key examples of Warhol's silk-screen paintings and Marisol's sculptures illuminate the artists' differing approaches to portraiture, and an immediate contrast between Warhol's overtly mechanical approach and Marisol's more handcrafted, labor-intensive techniques.

Marisol and Andy Warhol at an opening of John Willenbecher's work at Feigen and Herbert Gallery, New York, 1963. Photo © Adelaide de Menil, courtesy of Acquavella Galleries, New York

MCA DNA: Warhol and Marisol is part of an ongoing exhibition series featuring iconic works from the MCA Collection and is organized by Karsten Lund, Curatorial Assistant, and Lynne Warren, Curator at MCA Chicago.

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