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THE STREET, THE STORE AND THE SILVER SCREEN: POP ART FROM THE MCA COLLECTION

December 19, 2015 - March 27, 2016



Mounted alongside the major exhibition *Pop Art Design*, the Museum of Contemporary Art presents a companion show, **The Street, the Store, and the Silver Screen: Pop Art from the MCA Collection** to celebrate the MCA's collection of seminal works of Pop Art. This show offers a fresh perspective on how Pop Art continues to shape our cultural understanding to this day, and includes classic works by artists such as Andy Warhol, Claes Oldenburg, Christo, and Roy Lichtenstein. This exhibition is curated by MCA Chief Curator **Michael Darling** and is on view from December 19, 2015 to March 27, 2016.

The three themes – the Street, the Store, and the Silver Screen – provide ways to interpret the art and ideology of the period, which inevitably lead back to the considerations of everyday life. Works by artists including George Segal, Marcel Broodthaers, Ed Ruscha, Allan D'Arcangelo, and Larry Rivers, are shown along with additional works from local Chicago collections, organized into three thematic sections.

The exhibition is organized around three separate themes that illustrate many artists' interests during the 1960s and 1970s: the bustling energy of the street, with its preening passersby, garish signage, and automobile--centric organization; the commercialism that supported and surrounded mass-produced consumer products; and the allure of Hollywood glamour and celebrity. Drawn primarily from the MCA Collection with a few local loans, these works reveal patterns and preoccupations that connect artists working in otherwise distinct styles and approaches. In the 'Street' section, for instance, photo books by Ed Ruscha are presented with a concrete Cadillac in a collage by Wolf Vostell, and a colorful streetwalker in a painting by Ed Paschke.

In the 'Store,' Andy Warhol's silk-screened "portraits" of Campbell's soup cans are joined by papier-mache sculptures of candy by Claes Oldenburg and a painting of an alluring female nude on top of a zebra by Mel Ramos, mimicking an often-used sales strategy in advertising.

In the 'Silver Screen,' we find glamour of various stripes, including 1950s heartthrob Troy Donahue in Andy Warhol's painting *Troy Diptych* and the underground siren pictured in Paschke's technicolor painting *Elcina*. The exhibition reveals the richness of the MCA's holdings in this area of art history as well as the continued relevance and fascination that pop art has for us today.

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Andy Warhol, *Troy Diptych*, 1962. Collection Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, gift of Mrs. Robert B. Mayer. Photo © MCA Chicago. © 2014 The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc./Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York.

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