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**ANDY WARHOL EXHIBITION HIGHLIGHTS “MUSES”  
AT THE MSU BROAD ART MUSEUM**

*What’s in a muse? A new exhibition at the MSU Broad Art Museum sheds light on the relationship between artists and their muses.*

**East Lansing, MI** – The Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum at Michigan State University (MSU Broad Art Museum) is pleased to announce a new exhibition on view May 30–July 2, 2026, in the museum’s Stanley and Selma Hollander Gallery. *Who is She?: Andy Warhol and the Muse Reimagined* uses Andy Warhol as an entry point for deeper dialogue about artists, their muses, and the relationship of worldviews projected in portraiture.

Originating from the ancient Greek goddesses of literature, science, and the arts, a muse is defined as “the presiding spirit or force behind any person or creative act” (OED, “muse,” n<sup>1</sup>, 2c.). From the Greek Calliope to the modern woman, including women such as Jackie Kennedy,

Marilyn Monroe, and Paloma Picasso, the muse is not a static figure—she captivates and transforms the artistic process through her own physical dialogue. Yet to the casual viewer, all that remains is a snapshot of the whole woman.

“*Who is She?* asks us to slow down, to look with intention, and to truly see the women behind Warhol’s images,” commented Morgan Braswell, curatorial research assistant and co-curator of the exhibition.

Warhol, commonly regarded as one of the greatest artists of his time, greatly valued and recognized the beauty, strength, and poise of femininity, often turning to the women around him as inspirations for his work. For Warhol, the female muse was not just a celebrity or portrait sitter, but an active participant in transforming his public image from commercial illustrator-for-hire to internationally recognized artist.

Braswell continued, “These women’s presence, power, and lived experiences shaped Warhol’s art. The exhibition pushes against the flat archetypes that have long defined them, and instead brings these women forward as collaborators, cultural forces, and creative catalysts whose influence transformed his work.”

Nearly 40 works by Warhol from the MSU Broad Art Museum’s permanent collection will be on view in this exhibition, including many Polaroids taken at the Factory, his Manhattan studio. Warhol’s works will be presented in dialogue with other artists from the museum’s collection, including Roy Lichtenstein, Audrey Flack, and Helmut Newton, exploring the concept of muses and Warhol himself.

“Highlighting the lesser-known works by Warhol in our collection was a goal for us when developing this exhibition. Uncovering hidden gems in both artist and muse proves that you don’t have to be a household name to leave a lasting mark,” said Nat Swartz, curatorial research assistant and co-curator of the exhibition. “We have a special opportunity here to share treasured favorites, like Warhol’s *Marilyn* (1967), alongside newer acquisitions in black-and-white photography, illuminating the fascinating relationship between artist and muse.”

The MSU Broad Art Museum is open Wednesday–Sunday from 10am–6pm. Admission is always free. Learn more at [broadmuseum.msu.edu](http://broadmuseum.msu.edu).

***Who is She?: Andy Warhol and the Muse Reimagined*** (May 30–July 2, 2026) is organized by the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum at Michigan State University and curated by Nat Swartz and Morgan Braswell, curatorial research assistants. Support for this exhibition is provided by the Alan and Rebecca Ross Endowed Exhibitions Fund.

**The Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum at Michigan State University (MSU Broad Art Museum)** connects people with art through experiences that inspire curiosity and inquiry. Presenting exhibitions and programs that engage diverse communities around issues of local relevance and global significance, the MSU Broad Art Museum advances the university values of quality, inclusion, and connectivity. Opened on November 10, 2012, the museum was designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect Zaha Hadid and named in honor of Eli and Edythe Broad, longtime supporters of the university who provided the lead gift for its creation.

**Michigan State University** has been advancing the common good with uncommon will for 170 years. One of the world’s leading public research universities, MSU pushes the boundaries of discovery to make a better, safer, healthier world for all while providing life-changing

opportunities to a diverse and inclusive academic community through more than 400 programs of study in 17 degree-granting colleges.

Image: Andy Warhol, *Sandra Brant*, date unknown. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, Michigan State University, gift of the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc., 2008.8.55

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MSU Broad Art Museum representatives are available for interview.

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