

WARHOL

LA LIGNE ET L'IMAGE



From September 16 2026 to January 10 2027

At the Musée du Luxembourg

19 rue de Vaugirard 75006 Paris

Open every day from 10.30am to 7pm

Open Monday evenings until 10 pm

Open on all public holidays except December 25.

Closes at 6:00 pm on December 24 and December 31.

PLACES AUX JEUNES !

Free admission for young people under 26 from Monday to Friday

Limited number of tickets per date, online booking required at

museeduluxembourg.fr

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THE POWER OF SURFACE.

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THE EXHIBITION

“I’d like to be a machine”: this celebrated statement by Andy Warhol (1928-1987), together with his adoption of photo-silkscreen printing in the early 1960s, has obscured the fact that he was originally trained as an illustrator and, above all, that he continued drawing until the very end of his life, reworking motifs so often reproduced mechanically into new compositions.

Warhol’s output as a draftsman is as prolific as it is diverse. Portraits, caricatures, genre scenes, decorative and commercial illustrations, self-promotional portfolios: drawing remained his preferred medium until the late 1950s.

From 1963 onward, filmmaking occupied much of his attention. A decade later, he returned to drawing with new ambitions, closely tied to his painting practice, particularly his commissioned portraits, of which Mao is the quintessential example. He used drawing to explore chromatic, graphic, and conceptual possibilities, often on a scale that far exceeded that of a preparatory sketch. These drawings sometimes

function as full-scale studies for the paintings and possess the same visual force.

1. Eccentricities, Commonplaces

From his student years at the Carnegie Institute of Technology in Pittsburgh, where he trained as an illustrator, Warhol displayed a taste for caricature and self-mockery. He would later produce numerous whimsical images that reveal the influence of his mother, Julia Warhola, who became one of his closest collaborators. Yet he always sought to make his drawings immediately legible, a quality that helped establish him as one of the leading commercial artists of his generation.

In the early 1960s, Warhol identified the commonplaces of American culture that would become his principal source of inspiration, with the success for which he is now renowned. His studies and variations on the Coca-Cola bottle and the Campbell's soup can demonstrate the remarkable range of approaches through which he reimagined these iconic motifs.

2. Alphabets and Rudiments

Handwriting (whether Warhol's own or his mother's) is omnipresent in his drawings of the 1950s. Never merely a form of commentary, it becomes an integral part of the image itself. The same is true when Warhol incorporates or imitates typography, as in his striking collages of hands and feet or his reimagined newspaper front pages.

From writing to signs, from narrative to musical and choreographic notation, the 1960s are once again marked by a process of simplification and formal economy, reinforced through repetition. Warhol was fascinated by elementary systems and procedures: the Rorschach paintings, whose blots echo the famous psychological Rorschach test, can be seen as a form of drawing reduced to its most fundamental gesture.

3. Faces and Masks

The face is both an image and a marker of identity. While drawing traditionally depends on the principle of likeness, a function that photo-silkscreen printing would later fulfill mechanically, Warhol continually altered and transformed his subjects, whether through purely graphic interventions or highly symbolic ones. He first developed what might be described as a form of surgical drawing, exemplified by *Before and After*, which reinforces conventional stereotypes, before turning to a kind of cosmetic drawing, beginning with his portraits of Marilyn and culminating in the *Ladies and Gentlemen* series.

In the 1980s, Warhol explored the idea of the mask more fully. At times, it becomes a means of depersonalizing the subject; at others, particularly in his self-portraits, it serves as an instrument of theatrical transformation.

4. Erotica

Warhol produced an extensive body of gay imagery that remained private until the turn of the 1970s,

circulating only within his immediate circle. The ornamentation of the male body and face gives rise to an eroticism that is at times strikingly romantic, while his many drawings of feet, sometimes true coded portraits, carry an unmistakable symbolic charge. The portrait of James Dean (1955) provides a fascinating counterpoint, where glamour and tragedy are inseparably intertwined.

Reflecting camp culture (an avant-garde aesthetic that reworks contemporary clichés, particularly those of Hollywood, through a coded and ironic visual language), Warhol's erotic drawings resonate with many of his films, most notably *Sleep* (running 5 hours and 21 minutes), an excerpt of which is presented here.

5. Hell and Wonders

Violence occupies a central place in the American imagination, and Warhol returned to it repeatedly, most notably in the *Disasters* series (car accidents, the electric chair, suicides, and riots). In his drawings, however, violence is approached more obliquely and, at times, as in *The Nation's Nightmare* (1951),

through a pared-down visual style. With the “Skulls” series, Warhol revisits the long iconographic vanitas tradition. Yet the shadows cast by each skull sometimes evoke a newborn, sometimes the other half of an ovoid form, suggesting the endlessly recurring cycle of life.

The drawings of the 1940s and 1950s may therefore be seen as images of a lost paradise. In the 1980s, however, works such as Eggs (1982), Rorschach (Hand Prints), and the details of The Last Supper reveal the re-emergence of the marvelous at the very heart of repetition.

Curator

Alain Cueff

Scenography

Véronique Dollfus

Graphic design

Atelier JBL - Claire Boitel

Lighting

Abraxas Concepts

Installation

MPI Action

BACK TO MENU



EXHIBITION MAP



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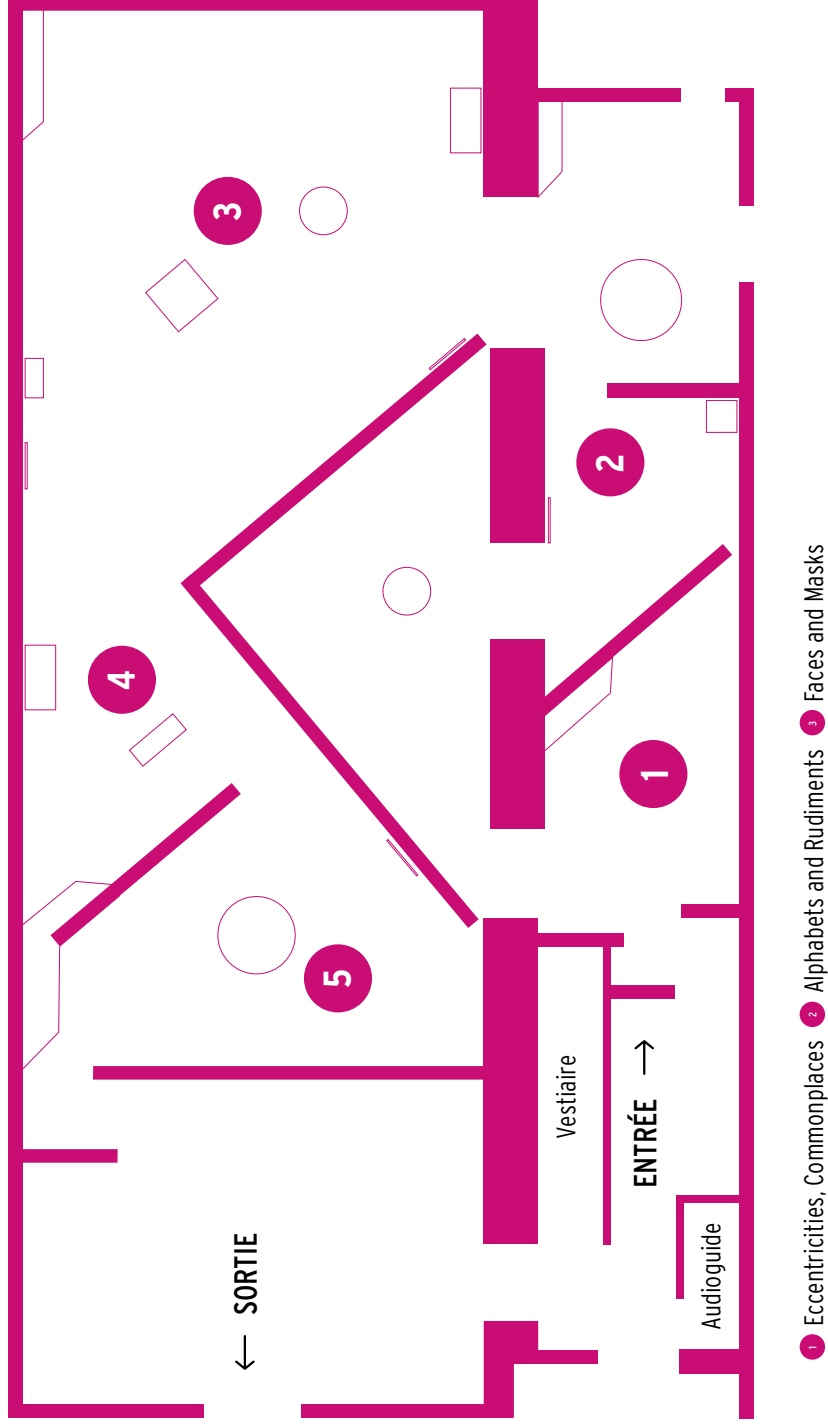
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Exhibition Map

↑ BACK TO MENU



- 1 Eccentricities, Commonplaces
- 2 Alphabets and Rudiments
- 3 Faces and Masks
- 4 Erotica
- 5 Hell and Wonders

MUSEUM LECTURES

At the Palais du Luxembourg, Salle Médicis, entrance at 15 ter rue de Vaugirard. Advance booking is required and free of charge up to three working days before the event at www.museeduluxembourg.fr.

Recordings of the lectures will be available on the museum's website.

Introduction to the Exhibition

Thursday, September 24, 6:30 pm

With Alain Cueff, art historian, curator of the exhibition

Although Andy Warhol famously declared, "I want to be a machine," he continued to draw throughout his life, producing remarkable works that constitute an essential part of his artistic practice. In this introductory lecture, the exhibition curator explores this apparent paradox, which lies at the heart of the exhibition.

Warhol: Lines & Underground

Monday, October 12, 6:30 pm

With Agnès Callu, historian, philosopher of art (EHESS/CNRS), and holder of the GrandPalaisRmn Chair of Excellence

At the interdisciplinary, transgressive, and collaborative heart of the legendary Factory, Andy Warhol explored a universe of multifaceted, underground forms. Focusing on the artist's Pop dots and lines, and drawing on the ideas of anthropologist Tim Ingold, Agnès Callu examines the lines that structure the conception and meaning of Warhol's drawn images.

This lecture is part of the five-year programme of the GrandPalaisRmn Chair of Excellence.

Warhol's Heroines and Their Secret Histories

Monday, November 9, 6:30 pm

With **Géraldine Gourbe**, philosopher, art critic, and exhibition curator

Exploring Andy Warhol's work through the women who surrounded him—artists, actresses, filmmakers, writers, poets, party girls, and others—offers another way of uncovering the secrets of his life and the creative energy of the Factory. Warhol's heroines lead us along unexpected paths through one of the defining histories of Pop Art.

EVENTS AND EVENING PROGRAMMES

Creative Writing Workshops

**Mondays, October 5, November 16 and 30, and
December 14, 6:30 pm**

Ages 16 and over • Duration: 2 hours

Inspired by Andy Warhol's exploration of emptiness and fullness, interior and exterior, private and public, the sensitive and the superficial, the intimate and the social, the editors of the literary magazine *Affixe* invite participants to discover Warholian moments through creative writing. Over the course of each collaborative workshop, participants will explore a world, a life, or a pair of moments through their writing, before sharing and discussing their texts together.

"Inside Warhol's Mind" - Poetic and Musical Walks Through the Exhibition

**Thursdays, October 29, November 12, December 3 and
December 10, 7:00 pm**

Ages 13 and over · Duration: 1 hour

What do Warhol's works reveal when we truly listen? The duo CIE 44 (Lény Guissart / Nicolas Mathieu) invites you on a theatrical and musical journey through the exhibition, where live music and Andy Warhol's intimate and subversive words enter into dialogue with the artworks, offering a fresh perspective on his inner world. Let yourself be drawn into this immersive experience.

Sketchbook Evening

Thursday, November 19, 7:00–9:00 pm

What if you drew Andy Warhol's drawings? Throughout his life, the artist explored drawing in many different ways, using a wide range of techniques and purposes. Whether you are a beginner or an experienced artist, bring your own materials and enjoy an evening of independent sketching in front of the works on display.

Festive Late Opening with Élysée Moon

Saturday, November 28, 7:30–11:00 pm (last admission at 10:30 pm)

Free admission, subject to availability

For this special late opening, the Musée du Luxembourg welcomes Élysée Moon—drag performer, opera singer, and museum guide—for a series of live performances throughout the evening. Blending pop culture, opera, and queer performance, Élysée Moon brings Andy Warhol's world into dialogue with music in a programme freely inspired by the artist's enduring obsessions: advertising, drag and transformation, celebrity, as well as lesser-known aspects of his work and personality.

GUIDED TOURS AND WORKSHOPS

Reservation recommended on museeduluxembourg.fr

General Guided Tour

Thursdays at 12:15 pm

Saturdays and Sundays at 12:15 pm and 5:00 pm

Mondays at 5:00 pm and 8:00 pm

Ages 13 and over · Duration: 1 hour 15 minutes

Stamped, fluid, or deliberately awkward, Andy Warhol's line invites visitors into his world. Like Ariadne guiding the way, a museum lecturer leads visitors through an oeuvre that is at once playful and profound, full of paradox and depth.

Family Tour

Sundays at 2:30 pm

Additional sessions during school holidays

Duration: 1 hour · Ages 6 and over

An artist who wanted to be a machine, drawings of cats, and decorated Easter eggs—Warhol's works are full of surprises. Led by a museum lecturer, this tour is

designed to be enjoyed by the whole family, from age 6 upwards.

Children's Tour and Workshop "Lines and Gestures"

Monday, October 19; Thursday, October 22; Wednesday, November 11; Monday, December 21; and Wednesday, December 23 at 2:15 pm

Duration: 2 hours · Ages 6 and over

Can you really draw like a machine? Following a guided visit of the exhibition with a visual artist, children are invited to experiment for themselves. Using an image of their choice as a starting point, they explore different drawing techniques to reproduce it and make it their own through line and colour.

Tour for Ages 3-5

Saturdays, October 17, November 21, and December 19 at 9:45 am. Duration: 30 minutes

Designed especially for young children, this gentle

introduction to the exhibition combines hands-on activities and play. Led by a museum lecturer and taking place before the museum opens to the public, it offers an ideal first museum experience.

Quiet Hour

**Saturdays, October 17, November 21, and December 19
at 9:30 am**

This dedicated time slot is reserved for visitors on the autism spectrum and their companions, allowing them to explore the exhibition independently in a calm and peaceful environment with a very limited number of visitors.

RESOURCES

Activity booklet

Ages 7 and over

Available free of charge for young visitors at the museum reception desk and as a download from the museum's website.

Audio guide

Discover the exhibition's key works through expert commentary.

Adult tour available in five languages: French, English, German, Spanish, and Italian. Children's tour available in French. Free French and English tours available via the museum's mobile app

Price: €5

GrandPalais+ price: €4

Download via the app: €3.49

Sound Walk

Created especially for the exhibition by QUESAKO, this sound experience extends the principles of appropriation, seriality, and transformation that lie at the heart of Andy Warhol's work.

The sample becomes the sonic equivalent of the silkscreen: material that is repeated, displaced, and reinterpreted until it reveals the hidden mechanisms of contemporary culture. The result is an immersive experience in which seeing and listening follow the same logic: repetition, subtle variation, saturation, and ultimately reduction to the essential.

An original creation for the Tsuku Boshi label. The sound walks are available free of charge via the museum's mobile app and on the Musée du Luxembourg website.

Educational Resource Pack

Available online



THE FREE MUSÉE DU LUXEMBOURG MOBILE APP

The Musée du Luxembourg offers a free mobile app available from Apple and Google stores. An essential tool for practical information, keeping up to date with the latest news, planning your visit, and getting the most out of the museum's exhibitions and events: room-by-room tours, themed tours based on five works in the exhibition (free in French and English), and a musical tour.

You can also find paid audio guides for adults and children for €3.49.

Download the app: <https://tinyurl.com/luxappli>



PUBLICATIONS

Catalogue Grand Palais Rmn Éditions

September 2026, 344 pages, 200 illustrations,
17 x 20.4 cm
€45

MUSEEDULUXEMBOURG.FR

A full program of events and practical information to prepare your visit. Find articles on major themes of the exhibition, artwork spotlights, and a wide range of videos, audio, and playful activities for all audiences.

PREPARE YOUR VISIT

Find more texts, videos, and resources online at museeduluxembourg.fr.

SHARE YOUR VISIT!

#ExpoWarhol #MuseeduLuxembourg



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SHARE YOUR VISIT!

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Mademoiselle ANGELINA

Mademoiselle Angelina unveils two original creations to celebrate the exhibition “Andy Warhol La ligne et l’image”, from 16 September 2026 to 10 January 2027!





The dish "WARHOL" COD

Inspired by Andy Warhol's colourful universe, this dish combines a trio of roasted cauliflower with a delicately briny shellfish cream. Black sesame adds contrast and character, while orange gel brightens the dish with a vibrant, tangy note.



The pastry "WARHOL"

This indulgent creation combines a soft hazelnut biscuit with a delicate crisp layer, enhanced by a smooth caramel crèmeux. Caramelised hazelnuts add a crunchy touch, while a light vanilla whipped ganache brings the finishing touch of sweetness and delicacy.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

These exclusive creations will be available from 16 September 2026 to 10 January 2027,
exclusively at Mademoiselle Angelina.

MADemoisELLE ANGELINA

19 rue de Vaugirard

75006 Paris

Open Monday to Sunday from 10:30 am to 6:45 pm

Late opening until 9:45 pm on Mondays

01 46 34 31 19

www.angelina-paris.fr

@mademoiselle.angelina

MEDIA CONTACT - AGENCE MELCHIOR

TIFFANY HAENSEL

tiffany@agencemelchior.com

+33 (0)6 07 60 73 39

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