

GAGOSIAN GALLERY

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Next week, iconic images by artist Andy Warhol and photographer Richard Avedon go on show in the first major pairing of two of the most significant artists of the 20th century

As Andy Warhol notably said in the programme of a 1968 exhibition of his work in Sweden, "In the future everybody will be famous for 15 minutes." Now, the legendary American artist is one half of what promises to be the most fame-centric – and significant – exhibition of the year, as his colourful screen portraits are juxtaposed alongside the signature monochrome prints of late photographer Richard Avedon.

Next week, London's Gagosian Gallery will open *Avedon Warhol*, a visual love letter to the two artists credited with transforming the art scene in post-war America. There are obvious disparities in their styles: Avedon shot mostly in black and white (see *Louis Armstrong*, below right) while Warhol created large-scale prints in bright, contrasting colour. While they both used repetition as a format, Kara Vander Weg, the co-curator of the Gagosian exhibition, says it's the subject matter which shows the true parallels. "The artists emphasise common themes – social and political power and the glamour of celebrity," she tells *Stylist* from New York. "They were around at a time which saw some really key cultural moments in America. They weren't close friends, but they knew one another; they moved in the same circles. It's a dialogue that's created between them."

LASTING IMPRESSION

With the works spanning from the Fifties to the Nineties, visitors will recognise many faces portrayed by both artists, including Marilyn Monroe, Audrey Hepburn and Liza Minnelli (above). It's about looking



at two people working during the same time and showing their interpretations: two sides of the same subject," explains Vander Weg. "We present them both as being very distinctive and having their own visions and their own taste."

Such is the enduring influence of Avedon and Warhol, today's art world would look very different without them. "There would be no Banksy. There would be no Damien Hirst," explains Cynthia Corbett, founder of her eponymous gallery in London. "They created

the celebration of celebrity and commented on the phenomenon in a sometimes dark, sometimes controversial – but always visually appealing – way. What's going to be interesting for visitors is that they're not only going to be hugely entertained by the art works, but they're going to get a history lesson." And what a fascinating history lesson it promises to be.

Avedon Warhol, 9 February-23 April, Gagosian Gallery, 6-24 Britannia St, London WC1X; gagosian.com



WORDS: JOE BEATY. ARTWORK: ANDY WARHOL. LIZA MINNELLI, 1979. ACRYLIC AND SILKSCREEN, INK ON LINEN, 40 X 40 INCHES. THE ANDY WARHOL MUSEUM, PITTSBURGH. FOUNDINGS COLLECTION, CONTRIBUTION DIA CENTER FOR THE ARTS MUSEUM © 2015 THE ANDY WARHOL FOUNDATION FOR THE VISUAL ARTS, INC. ARTISTS RIGHTS SOCIETY (ARS), NEW YORK. RICHARD AVEDON LOUIS ARMSTRONG, MUSICIAN, NEWPORT JAZZ FESTIVAL, NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND, MAY 3, 1955. PHOTOGRAPH BY RICHARD AVEDON © THE RICHARD AVEDON FOUNDATION