Photographs by Andy Warhol Finally on Display in the Salm Palace

23 February 2016 – The National Gallery in Prague received a unique gift in the year of its 220th anniversary. The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts donated it photographs by the Pop Art icon, thus ranking the Gallery among the last ten museums worldwide among which Warhol’s photographic œuvre was distributed. The photographs, hand-sewn shots and Polaroids form part of the Gallery’s annual exhibition “Generosity. The Art of Giving” and are on display from 23 February. The delay of the installation as compared to the launch of the anniversary’s celebrations, held on 5 February, was caused by a snowstorm in the United States.

Andy Warhol, the son of Ruthenian immigrants originating from, what is today, Slovakia earned global renown mainly for his serigraphs of American celebrities and consumer goods. He, however, also was an enthusiastic photographer, with his Polaroids and shots clearly bearing his distinctive morphology. “Warhol received his first camera at the age of nine, and bought his first Polaroid, SX70, in 1962. Contrary to most of his works, the photographs were not taken in his New York studio – the famed The Factory – but instead were the artist’s personal visual diary,” says Milena Kalinovska, Director of the Collection of Modern and Contemporary Art, the main person behind the donation to the National Gallery in Prague.

The collection of photographs displayed in the Salm Palace is a cross-section through Warhol’s photographic œuvre. It not only presents an array of interesting personalities by which the artist would surround himself (such as the actor Anjelica Houston, the Pablo Picasso’s daughter, Paloma, and the gallery owner Ivan Karp) but also pictures and details from his everyday life. The hand-sewn photographs composed in the series of four document Warhol’s interest in serial depictions of things, known for instance from the serigraphs of the Campbel soup, referring to consumerism and the influence of mass media. As Milena Kalinovska adds, “Several months ago, I addressed the Andy Warhol Foundation asking if they would kindly consider a donation for the National Gallery in Prague. The Foundation was at that time selecting ten world museums among which the last Warhol’s photographs were to be distributed. We thus succeeded to be one of them, side by side for example the British Tate Modern and the Netherlandish Stedelijk Museum.”

Andy Warhol’s photographs are accessible in the Salm Palace in the framework of the annual exhibition entitled “Generosity. The Art of Giving”. Its main section, installed in the Kinsky Palace at the occasion of the 220th anniversary of the establishment of the National Gallery in Prague, presents the best items donated to the Gallery since its foundation. Other Gallery’s buildings and collections have come alive with individual works of art relating to the subject of both generosity and munificence. The photographs by Warhol thus appear in an interesting dialogue with the works by Josef Mánes, while the adjacent Schwarzenberg Palace hosts the examples from the œuvre of the Swedish artist Maths Leiderstam and the German-Lebanese artistic couple Prinz Ghom. Kalinovska closes: “A very significant donation to the National Gallery in Prague came from the American master of Conceptualism, Joseph Kosuth, which can be seen at the main exhibition in the Kinsky Palace.”
Throughout the duration of the “Generosity” exhibition, visitors can buy a special annual admission for 220 CZK, admitting to the exhibition in the Kinský Palace as well as to all permanent exhibitions of the National Gallery in Prague, presenting more than twenty works of contemporary art during this special event.

Interventions of contemporary art in the permanent exhibitions.

**Kinský Palace**  
The Art of Asia  
*Edmund de Waal*  
*Hiroshi Sugimoto*  
*Jaromír Novotný*

**Sternberg Palace**  
Collection of Old Masters  
*Ernesto Neto*  
*Yoshihiro Suda*  
*Klára Kristalová*  
*Lee Kit*  
*Matts Leiderstam*

**Convent of St. Agnes of Bohemia**  
Medieval Art in Bohemia and Central Europe 1200-1550  
*Klára Kristalová*  
*Matts Leiderstam*  
*Pavel Büchler*

**Trade Fair Palace**  
Collection of Modern and Contemporary Art  
*Franz West*  
*Jim Lambie*  
*Jiří Kovanda*  
*Martin Creed*  
*Matts Leiderstam*

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