

ANDY WARHOL

BID NOW

Marilyn Monroe (Marilyn), 1967

Portfolio of ten screenprints on paper

Each sheet measures: 36 in. x 36 in. / 91.44 cm. x 91.44 cm.

Framed dimensions: 8 1/8 in. x 38 1/8 in. x 1 7/8 in. /

20.64 cm. x 96.84 cm. x 4.76 cm. each

12%²50 (signed in pencil and numbered with a rubber stamp on verso)

In 1967, Andy Warhol published the first portfolio of his career—a set of ten color screenprints of American sex symbol and film star Marilyn Monroe. The variable color images are based on an appropriated publicity still from Monroe's 1953 film *Niagara*, the same cropped photograph Warhol referenced for his many Marilyn paintings in the 1960s. Warhol began producing his iconic Marilyn works shortly after her death in 1962, expressing his fixation on stardom, tragedy, affluence, and popular culture. This portfolio is said to have made an icon out of an icon.

Warhol's Marilyn Monroe series challenges the traditional fine art standards of his AbEx predecessors by elevating pop culture symbols into the realm of fine art, blurring the line between the two. The works revitalized the practice of portraiture in the mid-20th century. Warhol's obsession with mechanical reproduction and consumer culture led him to use the commercial process of screenprinting. Each Marilyn was printed using five different screens to generate ten identical photographic images with shifting colors and off-register effects. The repetitive imagery in Warhol's Marilyn series references America's mass production and commercialization of celebrity personas.

This set was the first to be published through Warhol's New York based print-publishing business, Factory Additions. Printer: Aetna Silkscreen Products, Inc., New York.

Courtesy of David Benrimon Fine Art (@benrimonfineart) and Opera Gallery (@operagallery)

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