

*Mao, 1972*  
Andy Warhol



Fundació Suñol



Fundació Glòria Soler



**Fundació Privada José I. Suñol Soler**

**Fundació Privada Glòria Soler Elías**

Mejía Lequerica 14

08028 Barcelona

[www.fundaciosunol.org](http://www.fundaciosunol.org)

[www.fundaciogloriasoler.org](http://www.fundaciogloriasoler.org)

Barcelona, 2022



Andy Warhol (Pittsburgh, 1928 – New York City, 1987)  
*Mao* (1972)

Acrylic, oil and silkscreen on canvas  
208 x 163 cm

It belongs to the Suñol Soler Collection since 1975, when it was  
acquired at the Galleria Galatea in Turin (Italy).

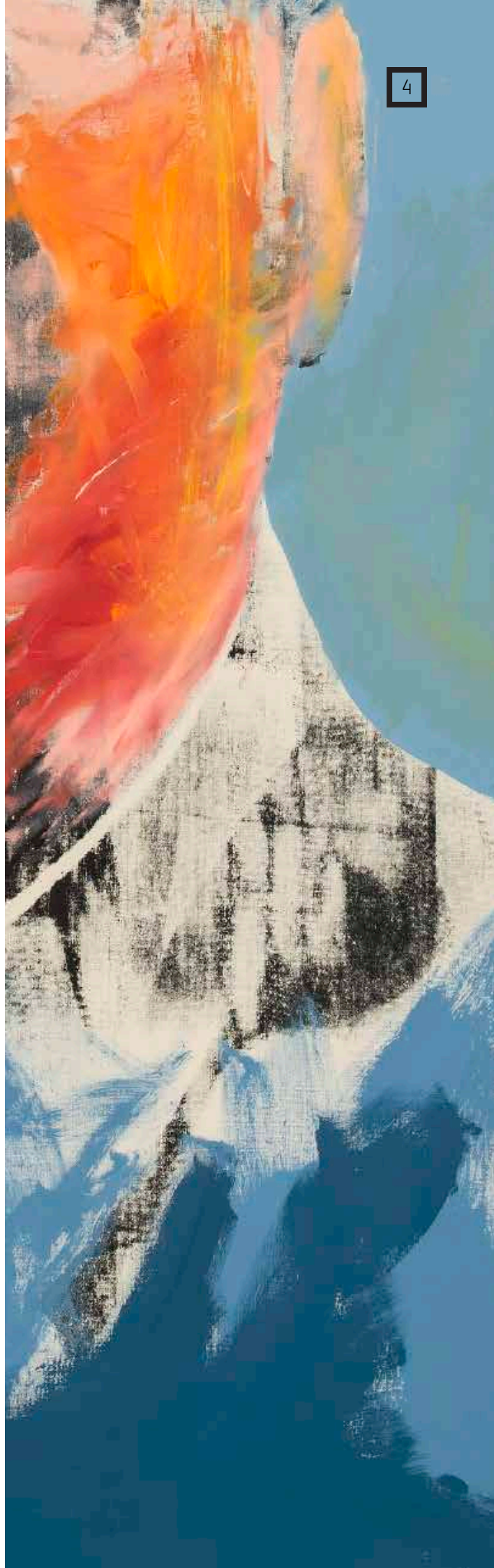


## Presentation

This artwork, which belongs to the Mao Series, was acquired by Mr. Josep Suñol at the Galleria Galatea in Turin (Italy) in 1975. It's a **unique copy** signed on the back of the canvas: 'Andy Warhol'.

When we refer to the term Mao Series, we make reference to a set of artworks with similarities in their subject and in their formats. Specifically in the Mao Series, the artist made 10 unique units, in which all of the variations are evident. That can be appreciated in the screen printing ink, which is worn than usual and also by the amount of paint that was added by Andy Warhol. An interesting detail is that the screen printing was done by hand by the artist himself, and not by an assistant or a technician who usually helped him.

According to Mr. Neil Printz, editor of the Catalogue Raisonné (2009) sponsored by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, who analysed all the 10 units of the Mao series personally, he ensured that **this piece is the best of the series**, because of the combination of colours and the details mentioned above.



## EXHIBITIONS

- "Warhol. El arte mecánico". CaixaForum Barcelona, 2017. CaixaForum Madrid, 2018. Museo Picasso Málaga, 2018
- "Mitos del Pop". Museo Thyssen Bornemisza, Madrid, 2014
- "Continuum. Col·lecció Josep Suñol". Fundació Suñol, Barcelona, 2013-2014
- "5è Aniversari. 2007/2012". Fundació Suñol, Barcelona, 2012-2013
- "27 obres, 18 autors". Fundació Suñol, Barcelona, 2011
- "Col·lecció Josep Suñol. 1a part. 1915-1995". Fundació Suñol, Barcelona, 2007-2008
- "Andy Warhol, 1960-1986". Fundació Joan Miró. Barcelona, 1996
- "Col·leccionistes d'art a Catalunya". Palau de la Virreina, Barcelona, 1987
- "Andy Warhol y España". Círculo de Bellas Artes. Madrid, 1987
- "Andy Warhol". Galleria Galatea, Turin, 1972-1973

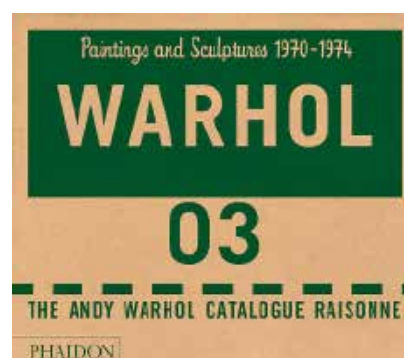
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- PRINTZ, Neil (ed.), Paintings and Sculptures 1970-1974. The Andy Warhol Catalogue Raisonné. Volume 03, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, New York, 2009
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## The Andy Warhol Catalogue Raisonne. Volume 03

# EARLY MAO [CAT NOS 2277- 2287]

Warhol used the same photographic source for the five series of *Mao* paintings that he made in 1972 and 1973: the color frontispiece from an American edition of the *Quotations from Chairman Mao Tse-Tung* (fig. 96). He began his first series of paintings in March 1972, shortly after Richard Nixon's historic first visit to China, completing them in May or June. Warhol made eleven early *Mao* paintings in all. Working without a studio assistant, he painted and printed the screens himself. Printing must have been especially difficult, since the image had been transferred onto a single screen that measured over 6 by 4 1/2 feet. Warhol printed two of the eleven canvases directly over primer, without any prior painting. He left one entirely unpainted (cat. no. 2287), and painted the other after it was printed (cat. no. 2286). In three other early *Maos*, Warhol returned to the canvases after they were printed and touched them up by hand (cat. nos. 2283, 2285, and 2286), painting over the impression in selected areas, principally the hair and along the base of the bust. In two canvases (cat. nos. 2283 and 2285), Warhol added brushstrokes over the background, like calligraphy in Chinese painting. Ten of the canvases were exhibited together at the Kunstmuseum Basel in October 1972 and at the Galleria Galatea, Turin in January 1973. The canvases were stretched in Switzerland to a consistent height of 208 centimeters and a width that graduated from 142 to 172 centimeters. Bruno Bischofberger initially acquired all ten of the Basel canvases, selling half to Gian Enzo Sperone, who had arranged the Galatea exhibition (cat. nos. 2279, 2280, 2282, 2283, and 2285). These paintings are collectively referred to here as "early" *Maos* to establish their place within the chronology of the five series. Warhol referred to all the paintings simply as *Mao*, and the convention has been followed in most of the Warhol literature. Crone 1976, however, uses the title *Portrait of Mao* for the early series, which is cited here as a secondary title.



PRINTZ, Neil (ed.), *Paintings and Sculptures 1970-1974. The Andy Warhol Catalogue Raisonne. Volume 03*, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, New York, 2009









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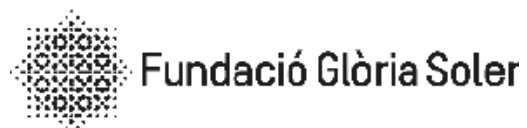


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