



## **ANDY WARHOL (1928-1987)**

### **Portrait of Dorothy Blau-Blue**

Signed verso, "Andy Warhol 83"

acrylic and silkscreen ink on canvas

40 x 40 in.

1983

32827.b

### **PROVENANCE:**

Gift of the Artist

Dorothy Blau Collection, Bal Harbour, Florida

Private Collection, Minnesota

Private Collection, California

Andy Warhol's portrait of Dorothy Blau highlights the close ties between them and is evidence of how each pushed the other. Blau was a close friend of Andy Warhol and a pillar of the art scene in Miami. She has the rare distinction of being a repeated subject in Warhol's work as he created portraits of her two times, three years apart. This blue canvas presents a younger Blau in her first Warhol portrait in 1983.

Warhol credited Blau as a critical component in his rise to international fame and as a pillar of 20th century art. This 1980s portrait contains all of the hallmarks of Warhol during his last decade, a period in which he found renewed creative impulses and a return to hand painting.

Andy Warhol — who famously said that, “In the future, everybody will be famous for 15 minutes” — was known for his portraits of influential and powerful celebrities, business people, and socialites. He was obsessed with wealth and fame. Warhol was a commercial illustrator before he found fame. For him, success in business was also art. He was a visionary who predicted a consumer society. As he assembled a motley cast of studio assistants and “Superstar” actors at his Factory studio in New York, Warhol himself became a pop culture icon — and eventually one of the most important artists of the 20th century. Warhol began making silkscreen paintings in 1962, because the process was faster and felt more like an assembly line than the traditional approach. He removed himself as much as he could from the process, leaving “the production” of his ideas to others who could reproduce images many times, with only slight differences. To create these works, Warhol would select photographs from newspapers and magazines, send them to a printer to be enlarged on silk screens, and then direct Factory assistants to lay the screens over canvases and apply one or two colors with a squeegee. Color was significant in his portraits, and his style became as identifiable as the personalities in the pictures. Warhol’s commentary on consumer and celebrity culture made him a controversial figure — both celebrated and panned by critics, collectors, curators and, eventually, the general public. Today, Warhol’s paintings are mostly held by institutions, which continually feature him in solo and group exhibitions, as well as in installations of their permanent collections. The ongoing fascination with his work and legacy contributes to his high market value and reinforces the icon status he had always hoped to gain.

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