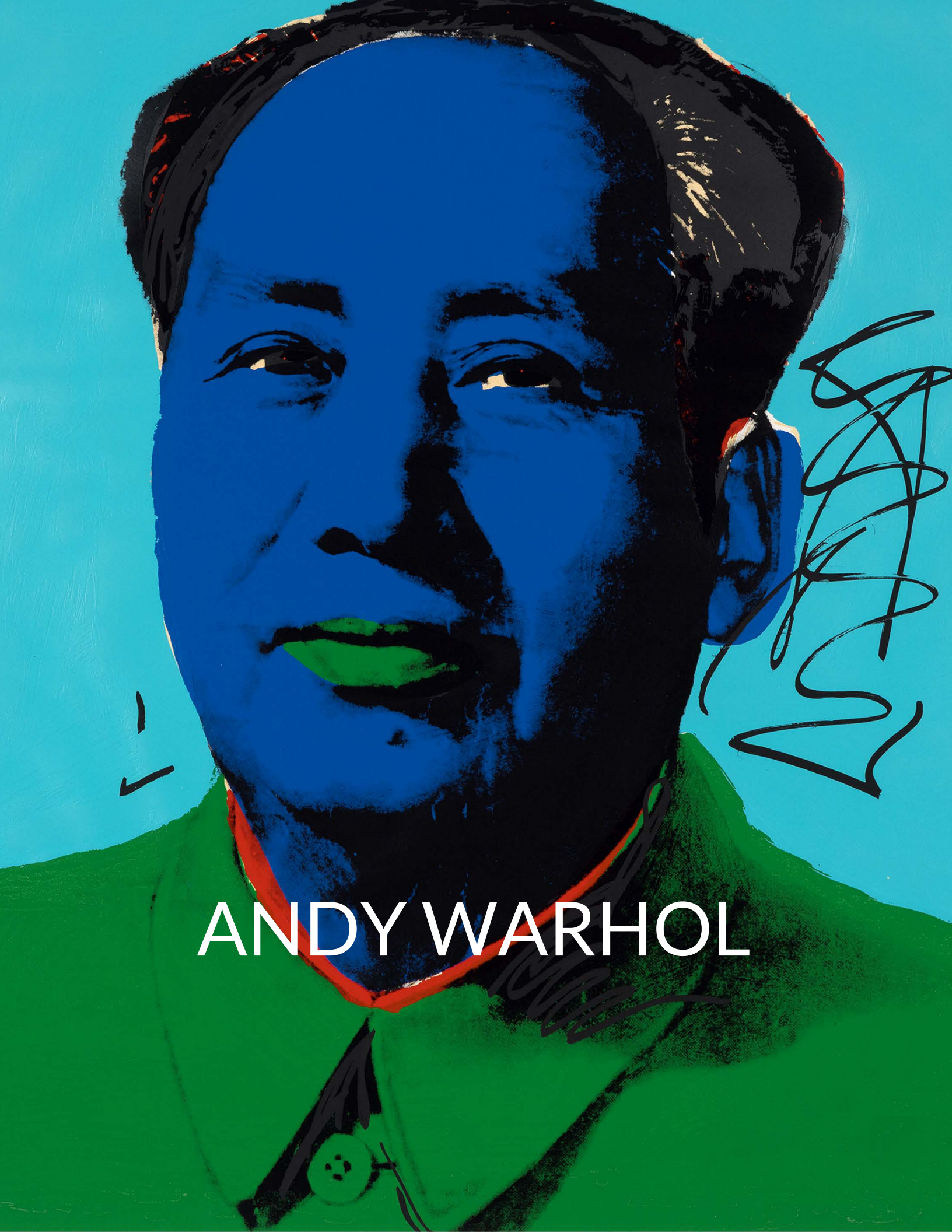




ANDY WARHOL





ANDY WARHOL (1928-1987)**Mao #99**

Signed verso, "Andy Warhol" and stamped verso, "Copyright Andy Warhol 1972,
Printed at Styria Studio Inc., 244/250"

color screenprint

36 x 36 in. (46 1/2 x 46 1/2 x 1 7/8 in.)

91.44 x 91.44 cm (118.11 x 118.11 x 4.76 cm)

244/250

1972

47860

PROVENANCE:

Hamilton Selway
Private Collection

Andy Warhol's *Mao* (1972) is one of the artist's most iconic and provocative screenprints, reflecting his fascination with the intersection of political power and celebrity culture. This impression, numbered 244/250, comes from the regular edition of 250, in addition to 50 artist's proofs. Warhol based the image on the widely circulated official portrait of Chairman Mao Zedong, a figure whose likeness was omnipresent in China during the Cultural Revolution. By reimagining the image through his vivid Pop palette, Warhol transformed a symbol of political authority into a mass-produced cultural icon.

In this version, Mao's face is rendered in a striking deep blue, offset by a green shirt and set against a turquoise background. The bold chromatic choices infuse the portrait with both drama and irony, destabilizing the original propagandistic authority of the image. Warhol further heightens this tension by juxtaposing flat, mechanical silkscreen layers with painterly flourishes, blurring the line between mass production and individual expression.

The *Mao* series marked a new chapter in Warhol's career in the 1970s, shifting from Hollywood stars to figures of global influence. Today, these works are regarded as essential statements on the nature of power, fame, and the pervasive reach of the image in contemporary culture.

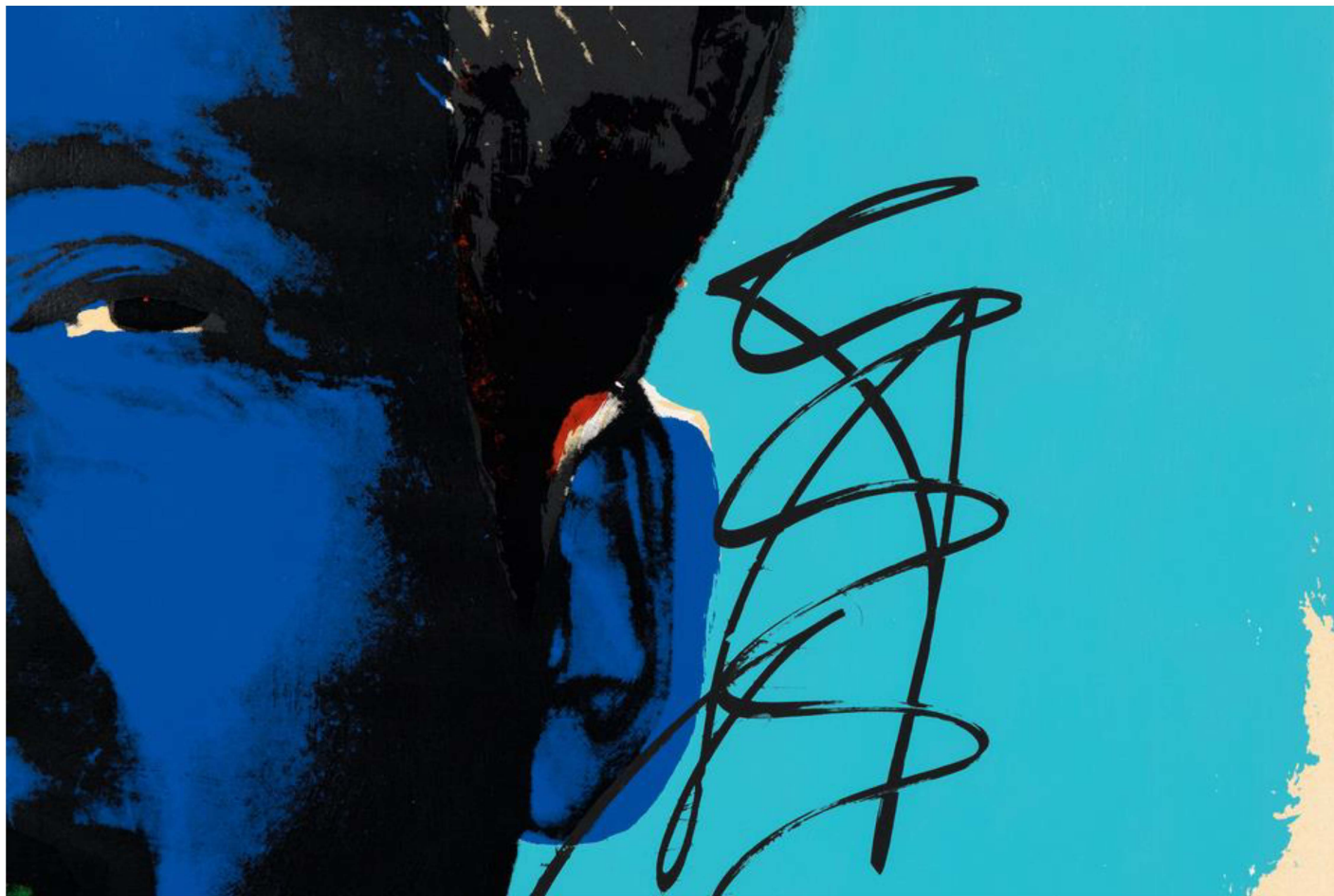
ARTIST BIO:

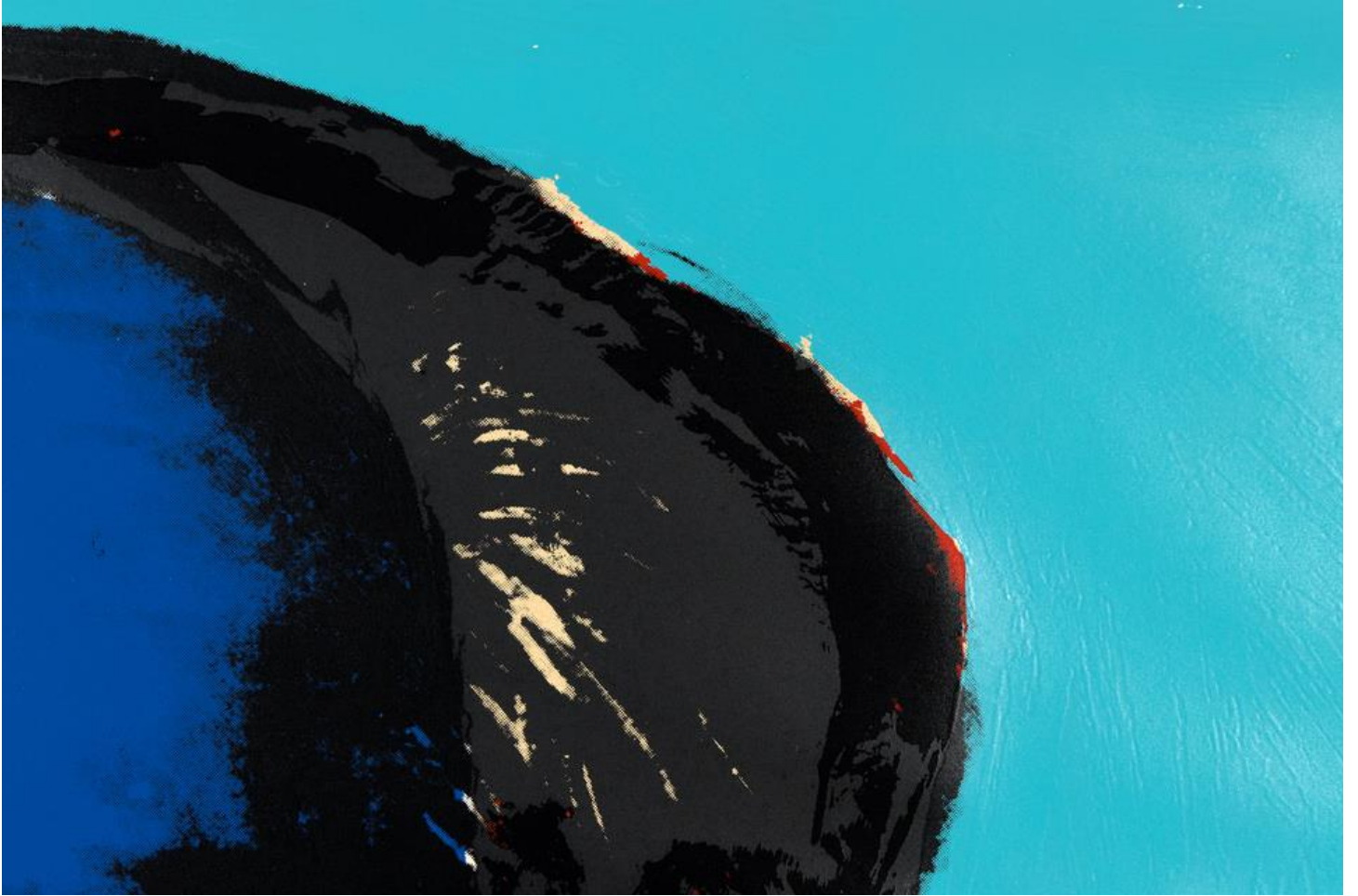
Andy Warhol — who famously said that, "In the future, everybody will be famous for 15 minutes" — was known for his portraits of influential and powerful celebrities, business people, and socialites. He was obsessed with wealth and fame. Warhol was a commercial illustrator before he found fame. For him, 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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244/250

Andy Warhol

