



Andy Warhol: Picture "Mao (FS II.92)" (1972)

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In 1972, when American President Richard Nixon embarked on his visit to China, marking an important milestone in the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the United States after 25 years of silence, Andy Warhol created a portfolio of portraits of Chinese President Mao Zedong.

The veneration of Mao in China, which had grown into a widespread cult of personality and whose image was reproduced in living and working spaces as well as on objects of art and everyday objects, also found its way into U.S. news coverage due to the bilateral political rapprochement.

Fascinated by the ubiquitous media presence of the cultishly revered Mao, Warhol reinterpreted his face in an iconic series of colour lithographs. While formally part of Warhol's body of work featuring portraits of famous or wealthy figures in Western society, the Mao portraits constitute a unique category within Warhol's oeuvre. The artistic manoeuvre is too clever, effectively transforming the quasi-absolutist ruler into a pop icon, aesthetically uniformed and integrated into the world of Warhol. Thus, the artist ultimately hands over the "Great Helmsman" of a communist-ruled nation to Western consumption.

Colour silkscreen, 1972. 250 copies on Beckett High White paper, numbered and hand-signed. Motif size/sheet size 91.4 x 91.4 cm. Size in frame 103.5 x 103.5 cm as shown.

Product link: <https://www.kunsthhaus-artes.de/en/andy-warhol-picture-mao-fs-ii92-1972-945962-r1/>