

DEFROSTING THE ICEBOX

Guesting at mumok: The Hidden Treasures of the Collection of Greek and Roman Antiquities of Kunsthistorisches Museum and Weltmuseum Wien

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September 25, 2020 to May 30, 2021



Andy Warhol

Installation view of *Raid the Icebox* in NOMA's Great Hall, 1969-1970, Image courtesy of the New Orleans Museum of Art. Photography by Stuart Lynn

Press contact

Katharina Murschetz
T +43 1 52500-1400
katharina.murschetz@mumok.at

Katja Kulidzhanova
T +43 1 52500-1450
katja.kulidzhanova@mumok.at

Fax +43 1 52500-1300
press@mumok.at
www.mumok.at

mumok Museum moderner Kunst
Stiftung Ludwig Wien
Museumsplatz 1, 1070 Wien

RAID THE ICEBOX 1 with Andy Warhol is seen as one of the earliest examples of a collection exhibition curated by an artist. Warhol worked with the holdings of the Museum of Art at the Rhode Island School of Design and conceived a traveling exhibition, which opened on October 29, 1969 at the Institute for the Arts at Rice University in Houston, continued on January 17, 1970 at the Isaac Delgado Museum in New Orleans, and finally returned to its point of origin, the Museum of Art at the Rhode Island School of Design in Providence on April 23, 1970.

Though the Warhol-curated exhibition did not feature any works by the artist himself, it contained several presentation strategies that broke with traditional museum standards: Instead of prioritizing the visual arts, Warhol exhibited the applied arts. Instead of applying a classification system of chronology, medium, or style, he presented the objects in an ahistorical, nonhierarchical form. The museum storage became an exhibition; what had almost been forgotten was placed in the limelight. Following Warhol's curatorial principles, mumok takes this exhibition as an occasion to implement those unusual presentation strategies in so important a historic collection as that of Vienna's Kunsthistorisches Museum. A format that not only ties in with mumok's past collection exhibitions (e.g., *Oh...Jakob Lena Knebl and the mumok Collection*, 2017, or *Always, Always, Others*, 2016) but also picks up on a core concept of the collector couple Ludwig, who instead of presenting works statically preferred a constant swap of the collection holdings, thus clearly breaking with tradition.

In keeping with Warhol's motto of "raiding the icebox," mumok will devote an entire level to the Antiques Collection's and Weltmuseum Wien's storages. Taking inspiration from Warhol's atypical list of works—among other things, he presented 2 vases, 7 blankets, 9 baskets, 10 hat boxes, 11 keys, 12 sculptures (copies), 12 wallpapers, 17 chairs, 57 umbrellas, and 194 pairs of shoes—the focus here is placed on selected works from the Weltmuseum Collection (Warhol was a fanatic collector of American Folk Art) as well as Greek and Roman sculpture fragments from the Antiques Collection.

Curated by Marianne Dobner

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The exhibition title *DEFROSTING THE ICEBOX* is based on a text by the curator and art historian Natalie Musteata: "Defrosting the Icebox: A Contextual Analysis of Andy Warhol's *Raid the Icebox 1*," in *Journal of Curatorial Studies*, vol. 5, no. 2 (2016), pp. 214–237.

DEFROSTING THE ICEBOX. Guesting at mumok: The Hidden Treasures of the Collection of Greek and Roman Antiquities of the Kunsthistorisches Museum and Weltmuseum Wien is part of mumok's thematic Warhol focus, which is conceived as a trilogy. The two other parts are *ANDY WARHOL EXHIBITS a glittering alternative* and *MISFITTING TOGETHER. Serial Formations of Pop Art, Minimal Art, and Conceptual Art*

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