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**ALWAYS FRESH
 ALWAYS FREE**

The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston is pleased to present the unveiling of Rob Pruitt's *The Andy Monument*.

**Rob Pruitt: *The Andy Monument*
 On view October 8, 2012 – April 2013**

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Saturday, October 20, 6-8PM

With special guest Lynn Wyatt performing the ribbon cutting honors

HOUSTON, TX (October 10, 2012) The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston is pleased to present *The Andy Monument*, October 2012 – April 2013, on the Museum's front lawn at the corner of Bissonnet and Montrose in the heart of the Houston Museum District. Inspired by Andy Warhol's art and life, New York-based artist Rob Pruitt created the seven-foot tall sculpture as a tribute to the late Pop artist. The ribbon cutting ceremony formerly welcoming *The Andy Monument* to Houston will take place on Saturday, October 20, 6-8PM, with special guest Lynn Wyatt performing the honors.

"We are thrilled to bring Rob Pruitt's *Andy Monument* to Houston. This piece graced the spot outside of the old Warhol factory in Union Square in NY, and it was so popular with area residents that its tenure there was extended twice. It is a piece that makes people first curious and then happy. Even as a young teenager I found in the persona of Andy Warhol license to be the person I wanted to be, and I think that experience is common for many people who learned to love art via Warhol. They will now have a suitable pilgrimage site in Houston," says Director Bill Arning.

Pruitt's sculpture adapts and transforms the familiar tradition of classical statuary. The figure is based on a combination of digital scanning of a live model and hand sculpting, its surface finished in chrome, mounted atop a concrete pedestal. Andy Warhol (1928-1987) was an American artist and is considered the quintessential Pop artist, celebrating fame, wealth, and glamour and in so doing changing the course of both popular culture and art history—inspiring most artists who have risen to fame in the past 30 years in significant ways. In his larger than life persona Warhol remains one of New York's enduring icons. Today his iconic images of the Campbell Soup Can, Elvis, or Warhol are so ubiquitous to appear safe but it's not hard to remember how strange and downright dangerous these were when they were



Rob Pruitt, *The Andy Monument* (detail), 2011.
 Figure: 84 high x 26 inches wide; base: 40 1/2 x 50 x 50 inches; maximum overall dimensions: 124 1/2 x 50 x 5 inches. Chromed, fiberglass reinforced polyester resin, concrete base. Installation view: Union Square (17th Street and Broadway), New York City. Photo: James Ewing, Courtesy of Public Art Fund

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first hung in museums. Pruitt’s sculpture depicts Warhol as a ghostly, silver presence: a potent cultural force as both artist and self-created myth.

[Warhol spent some time in Houston in the 1960s and ’70s when John and Dominique de Menil brought him to town replete with his superstars in tow. He became a confidant of the de Menils and found a number of portrait commissions here, including Mrs. de Menil, Caroline Weiss Law, and Lynn Wyatt. In Houston, people can view works by Warhol at both The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, and The Menil Collection, which has major holdings his work, including iconic paintings such as *Lavender Disaster* \(from the *Electric Chair* series, currently on view\) and *Campbell’s Soup Can*.](#)

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The Andy Monument was organized by Public Art Fund and was originally on view in Union Square, New York, March 30, 2011 – September 4, 2012; the exhibition was curated by Nicholas Baume, Director and Chief Curator of the Public Art Fund. “Inspired by Warhol and his story, Rob moved to New York as a young man and even met Warhol when he visited the ‘Factory’ to interview for a job. Rob’s memory of the artist that day formed the vision for this sculpture, and I think that personal connection will resonate with many who come to visit, just as it does with me,” said Nicholas Baume, Public Art Fund Director and Chief Curator.

CAMH was able to raise part of the funds necessary to bring the sculpture to Houston through an online crowd-funding campaign launched on indiegogo.com, which received both local and national press.

ABOUT ROB PRUITT

Rob Pruitt’s work is rooted in a pop sensibility and a playful critique of art world structures. His conceptual projects have included performance-based artworks like his recent *Art Awards* that were presented at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum (2009 and 2010) and modeled after Hollywood awards ceremonies, as well as simple gestures that promote possibilities for creativity in everyday life, as demonstrated in the series *101 Art Ideas You Can Do Yourself* (2001). His work is always characterized by an incisive humor and exuberant visual flair. Pruitt lives and works in New York City.

SUPPORT

Rob Pruitt: *The Andy Monument* was organized by Public Art Fund.

[The Andy Monument in Houston is generously supported by Leading Sponsor Lynn Wyatt, as well as contributors to the Bring Andy to Houston campaign.](#)

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GENERAL SUPPORT

Funding for the Museum’s operations through the Fund for the Future is made possible by generous grants from Chinhui Juhn and Eddie Allen, Anonymous, Jereann Chaney, Jo and Jim Furr, Barbara and Michael Gamson, Brenda and William Goldberg, Mr. and Mrs. I.H. Kempner III, Marley Lott, Leticia Loya and Fayez Sarofim.

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CAMH’s operations and programs are made possible through the generosity of the Museum’s trustees, patrons, members, and donors. The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston receives partial operating support from the Houston Endowment, the City of Houston through the Houston Museum District Association, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Texas Commission on the Arts, and The Wortham Foundation, Inc. CAMH also thanks its artist benefactors for their support including Ricci Albenda, Anonymous, McArthur Binion, Brendan Cass, Mel Chin, Leonardo Drew, Tim Gardner, Robert Gober, Wayne Gonzales, Oliver Herring, Jim Hodges, Michael Joo, Kurt Kauper, Jon Kessler, Terence Koh, Sean Landers, Zoe Leonard, Marilyn Minter, Donald Moffett, Ernesto Neto, Roxy Paine, Laurie Simmons, Josh Smith, Marc Swanson, and William Wegman.

United is the official airline of the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston.

CAMH MISSION

The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston is a leading destination to experience innovative art. CAMH actively encourages public engagement with its exhibitions through its educational programs, publications, and online presence.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston is located at 5216 Montrose Boulevard, at the corner of Montrose and Bissonnet, in the heart of Houston's Museum District. Hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 10AM-7PM, Thursday 10AM-9PM, Saturday 10AM-6PM, and Sunday 12PM-6PM. Admission is always free. For more information, visit www.camh.org or call 713 284 8250.