

Collections Study Gallery's
inaugural exhibition *I'll Be Your Mirror*
On view Aug 4 – Dec 11, 2021



(Left) **Dave McKenzie**, *Drawing After Andy*, 2001 (detail), video, color, sound, courtesy of the artist and Vielmetter Los Angeles
(Right) **Katria Foster**, *Domestic Affair 6*, 2017 (detail), ultrachrome print, Collection of University Art Museum, University at Albany, State University of New York on behalf of The University at Albany Foundation, Purchase of University at Albany Alumni Association Dr. Arthur N. Collins '48 Purchase Award

ALBANY, NY (July 12, 2021) — The University Art Museum (UAM) is pleased to announce the opening of its **Collections Study Gallery** with the inaugural exhibition *I'll Be Your Mirror*, featuring works from the University at Albany Fine Art Collections by artists including Edward Steichen, Andy Warhol, and Mary Ellen Mark, in dialogue with pieces on loan by past-exhibiting artist Dave McKenzie.

While closed to the public during the Covid-19 crisis, museum staff worked behind the scenes to remodel a second-floor office into an exhibition space that highlights works in the UAM's Collections. This new **Collections Study Gallery** will follow a rotating exhibition schedule highlighting artworks from the Collections in tandem with past exhibiting artists and/or emerging or established contemporary artists.

In 2018 the UAM unveiled its new **Collections Study Space**, a multi-purpose space designed to safely house over 3,000 objects reflecting 50 years of modern and contemporary art, and simultaneously make them accessible to

students, faculty, other researchers and scholars, and the community. The UAM is proud to further this mission through the new **Collections Study Gallery**, as well as a **redesigned digital database** launched in 2020. The database can be viewed here: <https://www.universityartmuseum.org/>

The Collections Study Gallery's inaugural exhibition *I'll Be Your Mirror* asks who we are, who we aspire to be, and what we hide or reveal. The exhibition offers the opportunity to contemplate iconic celebrity portraits alongside equally compelling portraits of anonymous everyday people, as well as abstract painting, sculpture, and video. **Andy Warhol** is central to the exhibition with portraits of celebrities including Jackie Curtis,



(Left) **Andy Warhol**
Jackie from *Artists & Photographs*,
1970
Offset lithograph on paper

Collection of University Art Museum,
University at Albany, State University of
New York, on behalf of the State of New
York Purchase of Art Council, 1978

(Right) **Andy Warhol**
Jackie Curtis, January 1974
Polacolor type 108 on paper

Collection of University Art Museum,
University at Albany, State University
of New York, on behalf of The University
at Albany Foundation, Gift of ©
The Andy Warhol Foundation for the
Visual Arts, Inc.

whose gender performing acting career began in East Village drag; Jackie Kennedy at her husband's funeral, serialized in a blue lithograph that captures the feeling of a nation in mourning, then and today; and Elizabeth Taylor as Cleopatra, a work that raises questions about role-playing; as well as a series of Polaroids of an unknown woman.

From Warhol, the exhibition then extends both backward and forward in time. Classic portraits of actors Paul Robeson, Greta Garbo, and Charlie Chaplain from the *Edward Steichen: Twenty-Five Photographs 1903-1936* portfolio, blur the line between acting persona and the self. **Andreas Feininger's** 1949 photographs of sitters pointing their now-vintage cameras at his camera, reflect their own time but also mirror our contemporary era of selfie-culture, asking us to reflect on what personas we each choose to share with the world in the images we create of ourselves.

Traveling to the present day, **Dave McKenzie's** artwork returns to the UAM after his 2017 solo exhibition *An Intermission*. In one work, the arms and heads of seven women are reprinted from a photograph that could have been taken at work, a party, or as the orange banner on which they are printed suggests, a protest. A 2001 video captures the artist tracing the contours of an Andy Warhol portrait of Elizabeth Taylor on a steamy

glass shower wall—an intimate space for reflecting on the artist’s own identity within the artworld. This intimacy is echoed in **Katria Foster**’s photograph *Domestic Affair 6* (2017) in which an arm reaching out from a shower curtain is reflected in the vanity on the opposite side of the composition.

To navigate one’s identity before the mirror is about more than just the surface image. Works like **Jenny Kemp**’s painting *Screentime* (2020) and **Rachel Foullon**’s three-dimensional construction *Washboard* (2012) made from found objects including mirrors, washboards, and canvas, reflect on the construction of identity through abstract form.

I’ll Be Your Mirror Artists

Andreas Feininger

Jenny Kemp

Edward Steichen

Katria Foster

Mary Ellen Mark

Andy Warhol

Rachel Foullon

Dave McKenzie

Concurrently, the UAM is pleased to present ***Well/Being: An Exhibition on Healing and Repair*** featuring artwork that addresses the complexities of daily life during this pandemic era. 12 established and emerging artists and musicians present multi-disciplinary approaches to pandemic-related issues such as kinship, chronic illness, convalescence, intimacy, the emotional costs of caregiving, and various incarnations of love and community.

Responding to the urgent need for social and cultural spaces in which to pause, reflect, and find solace, *Well/Being* includes new commissions, participatory workshops, performances, and conversations created to provide an environment in which visitors can experience forms of connection, resilience, action, and hope in turbulent times.

Well/Being Artists

Panteha Abareshi

Tanja Hollander

Amaryllis DeJesus Moleski

Sanford Biggers

Scott Keightley

Emily Daggett Smith

Diedrick Brackens

Michelle Young Lee

Odessa Straub

Jeffrey Gibson

Glendalys Medina

Carrie Mae Weems

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Initial support for the Collections Study Space was provided by the Henry Luce Foundation American Art Program.

Additional support for programming is provided by University Auxiliary Services at Albany, Rose & Kiernan, Inc., and the Jack and Gertrude Horan Memorial Endowment Fund for Student Outreach.

Museum Hours:

Tuesday through Saturday 11 am – 4 pm

Closed Thanksgiving weekend

For the most up-to-date information on hours and visitor guidelines, please visit our website at www.albany.edu/museum, or call (518) 442-4035.

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