

PRESS RELEASE

## Andy Warhol, *The Textiles*

Museum Cobra, 24 april until 6 september 2026

Museum Cobra presents the exhibition [Andy Warhol, The Textiles](#) from 24 April to 6 September 2026. This major presentation brings together Andy Warhol's early textile designs for the first time in the Netherlands. The exhibition sheds new light on his artistic practice and shows how his later iconic visual language is rooted in his early years as a commercial designer and illustrator.



*v.l.n.r. Silk dress in pink and blue colourway, maker unknown. © The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc. c/o Pictoright Amsterdam 2026. Skirt by Marden Classics, late 1950s. © The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc. c/o Pictoright Amsterdam 2026*

The designs on view date from the 1950s and early 1960s, a period in which Warhol worked on commission for various American textile manufacturers. The exhibition features more than sixty textile designs with recognisable and playful motifs such as ice-cream sundaes, candy apples, lemons, buttons, pretzels, and clowns. These designs reveal the origins of Warhol's later style: repetition of imagery, pronounced contour lines, and a direct, accessible visual vocabulary. Although Warhol is best known for his iconic screen prints, this presentation shows how his fascination with pattern and consumer culture was already visible in applied design before the Pop Art period. Long before achieving worldwide fame as a pioneer of Pop Art, Warhol designed playful and experimental fabrics for fashion and interiors. Through repetition, bold lines, and humorous motifs, he explored how visual language changes when it is multiplied, worn, and becomes part of everyday life. These textile designs mark a phase in which Warhol experimented freely with the interplay between art, fashion, and commerce. They make visible how his visual language developed while being literally woven into daily existence.

Set against the backdrop of the optimistic and rapidly changing 1950s and 1960s, Andy Warhol, *The Textiles* shows how these seemingly light and sparkling designs formed an essential step toward the

iconic visual language with which Warhol would later permanently transform the art world. The exhibition also includes designs produced in collaboration with leading American textile manufacturers, including Stehli Silks, Fuller Fabrics Inc., and M. Lowenstein and Sons. The exhibition is organised in collaboration with the Fashion and Textile Museum in London.

## **Dialogue with Cobra: Wilde rokken**

Running concurrently with Andy Warhol, *The Textiles*, Museum Cobra presents the exhibition *Wilde rokken*, in which Warhol's textile designs are shown alongside designs by Cobra artists. This creates a surprising connection between Warhol's playful imagery and the free experimentation of the Cobra movement.

During the same period, the Cobra movement also engaged extensively with pattern and textiles, as part of a broader search for freedom in form, colour, and expression. Early responses at the time were anything but enthusiastic: newspapers mocked manufacturers for using the word "art" and accused artists of not understanding the technical limits of textile design. As knowledge of production and visual language became better aligned, criticism slowly shifted into admiration, and the same designs became widely accepted.

Against the backdrop of the post-war period through to the 1960s, *Wilde rokken* also looks at societal changes such as women's growing independence, their autonomy over their bodies, and the ways in which they made clear statements through clothing and interiors. The exhibition traces this shift from outrage to acceptance and shows how once-controversial textiles grew into recognisable symbols of modern life. *Wilde rokken* is curated by guest curator Eloise Sweetman, in dialogue with Museum Cobra's programme team.

Suzanne Wallinga, Director of Museum Cobra:

"With this presentation we are showing a side of Warhol that is scarcely known in the Netherlands. His early textile designs are not only fresh and humorous but also demonstrate how versatile he was as a maker. By connecting this work with textile designs by Cobra artists, a new story emerges about experiment, colour, and the cross-pollination between art and design."

### **Andy Warhol, *The Textiles***

Museum Cobra, Amstelveen  
24 april – 6 september 2026

### ***Wilde rokken***

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More information: [www.museumcobra.nl](http://www.museumcobra.nl)

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