

## -PRESS RELEASE-

### ANDY WARHOL POLAROID PICTURES 2 FEBRUARY – 13 APRIL 2019 BASTIAN, LONDON



Left: Andy Warhol, *Jean-Michel Basquiat*, 1982, Polacolor ER, 10.8 x 8.5 cm. ©2018 The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc. Licensed by DACS, London. Courtesy BASTIAN London.

Right: Andy Warhol, *Self-Portrait in Fright Wig*, 1986, Polacolor ER, 10.8 x 8.5 cm. © 2018 The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc. Licensed by DACS, London. Courtesy BASTIAN, London

BASTIAN is pleased to present *Andy Warhol Polaroid Pictures*, the inaugural exhibition at the gallery's London space running 2 February – 13 April 2019. A series of over 60 portrait and self-portrait Polaroid photographs by Andy Warhol - some of which are exhibited for the first time - depict artists, actors, politicians and friends of his eccentric Factory entourage. The exhibition offers an intimate portrayal of New York in the 1970s and 80s during the establishment of a new visual culture. Positioning Warhol as both subject and spectator, the series highlights the artist's prolific capacity as a chronicler of his time.

Central to the exhibition is *Self-Portrait* (1979). Measuring 81.3 x 55.9 cm, it is one of the few large-scale Polaroid portraits produced by Warhol. In this work the artist's face, grimacing and strained, looms closely into the camera lens, producing a highly personal yet seemingly estranged encounter with the viewer. Echoing this idea of a fictitious surface, where reality is just an illusion, is the artist's series of celebrity portraits. Alongside other friends, clients and Studio 54 dwellers, these photographs - initially preparatory works for Warhol's iconic silkscreen portraits - reveal

BASTIAN  
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a lack of pathos or individuation, underlining the artist's notion of an era where "everybody looks alike and acts alike, and we're getting more and more that way". The exhibition features figures such as David Hockney, Jane Fonda and John Lennon, alongside photographs on view for the first time including Richard Hamilton, Joseph Beuys and a series of self-portraits.

The Big Shot camera was an integral tool of Warhol's from the early 1970s until his death in 1987. Created by Polaroid for portrait use only, the camera's simple design of integrated flash, viewfinder and fixed focus allowed the artist to instantaneously capture his subjects without sensibility. Using different Polaroid films and procedures, Warhol's prolific output reflects his wider practice and ongoing fascination with consumer culture. At the same time, the photographs portray the beginnings of an era and society defined by image and illusion.

### **About BASTIAN**

Founded in 1989 by Céline and Heiner Bastian, the gallery is dedicated to representing and exhibiting modern and contemporary art. Under the direction of second generation Aeneas Bastian since 2016, the core exhibition programme includes 20th century artists such as Pablo Picasso and Jean Dubuffet, as well as German and American post-war artists including Joseph Beuys, Anselm Kiefer, Cy Twombly, Robert Rauschenberg and Andy Warhol.

As well as publishing exhibition catalogues, artist monographs and catalogues raisonnés, BASTIAN participates at international art fairs including TEFAF Maastricht, TEFAF New York, Art Berlin, Art Düsseldorf and Frieze Masters.

### **Notes to editors**

Title: *Andy Warhol Polaroid Pictures*

Location: 8 Davies Street, London W1K 3DW

Dates: 2 February – 13 April 2019

Press Preview: 9.30 am, 30 January 2019

Exhibition Opening: 6-8pm, 1 February 2019

Hours: Tuesday to Saturday, 10am to 6pm

Admission: Free

[www.galeriebastian.com/en](http://www.galeriebastian.com/en)

[@galeriebastian](https://www.instagram.com/galeriebastian)

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