

Marisol Retrospective to Open at Brooks Museum on June 14

Marisol: Sculptures and Works on Paper exhibition and catalog re-establish artist as major figure in postwar art

Memphis, TN (May 27, 2014) — Memphis Brooks Museum of Art is proud to announce the exhibition *Marisol: Sculptures and Works on Paper*, which will premiere at the Brooks Museum on June 14. The exhibition will remain on view in Memphis until September 7 when it travels to El Museo del Barrio in New York City. A catalog, co-published by Yale University Press, is available worldwide.

This is the first major retrospective to include Marisol's sculptures in conjunction with her works on paper. Curated by the Brooks Museum's Chief Curator, Marina Pacini, the exhibition is inspired by Marisol's mixed-media sculpture *The Family*, commissioned by the Brooks Museum in 1969. The exhibition includes works that range in date from 1955 to 1998 and will shed light on Marisol's artistic evolution, both in terms of subject matter and materials. The exhibition includes examples of the various media Marisol used (bronze casting, wood carving, assemblage, plaster casts, terracotta, drawing, and printmaking) as well as the many themes and subjects she considered.

The Brooks Museum hopes to enrich the lives of Memphis' diverse community via many Summer 2014 "Brooks +" collaborations which strive to make art accessible to the whole community in and outside the walls of the museum. Marisol-related Brooks + programs include *Inspired by Marisol: A Sculptural Response* (Brooks + Downtown Memphis Commission), a student art walk and exhibition on view in South Main shops and businesses through June 21; and a Downtown Public Art Walking Tour (Brooks + UrbanArt Commission) from 5:30 to 7 pm on Thursday, June 19. Other Marisol-related exhibitions include *Akin*, on view at Crosstown Arts from June 5 through July 5; and *Andy Warhol Portraits*, on view at Art Museum at the University of Memphis July 12 through September 13, 2014.

On June 14, opening day of *Marisol: Sculptures and Works on Paper*, Memphis Knit Mafia will yarn bomb the outside of the Brooks Museum in celebration of Marisol from 10 am to noon. There will be food trucks lined up on the museum plaza until 1 pm. And, from

11 am to 1 pm, young museumgoers can attend Creation Station: Meet Marisol, a drop-in art making activity. Inspired by Marisol's work, children will use paper to create life-size twins. Creation Station is included with regular museum admission, free for Brooks members, and always free for all children six and under.

Other important Marisol-related programs include two talks: *Marisol's Families*, with Marina Pacini, at 7 pm on Thursday, June 26; and *Thinking Inside the Box: American Sculpture of the 1960s*, with Rhodes College professor David McCarthy at 7 pm on Thursday, September 4. Entry for both talks is included with regular museum admission and free for members and students. There are two docent-led tours of the exhibition (6:30 pm on Thursday, August 7 and 2 pm on Sunday, September 7), and a guided tour by Memphis sculptor Tom Lee (2 pm on Saturday, July 12). Tours are included with regular museum admission. Macy's Community Day is 10 am to 1 pm on Saturday, August 9; and on Thursday, August 21, the museum will hold Must Love Marisol!, a 21+ event from 5:30 to 9 pm that includes art-making, music, performances, and a screening of Andy Warhol's 1963 film *Kiss*, which features Marisol.

Information about the Marisol exhibition, programs, and Brooks + collaborations will be promoted using the hashtag #meetMarisol. The Brooks hopes to create a community conversation using #meetMarisol across social media platforms.

Marisol is best known for her large figural sculptures that address a variety of subjects of pivotal importance in the second half of the twentieth century including women's roles, families, and historical and contemporary figures. Her sculptures, an amalgam of several artistic references and styles, are composed of drawn and painted elements; plaster casts; carved wood and stone; assembled plywood; industrial materials such as neon, Astroturf, and mirrors; and many found objects including clothing, televisions, and baby carriages.

Among the themes explored in the exhibition and catalogue are Marisol's myriad influences (Neo-Dada, Surrealism, American and Latin American folk art, Pre-Columbian art, etc.); her relationship to postwar art and cultural movements (Pop, Minimalism, and Feminism); her experimentation with materials; her extensive use of portraiture; her politically charged sculptures; and her identity as a female artist who was born in Paris of Venezuelan parents and lived most of her life in New York City.

Beginning in 1955, when she was singled out by John Ferren in *ArtNews* for a printer's box included in a group show at the Stable Gallery, Marisol was routinely written about by such critics as Dore Ashton, Lucy Lippard, and Irving Sandler. Marisol was immensely popular with the public as well. Her 1964 exhibition at the Stable Gallery drew 2,000 people a day. According to Lawrence Campbell, "Her visitors included not only everyone who counts in the art world, but the kind of people one does not expect to find in an art gallery—mothers with five children, for example. Children are among Marisol's most loyal fans." She received important commissions from *Time* magazine

for cover portraits of Hugh Hefner and Bob Hope. In 2006, she was granted a Lifetime Achievement Award in the Visual Arts from the Women's Caucus for Art.

In November 2012, the Brooks Museum received an Art Works grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to support the *Marisol: Sculpture and Works on Paper* traveling exhibition and catalogue. Previously, the Brooks Museum was awarded grants from the Henry Luce Foundation and the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts for the Marisol project.

Marina Pacini says of Marisol, "She was among the most significant artists of the 1960s. She was included in several of the important exhibitions of the decade and her work was acquired by prominent museums including the Museum of Modern Art and the Whitney Museum of American Art. Over time, she was eclipsed by changing tastes in the art world and the continuing relegation of women artists to the sidelines. This exhibition will serve to remind viewers of her importance to American art. It is my hope that she will once again take her rightful place in museum exhibitions and textbooks."

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About the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art: Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, located at 1934 Poplar Avenue in historic Overton Park, is one of the leading art museums in the American South. Over 9,000 works make up the Brooks Museum's permanent collection including ancient works from Greece, Rome, and the Ancient Americas; Renaissance masterpieces from Italy; English portraiture; American painting and decorative arts; contemporary art; and a survey of African art. For more information on the Brooks, and all other exhibitions and programs, call (901) 544-6200 or visit www.brooksmuseum.org.

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