



**INTRODUCING – “ANDY IN NATURE” – AN EXCITING & UNIQUE NEW EXHIBITION
FEATURING ARTISTS CHRISTOPHER MAKOS AND PAUL SOLBERG
OPENING IN MILFORD, PA ON SEPT 23, 2022
JOIN US AT “FOREST HALL” FOR SOME NEVER-BEFORE-SEEN
PHOTOS OF ANDY WARHOL, ALONGSIDE SOLBERG’S SIGNATURE FLOWER IMAGES**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Milford, PA (July 25, 2022) Artists Christopher Makos and Paul Solberg, aka the “Hilton Brothers”, are pleased to announce a joint exhibition: **ANDY IN NATURE**. This unique exhibit features a selection of Makos’ photographs centered on an unexplored, yet rich dimension of Andy Warhol’s life--his relationship with the natural world. These images will be exhibited alongside Paul Solberg’s well-known flower works. Their combined images bring a celebratory approach to the natural world that is made even more meaningful by the historic exhibition venue.

“Forest Hall”, is an iconic, architecturally important 19th century bluestone building in the heart of Milford, Pennsylvania, which is known as the birthplace of the American Conservation Movement. The exhibition kicks off with a VIP preview event on Friday, September 23 and remain open to the public until October 23. Just 90 minutes from NYC, this makes a great weekend getaway for New Yorkers looking for an art/nature excursion.

Christopher Makos was a close friend to and important influence on Andy Warhol in the 1970s and 1980s and his work documenting the eclectic world surrounding the “Factory”, and the vibrant New York social scene of that era, have been featured in scores of exhibitions, documentaries, and publications, including the recent critically acclaimed Netflix documentary “**The Warhol Diaries**” from producer Ryan Murphy. His new exhibit presents Warhol away from the Factory, away from New York, enjoying a restorative and deep engagement with the natural environment, at the beach, in the woods and in the Colorado mountains. The exhibit challenges the caricatured image of the commercial Andy Warhol, often seen as a plastic figure obsessed with consumerism, advertising and shallow society.

In this work a gentler Warhol emerges. He is seen relaxing at Eothen, his Montauk, Long Island, seaside home; enjoying Central Park where he found tranquility in the middle of Manhattan’s madness; and skiing on the slopes and through the forests in the Colorado mountains. Warhol’s connection to nature, as surprising and unexpected as some may find it, ultimately led him to bequeath his multi-million-dollar Montauk property to The Nature Conservancy, which established a preserve and visual arts program in his honor.

Makos work highlights this aspect of Warhol's life and brings attention to Warhol's commitment to conservation. Juxtaposed with Solberg's vibrant images of flowers in bloom creates a stunning effect, made even more meaningful displayed in a building that is iconic to the conservation movement.

Solberg's flowers in bloom make use of an "O'Keefeian" play with a unique perspective. His exploration of the flower, as a symbol, in an isolated studio setting recalls the abstraction of Warhol's own screen-printed Flowers series of the early 1970s. Solberg's highly refined use of sophisticated lighting techniques renders the flowers with a clarity and texture that allow them to appear almost scientific, while retaining an unparalleled brilliance and beauty.

The exhibit pays homage to the history of the Conservation Movement, Milford as its birthplace and Forest Hall, where a generation of America's first professional conservationists learned their profession.

The original part of Forest Hall was built in the 1860s and designed by Calvert Vaux, the co-designer of New York's Central Park. In its original iteration, it included a residential painting studio used by masters of the Hudson River School, including Worthington Whittredge, John Weir, Jervis McEntee and Sanford Gifford. Forty years later, architects Hunt & Hunt (the sons of Richard Morris Hunt, who designed the façade of the Metropolitan Museum and the Statue of Liberty base and grounds) designed the rest of the building—where the **ANDY IN NATURE** exhibit will be on display.

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