

ANDY WARHOL SIGNED CAMPBELL'S SOUP CAN INSTALLED AT THE UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR THE ARTS



Colorado State University celebrates the completion of the \$43 million University Center for the Arts facility with a community ribbon cutting ceremony and open house from 1 – 3 p.m., Oct. 16 on the front steps of the new Center, 1400 Remington, Fort Collins, Colo. 80523.

The University Center for the Arts, or UCA, located in the renovated old Fort Collins High School, is home to CSU's School of the Arts. Located on the front lawn of the world-class facility designed to support all art forms, an outdoor Sculpture Garden has been designed by the Department of Art in conjunction with CSU Landscape architects.

Coinciding with the University Center for the Arts grand opening celebration is the return to campus of one of the three beloved Campbell's Tomato Soup Cans signed by Andy Warhol. The soup cans were created in collaboration with Warhol for the opening of the *Warhol at Colorado State University* exhibit, and were signed by Warhol upon his arrival at the art building on September 1, 1981. The massive can resided on the Department of Art front lawn until 1986, and was installed at the UCA on September 29, 2008 as the third piece in the developing UCA Sculpture Garden.



The *Warhol at Colorado State University* project was brought to campus by longtime Art Department donor and friend John Powers who "assisted the University in mounting exhibitions of the works of prominent artists. He generously gave his time and lent from his art collection enabling students and faculty in Fort Collins to see work that would otherwise only be available in large, urban art centers." (from "A Tribute to John Powers" by Lanny Frickman, University Art Museum Director) The exhibit details were spear-headed by then Art Department Chair Peter Jacobs who met twice with Warhol in his New York studio to discuss the details.

Undergraduate student Bruce Conway painted the donated scrap pipe according to Warhol's specifications to style them after a tomato soup can, "Right off the super market shelf." This collaborative process was a standard method for Warhol who committed to sign the cans upon his arrival. Renowned pop art dealer Leo Castelli stated that "The Giant Campbell's Tomato Soup Cans are unquestionably a part of Andy Warhol's history."

In 1989 one of the three cans was sold to the Hara Museum of Contemporary Art in Gunma-Ken province, 100 miles north of Tokyo. Proceeds went to support Art Department programming and exhibitions.

In addition to the soup can, two pieces were already sited this summer: Bret Price's (www.bretprice.com) 20' tall galvanized steel "Jezebel" and Doris Laughton's (www.dorislaughton.com) colorful "Steel Splat". Two promised gifts from Polly and Mark Addison have been designated for future installation: Carolyn Braaksma's, *Untitled* (Concrete Chair), 1987, cast concrete, and Douglas Wilson, *Untitled*, 1979, welded steel and bronze.

NOTE OF INTEREST: The cow in the above photo of Andy Warhol was brought to the signing upon Warhol's request after he was amused by seeing the cows in the Stock Judging Pavilion while driving down Pitkin to the Visual Arts Building.

[READ MORE](#) about the UCA Grand Opening