

Fashion Illustration Gallery Summer Show 2014

**Featuring Richard Bernstein's Cover Art for Interview Magazine**  
and Paintings, Drawings, Prints, Books and Magazines by the world's leading fashion illustrators

FIG at The Mayor Gallery  
21 Cork Street  
London W1S 3LZ

Open in the public Thursday 7th August - Saturday 23rd 2014  
11am - 6pm (Closed Sunday 10th and 17th)

**Fashion Illustration Gallery (FIG) presents a collection of works created by artist illustrator Richard Bernstein (1939-2002) for the cover of Andy Warhol's Interview Magazine at the FIG Summer Show opening to the public on August 7th 2014.**

Bernstein made the up-and-coming celebrities of the 70s and 80s such as Sylvester Stallone, Calvin Klein, Mick Jagger, Diana Ross, Diane Lane, Susan Sarandon et al, look sleek, sexy, glamorous and forever young. For some appearing on the cover of *Interview* provided more than just fifteen minutes of fame; it certified them and made their careers.

With his use of photographs heavily retouched with paint, pencil, and pastel, Bernstein monumentalized his subjects. His classically idealized portraits, with their roots in Renaissance portraiture, have a distinct three-dimensional quality because of his use of cutouts, which he called his stencils. His portraits are airbrushed painted and chalked-over photo portraits by photographers such as Albert Watson and Herb Ritts.

Although Warhol is quoted as saying, "*Sometimes people think I do the cover of Interview. Well, I don't, I haven't the time. But Richard Bernstein's faces are wonderful. They're so colourful and he makes everyone look so famous*", the covers were designed in such a way that people would think that Warhol had made them. What appears to be Andy's signature was sometimes printed above the cursive masthead which Bernstein designed and Warhol would autograph the covers of fans' copies, never disabusing them of the notion he had done the covers himself but Bernstein never signed a cover and Warhol never made one himself. Bob Colacello, who edited *Interview* for over a decade, credits Bernstein with transforming the style of *Interview* magazine: "*The whole look was very intellectual*" Bob observed, "*and it was all black and white. In about 1972...we wanted to make it more pop... so, Richard Bernstein was brought in*".

Described as the great pop artist manqué of his day Bernstein's career was beset by a growing drug dependency and never really got off the ground. Whilst he partied with the Studio 54 set and rode in limos he couldn't afford food or rent... he managed to sell a handful of portraits but most of his subjects for *Interview* thought they should get the artwork for free. If they had the money they bought a portrait made by Warhol and if Bernstein had the money, allegedly, he spent it on narcotics.

Pat Hackett, Warhol's secretary and editor of the *Andy Warhol Diaries*, said upon hearing of Richard's death in 2002, '*Richard really made Interview what it was with his covers. They said everything about the magazine*'.

It is estimated that Bernstein made 120 actual portrait painting covers for *Interview* (starting 1972) and very few are outside the control of the estate. The group with FIG are brilliant examples including portraits of Aretha Franklin, Mick Jagger and Stevie Wonder.

*"Richard Bernstein portrays Stars. He celebrates their faces, he gives them larger than fiction size. He puts wits into the beauties, fantasy into the rich, depth into the glamorous, and adds instant patina to newcomers.... There's nothing shy about his portraits, he works on Superlatives... Superstars have become Megastars."* Paloma Picasso (*Mega-Star Richard Bernstein*, André Leon Talley, Indigo Books 1984)

The FIG Summer Show 2014 also presents the opportunity for FIG fans to see paintings, drawings and prints by FIG artists and for the first time works by artists Peter Turner and Clym Evernden who are both new to the gallery.



Richard Bernstein  
*Aretha Franklin (Interview Maquette), December 1986*  
1986