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EVENING STANDARD THURSDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2017

Illuminating: the glow-in-the-dark sculptural cacti were originally designed as coat stands

Rare Warhols pop up from behind the polyurethane cacti at surreal new show

Robert Dex
Arts Correspondent

RARELY seen works by pop artist Andy Warhol are going on show alongside a surreal design classic in a new exhibition opening tomorrow.

The paintings, which also include Roy Lichtenstein's 1970 work Mirror #2 and a Warhol image of Marilyn Monroe, have never been shown in the UK before and will share gallery space with a forest of limited-edition 1.7 metre-tall polyurethane cacti.

Originally designed by artists Guido Drocco and Franco Mello to be sold as coat stands by Italian furniture brand Gufram in the Seventies, the glow-in-the-dark sculptures sell for £10,000.

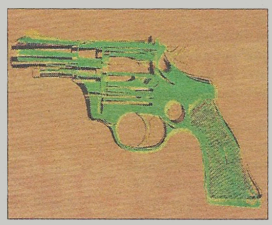
Gallery owner Pilar Ordovas said she wanted to shed new light on pop art, which she said had "been explored and celebrated in many ways".

She said: "For our autumn 2017 show I wanted to approach the concept from a new perspective – that of an immersive exhibition with an exciting design element, to transform the way visitors interact with the gallery space and works on display.

"I was excited by the idea of commissioning a special edition of an iconic design and celebrating the two designers of Cactus alongside the established canon of pop artists."

Ms Ordovas set up her own gallery after 13 years at Christie's, where she was behind some of its most high-profile successes including the record-breaking sale of Lucian Freud's Benefits Supervisor Sleeping, which sold for £17 million in 2008.

Sharing space: Andy Warhol's Four Multicolored Marilyns (Reversal Series) and Orange Gun will also be on display



Cactus is at Ordovas in Savile Row from tomorrow until December 16.