

**25 CATS NAME[D] SAM AND ONE BLUE PUSSY,
SIGNED BY ANDY WARHOL,
FROM THE LIBRARY OF GEORGE BALANCHINE AND TANAQUIL LE CLERCQ**

Andy Warhol.

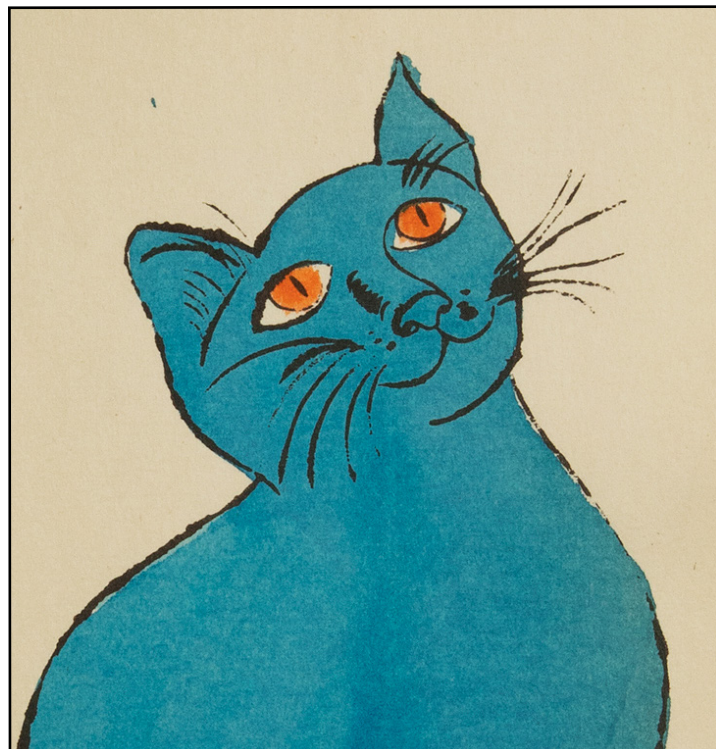
25 Cats Name Sam and One Blue Pussy.

New York: Seymour Berlin, [1954].

\$75,000.

First edition of this exuberant artist's book, signed by Andy Warhol and hand-colored by his friends during his early days in New York City.

In 1952, Warhol's mother Julia Warhola moved into his cramped apartment on East 75th Street, where the pair adopted a number of cats named Sam, and one called Hester. An affectionate tribute to Warhol's domestic life, *25 Cats Name Sam and One Blue Pussy* is a prime example of Warhol's style as a commercial artist and a forerunner of his trademark print sets.





*This edition consists
of 190 copies which have
been printed
by Seymour Berlin
P. L. 2, 2070*

*This is copy no 69
Andy Warhol*

*25 cats name sam
and one blue
was written by
Charles Lisanby*



The book's production was a collective effort.

Warhol's cats modeled.

The calligraphy was the work of Julia Warhola, who left the "d" off the word "Named" in the title: an oversight the artist chose to let stand.

The colophon names Warhol's friend Charles Lisanby, a set designer, as the author.

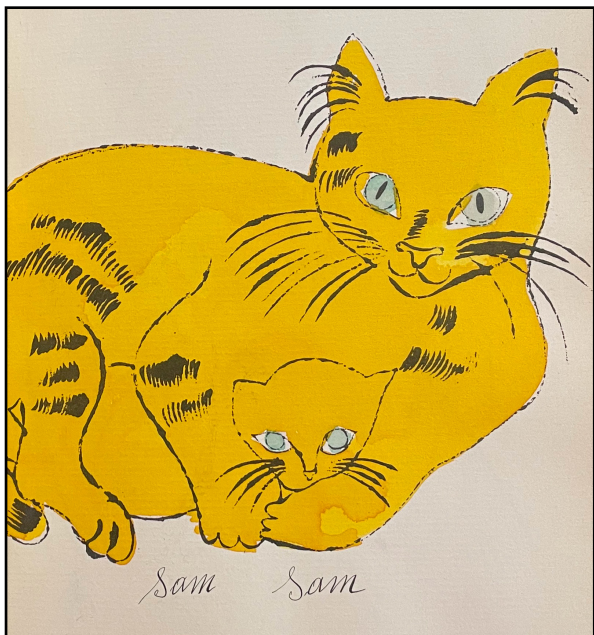
The lithographs were printed by Seymour Berlin at Record Offset Corporation.

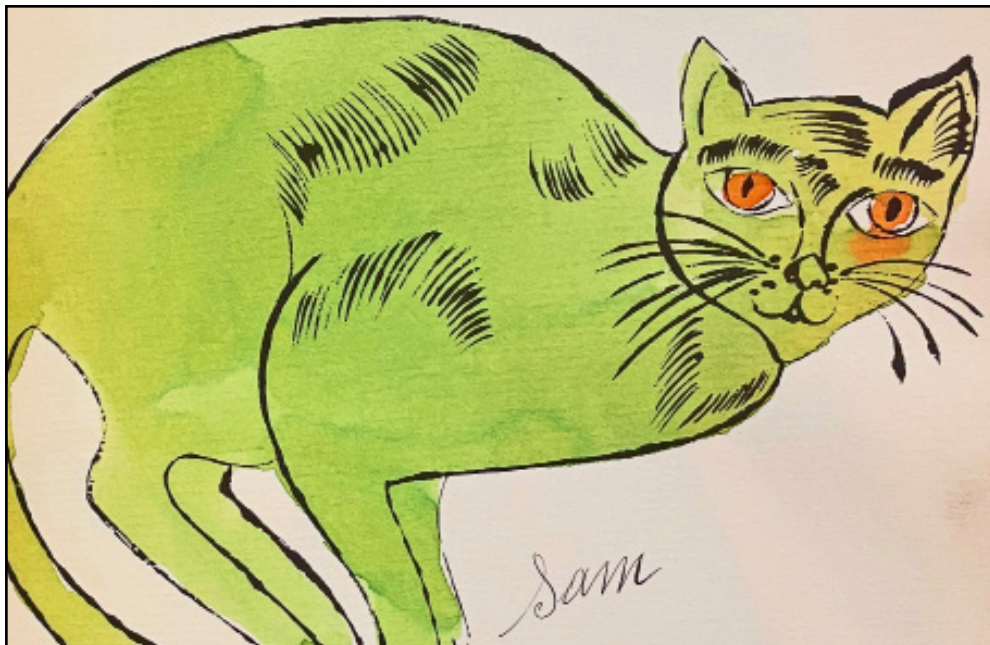
The images were hand-painted by Warhol's friends using Dr. Martin's vibrant ink washes at "coloring parties," an assembly-line method Warhol employed throughout his career.

Although the title promises a total of twenty-six cats, the book contains only seventeen feline portraits, one of which is repeated on the cover.

The colophon states that 190 copies were printed, but it is believed that fewer than 150 copies were finally produced: this is number 69, originally owned by pioneering choreographer George Balanchine and his wife, ballerina Tanaquil Le Clercq.

Like Warhol, Balanchine and Le Clercq were cat lovers; in 1964, they published the “autobiography” of their rescue cat Mourka, with photographs by noted dancer turned photographer Martha Swope. While this vibrantly colored copy of *25 Cats Name Sam and One Blue Pussy* bears no ownership marks, it was a gift from Le Clercq to the family of her close friend, fellow New York City Ballet dancer and founding member Patricia (Pat) McBride Lousada (1929-2019).





Feldman & Schellmann IV.52A-68A.

An iconic American *livre d'artiste*, with notable artistic provenance.

Single volume, measuring 9 x 6 inches: colophon and seventeen hand-colored lithographs on Arches paper, printed recto only. Original cream leatherette with hand-colored lithograph pastedown to front board (for a total of eighteen lithographs), pale grey endpapers. Cover and label toned and lightly soiled; tiny chips at spine head; joints starting



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