





KAPTAIN SUNSHINE PHOTOGRAPHER JACKET

In the 1970s, China and the US slowly waltzed their way to normalizing relations. The decade opened with a ping-pong match between the two countries, coining the term ping-pong diplomacy. This paved the way for diplomatic overtures, Nixon's visit to China in 1972, and members of Carter's administration visiting a few years later. By the decade's end, Deng visited the White House to sign historic new accords with President Carter. The new era of Sino-US relations was perfectly captured with a photo of Deng visiting a rodeo show in Texas, smiling from beneath his ten-gallon Stetson hat while wearing his communist garb.

The signing of those accords meant that Americans could now freely visit China, and among the many Americans in that first wave of tourism was Andy Warhol, who visited in 1982 at the behest of Alfred Siu, a young industrialist fascinated by the West. Siu was opening a new disco in Hong Kong and wanted portraits of the newlywed Prince Charles and Princess Diana for his club. At first, Warhol traveled to Hong Kong with a group of his friends, including his flamboyant Texan manager Fred Hughes. But shortly after the two sides finished business, Siu surprised them with an impromptu invitation to visit China's capital. Warhol and his friends eagerly took the offer.

While in Beijing, Warhol photographed everything that piqued his interest, from the sweeping vistas from atop the Great Wall to the courtyard neighborhoods surrounded by narrow streets known as *hutongs* to the portrait of Mao at Tiananmen Square, which he famously reinterpreted into iconic pop art (whether in earnest or politeness, Warhol said he thought the original Mao portrait was better than his interpretation). He also photographed the Chinese people, whose daily uniform—something resembling a Chinese chore coat

paired with matching work trousers—impressed the American painter. “I like this better than our culture. It’s simpler,” he said. “I love all the blue clothes. Everyone wearing blue. I like to wear the same thing every day. If I were a dress designer, I’d design one dress over and over.”





While in China, Warhol did wear the same outfit every day. His daily uniform involved a soft-shouldered navy sport coat paired with a button-down shirt, striped necktie, v-neck sweater, some blue jeans, and a pair of beat-up cowboy boots. Since he relied so much on his camera, he also wore a jacket with plenty of pockets. There were pockets for his copy of [*Mao's Little Red Book*](#), his countless rattling film canisters, and, of course, his camera. There were pockets within pockets, and hidden inside those pockets, even more pockets. **The jacket was made in the late 1960s by a Parisian designer named Maurice Renoma, who dubbed it *Multipoche*—French for “multiple pockets.”**

The original *Multipoche* is difficult to find nowadays (I've only seen it on Japanese auction sites). However, Kaptain Sunshine has a reasonably faithful reproduction. I purchased one several years ago, and it has become one of my favorite warm-weather jackets. Named after Andy Warhol's trip to China, Kaptain Sunshine's Photographer Jacket features the same multi-pocket design, zippered front, and stand-up collar as the original. I like it for the same reasons I like [Engineered Garments](#): the jacket is a little goofy, but in the best way possible, and it goes well with things I already wear on a regular basis, such as raw denim jeans, olive fatigues, plaid work shirts, textured knits, grey sweatshirts, and chunky boots.

Kaptain Sunshine's Photographer Jacket returns this season, albeit with some minor changes. The large pocket at the back has been removed, which I think makes it more appealing. The hem is less elasticated, giving the silhouette a cleaner appearance. It also comes in tan or blue (I think both colors are equally appealing). The best thing about the jacket, naturally, is the number of pockets, which not only add visual interest to simple summer outfits but also serve a practical function. In these teeny tiny pockets, you can carry three sour jellybeans, a small, folded piece of paper with the perfect soul-shattering comeback, and your smug sense of superiority for having a jacket modeled after something Andy Warhol once wore in China.

Options: [*No Man Walks Alone*](#), [*Namu Shop*](#), and [*Signet*](#)