

Attachment #1

Pop Portraits

Grades: Elementary

Discipline: Art/Visual Art

Time Frame: 1-2 class sessions

Students will examine and understand different facets of fame in American culture through the creation of a contemporary pop portrait based on the art of Andy Warhol. This lesson outlines Warhol's two-layer silkscreen process, which he used to create some of his most famous iconic portraits. Based on an adaptation of this process, students will use collage techniques to create variety in their own serial images.

Warhol Images needed for this lesson:

Andy Warhol's Childhood Scrapbook of Movie Star Photographs,

Autographed, c. 1941

The Andy Warhol Museum,

Archives Collection

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Andy Warhol, **Julia Warhola**, 1974

Silkscreen ink and synthetic polymer paint on canvas.

40 x 40 in.

The Andy Warhol Museum,

Founding Collection

Contribution The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc.

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Andy Warhol, **Princess Caroline of Monaco**, 1983

Silkscreen ink and synthetic polymer paint on canvas.

2 paintings, 40 x 40 in. each.

The Andy Warhol Museum,

Founding Collection

Contribution The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc.

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Andy Warhol, **Mick Jagger**, 1975

Two prints from a portfolio of ten screen prints on paper, 43 ½ x 29 in. each.

The Andy Warhol Museum,

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POP Portraits

Historical/Topical Information:

In the early 1960s Warhol explored the fame of everyday objects with paintings of Campbell Soup cans, Coca-Cola bottles, and three-dimensional Brillo boxes. The Pop Art movement was ushered in when these symbols of popular culture entered the realm of fine art. Pop artists used all aspects of American consumer culture as subject matter for their artwork, including: magazine advertisements, newspaper headlines, car crashes and portraits of famous movie stars.

Andy Warhol was particularly fascinated with the glamour and fame of Hollywood. As a young boy, Andy loved to go to the movies and started collecting glamour magazines and autographed photographs of movie stars such as Shirley Temple, Mae West and Carmen Miranda. He kept all of these signed photographs in a scrapbook. (See image of Warhol's scrapbook.) As an adult, Warhol continued to collect fan magazines as well as publicity stills of Marilyn Monroe, Elizabeth Taylor and Brigitte Bardot. He used clippings and photographs from these collections as the source material for some of his most famous portraits. This fascination with all things famous lasted throughout Warhol's life, even as he, too, became a sought after celebrity.

Andy Warhol used photographic silkscreen to create his portraits of Marilyn Monroe, Elvis Presley, Mick Jagger and Jackie Kennedy. This method of printing creates a very precise and defined image and allows the artist to mass-produce a large number of prints with relative ease. Warhol adopted the methods of mass production to make images of celebrities who were themselves mass produced. Elvis existed not only as a flesh-and-blood person, but also as millions of pictures on album covers and movie screens, in newspapers and magazines. He was infinitely reproducible. Similarly, Warhol could produce as many Elvis painting as he pleased, through use of the silkscreen printing process.

To make these portraits, Warhol would first choose a photograph of a famous pop icon. The original image would be sent to a photo lab where it would be transferred photographically to the silkscreen mesh using a film positive and light sensitive emulsion. Once this was complete, the silkscreen would be ready to print and was sent to Andy Warhol's Factory (studio).

The process Andy Warhol used to create his portraits had two layers. First, the canvas would be under-painted. This means that before an image was silk screened onto the canvas, colored paint was applied to that canvas. This color might be swipes of multi-colored brush strokes or very defined shapes. Warhol's portraits of his mother, Julia, and of Princess Caroline are good examples of this process. (See images of Julia Warhola and Princess Caroline.) The silk screened image of his mother was printed in blue ink on top of a layer of red and purple brushstrokes. In the portraits of Princess Caroline, Warhol used clearly defined shapes and dramatic colors for the background and skin tones. Warhol was able to create diverse and interesting effects by using this technique of under-painting.

A variation of this technique was used on the Mick Jagger prints. Cut paper shapes were applied instead of paint to create a similar under-color effect. (See image of Mick Jagger.) Our "POP Portrait" lesson is based on this idea of collaging torn and cut paper shapes. We use photocopy machine acetates to replace the final silk screened image. Students are encouraged to create more than one portrait of the same person using a variety of background colors and shapes.

Pennsylvania Arts and Humanities Standard

9.2 Historical and Cultural Contexts

H. Identify, describe and analyze the work of a Pennsylvania Artist in the visual arts.

L. Students will be able to identify, explain and analyze common themes, forms and techniques from works in the arts.

Goal: Students will examine and understand different facets of fame in American culture through the creation of a contemporary pop portrait based on Andy Warhol's silkscreen printing technique.

Objectives:

- Students will recognize elements of Pop Art, such as the use of popular culture as subject matter.
- Students will understand the concept of under-painting as used by Warhol in his silkscreen portraits.
- Students will create their own acetate portraits using a combination of collage and drawing techniques.
- Students will explore the way in which a repeated image can be made unique through the use of under-coloring, employing the principle of variety.

Materials:

supplemental text
slides or printed copies of Andy Warhol's portraits (in this site)
acetates (specifically for a photocopy machine)
photographs/images of contemporary celebrities
white or colored background paper
scotch tape
scissors
colored markers
glue
colored construction paper
metallic markers
foil paper
stickers

Procedures:

1. Using the introductory information in this lesson as a guide, introduce Andy Warhol and Pop Art to your students. We suggest covering the following points:
 - Andy's interest in everyday objects
 - How Pop Artists used American culture as their subject matter
 - Warhol's fascination with fame, beginning in his childhood and continuing on into adulthood
 - Warhol collected fan magazines and autographed photographs of movie stars
 - Warhol used silkscreen printing to make many of his portrait paintings
 - Warhol made multiple portraits of famous people. For example, he would fill a room with his portraits of Elvis Presley. He did this to mimic the way movie studios use images of famous movie stars to promote or market the star to the general public.
 - Warhol's under-painting process

Motivational Questions:

- What is the definition of famous?
 - Who is famous today?
 - Are only people famous? Are there famous places, products or buildings?
 - What does it take for someone to become famous, say in television or in music?
 - How do we judge if one person is more famous than another? For example, Britney Spears vs. Cameron Diaz?
 - What portraits or pictures of people do you see all the time? (E.g. family members, your principal, famous movie stars, the President and First Lady of the United States.) Why are portraits important to us? Why do you think artists have painted portraits throughout the ages?
 - How many times have you seen a picture of a famous star such as Britney Spears in the past year? (You could also use a cartoon character.) Where do you see these pictures?
 - After viewing the Mick Jagger, Princess Caroline and Julia Warhola prints, can you identify the under-painted areas and the printed areas?
 - Can you describe the effects of the underpainting? The two portraits of Princess Caroline are good examples to use. What do you think the woman with the pinkish flesh colored face does for a living? What do you think the woman with the purple face does for a living?
 - How does Andy Warhol make each of his portraits different?
2. Choose a visual image of a pop icon: either a photograph or a magazine clipping. Example: Madonna, Britney Spears, The President of the United States, Tiger Woods, etc.
 3. Using a photocopy machine, manipulate the image to the desired size.
 4. Copy this image onto photocopy acetate. (Acetate can be ordered through any office supply store.)
 5. Make 2-4 acetates of the pop icon for each student. If you reduce the image to 5 1/2" X 8 1/2" you can get two images per one piece of 8 1/2" X 11" acetate.
 6. Connect each acetate sheet to a piece of background paper of the same size using a Scotch tape hinge. The background can be either white or colored paper. To make the hinge, place the tape on one edge of the acetate, and then fold it over to stick on the backside of the background paper. Once this is done your two papers should open like a book.
 7. Now you are ready to "under-paint" your portrait. Warhol would paint on the canvas first, and then print the photographic silkscreen image on top. Andy Warhol sometimes used torn paper rather than paint. (See the Mick Jagger images.) For this project the acetate will act as the final printed layer. The image on the acetate has certain see-through areas; whatever is underneath those areas will be visible. Using cut or torn paper, create a collage type pattern on the background paper so these colors show through the acetate, thus acting as the under-painted layer. Then glue the collage pieces of paper to the background paper, not the acetate.
 8. A variety of other materials such as stickers, colored foil paper, stamps, and colored markers can also be used for the under-painting. Metallic or permanent markers can be used to write on the actual acetate surface.
 9. Create variation among the 2-4 acetates by changing elements such as color and paper edges (ripped/torn edges vs. cut/smooth edges), by adding linear elements using markers, and by working with the background areas as well as the subject or acetate areas.

Wrap-up Questions:

1. What were you trying to convey in your portrait? Why did you choose certain colors? (Students should explain their decision making process for each portrait.)
2. Hang up all of the students' work and discuss how their art looks together on the wall.
3. What do you think it is like to be famous? (Use a famous child on a television show.)
What would it be like if everyone on the street knew who you were and your picture was everywhere?

Vocabulary:

Pop Art
Portraiture
Collage
Mass-production
Fame