

Andy Warhol

Andy Warhol was born in Pennsylvania in 1928. He was a sickly child, and during periods of recovery he spent a great deal of time drawing. When his father died, Andy inherited enough money to attend the Carnegie Institute of Technology, where he studied pictorial design—the art of creating images and drawings, often for use in advertisements and magazines.

Andy moved to New York City in 1949 and began working as a commercial artist. He had a successful career which he used as a springboard into the world of fine art, and was soon a well-known figure in the Pop Art movement of the 1960s.

Pop artists were not interested in the seriousness of the art world; they created images of material goods and popular culture, everyday objects that most people did not consider art, for example, photographs from magazines, drink advertisements and drawings from popular comic strips. Rather than considering itself to be above it, Pop Art celebrated popular culture, while reflecting the rise in U.S. materialism during that time period.

One of Andy Warhol's most famous projects was an exhibition of 32 paintings of soup cans that looked very much like Campbell's Soup. The paintings were identical, except for the labels that said what kind of soup was in each can. This shocked the art world, and launched Warhol's career as an artist.

1. How do you think Andy Warhol's career as a commercial artist influenced his later artwork?



2. Based on what you read, what do you think that Andy Warhol would say that art is? What should it represent? Who is it for? Use text evidence to support your answer.