

Teachers' Notes

Warhol Is Here

24 September 2011 - 26 February 2012
De La Warr Pavilion, Bexhill on Sea



Andy Warhol, Cow's head wallpaper, first exhibited 1966

These notes contain exhibition information and ideas for teachers, ideally for key stage 1, 2 & 3

For information on opening times and how to get to us see:

<http://www.dlwp.com/visitor/default.htm>

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Only pencil is allowed in the gallery.

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- Identifying some themes accompanied by a pre-visit discussion, visit activities and follow up work in the classroom.
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Introduction to the Exhibition

The Exhibition comes to the De La Warr Pavilion courtesy of Artist Rooms. This is a collection of international contemporary art donated by Anthony D'Offay in 2008 with the assistance of the National Heritage Memorial Fund, The Art Fund and the Scottish and British Governments. Artist Rooms aims to share artworks with museums and galleries and make its collection accessible to new audiences, particularly young viewers.

Warhol is Here explores Warhol's work within the circumstances and conditions of his age. Warhol lived and worked in America during the twentieth century and this exhibition explores his beliefs and lifestyle from this era. It addresses the myths that surround the artist and asks, what was Andy Warhol really like? The exhibition gives an insight into the reality of Warhol's life, and his impact on the 21st century.

THEMES

Below are some themes found in Warhol's work. Each theme is accompanied by a pre-visit discussion, visit activities and related cross-curricular activities to do back in the classroom.

- Portraiture
- Printmaking/Art work as multiple/repetition
- Historical context
- Fame and celebrity
- Visual Language

Portraiture



Self-portrait Polaroid, 1977

Pre visit discussion

- What is a portrait? Where can we see them?
- What can a portrait show? (Age, status, gender, beauty...)
- Take a photograph, or draw yourself. Why have you chosen to present yourself in this way? Why have you chosen what you are wearing, or what is shown in the background?
- Bring in a photo of yourself from home – imagine someone finding the photos in 20 years time what would the photo tell them about you, about the times you lived in and where you were at the time?

Visit Activity

- Find a portrait and write down the title and date of it, then write down all the words that come into your head when you look at it.

- Find another portrait and make a drawing of it – look carefully at how lines are used to tell us about shape and texture – how has the colour been used? Which of these words describe the application of colour – smooth, rough, careful, flat, impasto, (thick paint standing out from canvas) has the artist used lots of colours or just a few? Can you write down all the colours?

Follow up activities

- *Art and Design:*
- Thinking about the graphic quality of Warhol's work and with a partner, draw his/her face without looking down at the paper. Focus on the shapes and outlines and the quality of the lines used – thick, thin, dotted, faint etc. Take turns to do this. Like the drawing you just did, Warhol made many drawings that have an emphasis on line and a strong graphic quality, which were often used in illustrations for magazine adverts.
- Make 3 self-portraits in different poses. Try wearing different clothes and changing the lighting as well as standing/sitting against different backgrounds. Can you express different aspects of your personality when doing this?

English:

- Look at a reproduction of one of Warhol's portraits and use as many adjectives you can think of to describe the appearance of one of the portraits. Make a poem using your adjectives to describe the portrait and the person in the portrait – you could try a limerick, a Haiku, or free verse.

Printmaking/Images as multiple or a repeated image.

Pre visit discussion



The Marilyn Diptych, 1962

- What does the word diptych mean? (It refers to a painting that is traditionally used as an altarpiece consisting of two paintings on panel hinged together. It was especially popular in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries.)
- What do the rows of repeated heads remind you of? (Postage stamps, billboard posters, and appropriately for Warhol, who was interested in filmmaking, strips of film.)
- What is screen printing? (It is a technique Warhol used to create a multiple of an image, such as *The Marilyn Diptych*. Screen printing is a reproduction process using a screen made from fabric (silk or synthetic) stretched over a frame. A photograph of the image to be printed eg Marilyn Munroe, for example, is then transferred to the screen and the non-printing areas are blocked out on the screen whilst ink or paint is forced through the fabric using a rubber squeegee onto the paper.) A different screen might be used for each colour. The process was quick and cheap and often used to created posters, fliers and other commercial imagery.

Visit Activity

- Warhol said **'isn't life a series of images that change as they repeat themselves?'** Find and note down the title of an artwork where the image is repeated. Write down how you think the image changes as it

is repeated, what happens to the clarity of the image? To the saturation (the intensity and clarity of colour) of the colour changes?

- Repetition – look carefully at the wall paper, draw just one of the images and compare what you have drawn with Warhol's image – make a list of the ways in which the 2 images differ. What happens when you draw/print/say/do/ the same thing over and over?
- Underline the words below that you think mean the same thing as REPEAT - replicate, reproduce, copy, replica, over and over, encore, recur, say over, renewal, echo, do again, reiterate.

Follow up activities

Art and Design: Do you remember these images from the exhibition?



Stitched photographs, 1987

- These works are images stitched together in a grid structure. Think of an image you are surrounded by every day. Perhaps this is an advert in a magazine; a label on a soup tin, or a sweet wrapper. Gather many examples of this image. Make a grid on a piece of paper and stick them down or sew them together to create a collage.

- Neatly write any word that you think sums up Warhol's work. Now repeat this word until it has filled several lines. Compare the appearance of the word at the start of the page to lower down. Does the same thing happen when you make a stencil of the word and repeat it ?
- Choose an animal that you like – make a simple line drawing of it, transfer to tracing paper, then make a repeat pattern with the tracing paper on a 3 x 3 grid (measure this out before hand in pencil) Then use paint, collage or felt pen to fill it in.

Maths:

- Repetition and patterns in the Fibonacci sequence, where can we find Fibonacci sequence? Look at nature especially fir cones, sunflower centres, romanesco cauliflowers.
- What other mathematic sequences are composed of repetitions?, times tables, triangular numbers.

Music:

- With an instrument of your choice, compose a small piece that focuses upon a repeated sequence of notes.²
- Get together with someone else and play your sequences together – how do the sequences change when there are 2 of you?
- Listen to a drum solo. Think about the repeated beat that the drummer makes.

Historical Context

The works in the exhibition span almost four decades, dating from 1948 - 1987. This was a period of great development for Warhol.

1950s is sometimes referred to as a 'golden age.' An era of post war expansion meant growth in industrial production and the expansion of jobs and goods. Rock and Roll, Colour TV and the polio vaccine were invented, DNA was discovered, Disneyland opened, and the space race between the US and the Soviet Union started. Alongside this was a fear of communism, the cold war and war in Korea.

1960s was a period of cultural and political change, which included the signing of the civil rights act outlawing racial segregation in the USA, the relaxing of taboos and challenges to ingrained sexist and racist attitudes and the consequent rise of feminism and the gay rights movements.

However the American president John F. Kennedy was assassinated, the Vietnam War broke out and tensions between the US and USSR continued with the Cuban Missile Crisis.

The 1970s saw new technologies like the development of the first general microprocessor, the first basic personal computer, the calculator and the email develop alongside a desire for increased social equality, world peace and the growth of the environmental movement, moon landings, discovery of black holes and the first oil crisis. These events all had an impact on Warhol's work.

Pre visit discussion

- What is Pop Art? Pop Art was a movement that emerged during the 1950s in America and Britain. Its subject matter was inspired by and mimicked mass culture, comics, advertising and everyday objects. The movement is also associated with mechanical techniques of production, such as Warhol's silk screen printmaking. The movement in GB formed as response to the grey austerity of rationing after the 2nd WW and was inspired by advertising images, kitsch and comic book images from America. In the USA it evolved as a reaction to the personal and painterly Abstract Expressionist movement (one wholly endorsed by the government as truly American Art.) You may wish to research other artists involved with Pop Art, such as Jasper Johns and Robert Rauschenberg in the USA and Richard Hamilton and Peter Blake from UK.
- Below is one of Warhol's iconic Pop Art images featured in the exhibition. Apparently Warhol's mother used to make him Campbell's soup when he was growing up, and he is alleged to have eaten it everyday for 20 years. Can you think of something you and your family have eaten for as long as you can remember?
- What foods make you feel comforted, familiar, or symbolise your family, or a holiday, or a special event – what food would you grab if you could only take one thing ?



Campbell's Soup, Green Pea 1968

Visit Activity

- Find the image above. Do you think it is a bright and optimistic image? If yes, why? How does it differ from a tin of soup that you might have seen recently?
- During the 1960s, Warhol's paintings were largely based on mass produced images such as Campbell soup cans. Make drawings of all the different commercial items in the exhibition and make a note of those that you recognise. Then make a list of the logos that you see on a daily basis.

Warhol was enchanted by the idea that products like Campbell's soup and coca-cola were consumed by everyone in America, no matter how rich or poor. He stated that **'A coke is a coke and no amount of money can get you a better Coke than the bum on the corner is drinking. All the cokes are the same and all the cokes are good.'**

- Can you list the items you can buy, apart from Campbell's soup and coca-cola that everyone in this country uses?

Follow up activities

English:

- Take an object or person you have seen in one of the works in the exhibition, do a little internet research on them and then write a short story inspired by them.

Geography:

- Warhol was born in Slovakia and moved to USA with his parents. He grew up in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and moved to New York in 1949. Why did he move? Find these three places on a map.
- Thousands of people including artists, writers, architects moved to USA during and straight after WW2 why do you think they did this?

History:

- Scholars have noted that Warhol's life embodies 'The American dream.' Research this concept. (The American Dream is the idea that America is a land where there is an opportunity for every man, according to ability or achievement, not background, upbringing, and race.
- Warhol's parents were working class emigrates from modern day Slovakia. From his humble beginnings in Pittsburgh, Warhol rose to become one of the most successful artists in America.)
- What characteristics did Warhol need to become successful ?

Music:

- Listen to the album by Lou Reed and John Cale released in 1990 called "Songs for Drella" online. This is a tribute to Warhol's life with fifteen songs about him.
- Listen to some of the songs from The Velvet Underground, what do the songs tell you about the time they were made and the things people were concerned with.

<http://www.last.fm/music/Lou%2BReed%2B%2526%2BJohn%2BCale>

Fame and Celebrity

Warhol stated that '**in the future everyone will be famous for fifteen minutes.**'

Pre Visit Discussion

- What is fame? Is it different from being a star or a celebrity? Think of some famous people you like – why are they famous?

- Do you think everyone has fifteen minutes of fame today? Would you like to be famous for fifteen minutes? If so what would you like to be famous for?
- What do you think about TV shows such as *Big Brother* and *I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out of Here*? Why do we like watching them? What do they tell us about ourselves? What happens when the camera stops filming these people?



'In the future everyone will be anonymous for 15 minutes.'
Installation piece September 2006, Banksy.

This work is an example where contemporary artists are directly influenced by Warhol. Banksy has inverted Warhol's statement: instead of Warhol's notion that 'in the future everyone will be *famous* for fifteen minutes,' he has written that in the future everyone will be *anonymous* for fifteen minutes. What do you think Banksy is suggesting through writing this on a TV?

Visit Activity

- Look at The Marilyn Diptych. Warhol completed this painting in the weeks following Marilyn Monroe's death. Do you think this is evident from the painting? Why do you think Warhol painted half the canvas using bright colours and the other half in black and white? Draw one of the Marilyn heads and take care to convey how clear or faded it appears.

- Warhol said ‘**my idea of a good picture is one that's in focus and of a famous person.**’ Do you agree? What you feel constitutes a good picture? Name 2 of Warhol's works that you think is a good picture, make a note of the title and date and say why you think it is good. You could compare notes with the rest of the class later, do you all agree about what makes a good picture ?
- List all the famous people or famous products you recognise? Make a drawing of one of the faces you recognise - what associations or memories do they stir in you? Who or what else would you like to see made into a Warhol work ? Make a list and say why you thinks these people and things should be selected.

Follow up activities

Religious Education.

- Throughout his life, Warhol was a practicing Catholic. What do Catholics believe in ? Below is a 14th century religious painting of the Virgin Mary with Christ and Christian saints. Next to it is Warhol's Marilyn Diptych, are there similarities between the two images below? If so, what are they?



Child with saints, Duccio, 14th century.



The Marilyn Diptych, 1962

- Why do you think Warhol chose to call this work *The Marilyn Diptych*? (Think back to the definition of diptych earlier on in these notes.) What connection does this title make with religious paintings? What are the implications of painting the background of *The Marilyn Diptych* gold, which is also a characteristic of Christian paintings of saints?

ICT:

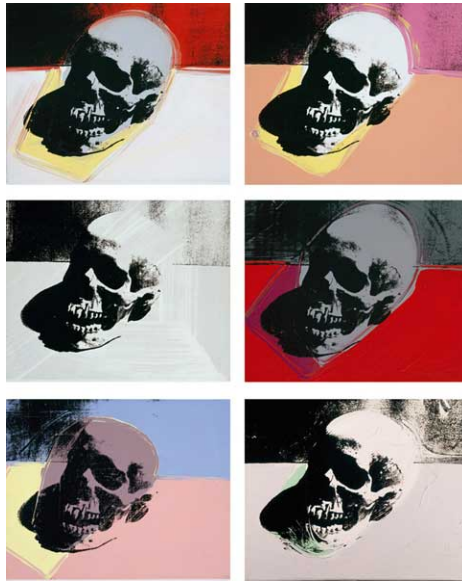
- Develop an image using Word or Photoshop to create a repeated pattern of a famous person's face, such as Cheryl Cole.
- Try to use colour to suggest something about what you know about their personality.

Drama:

- Warhol created work in his studio in New York, which was called *The Factory*. It was a fashionable hangout filled with artists, writers, and models. Warhol called these people his 'superstars.' In a small group create a performance piece based on an evening at the factory.
- Think about the characters present. Are you one of Warhol's 60s superstars? You may wish to undertake research on someone who was actually there, such as Mick Jagger, Edie Sedgwick or Truman Capote. What are you wearing? What conversations are you having? Think about events that took place in the 60 s and 70 s that they might talk about.
- How might you transform the classroom? Perhaps you could project images onto the walls or move around the furniture. The original factory was often referred to as the silver factory because it was covered in tin foil and silver paint. This could be an idea for a set.

Visual Language

In 1968 Warhol was shot by Valerie Solanas, supposedly because he lost her play script. Solanas was an acquaintance of Warhol who sometimes visited The Factory. Warhol survived and continued to paint but the event undoubtedly had an impact on his art. Afterwards his imagery was more frequently associated with death and sadness, such as *Skulls*, 1978. (Below)



Pre Visit Discussion

- How do artists convey emotions in their work? (Colour, texture, mark making, scale... For example, clashing colours like red and pink may express agitation and turbulence whereas pastel colours may suggest a sense of calm. Similarly, spiky marks could convey anger whereas smooth, rounded forms may appear more harmonious.
- Using a range of different media (felt pens, marker pens, brush and paint, charcoal, pastel etc) on a piece of paper, experiment with all the different types of mark you can make. Try pressing softly lightly, jerking the pen along, dotting, dabbing, rubbing.

Visit Activity

- Word connections: glamorous, confrontational, cool, thoughtful, fun, sad, haunting and cheerful. In pairs choose one of the words above and find an artwork that the adjective describes stating reasons for your choice, make a drawing of it. Then find another artwork that it is the opposite and do the same; again state a reason for your choice. Discuss your response in groups or pairs.
- In *Self-portrait with Skull*, 1978 write down the effect the red of the painting creates. What emotions do you associate with the colour red? Why do you think Warhol has chosen this colour for the painting? Make a drawing of one of the skulls and write down the things that you associate with skulls, can you think of other objects that suggest similar associations?

Follow up activities

Citizenship:

- Some of the subjects in Warhol's work include electric chairs, car crashes and race riots. Warhol's depiction of these subjects has prompted some scholars to see his work as a social commentary. If you were to make art works relating to current events that you are concerned about, what subjects would you choose?

Art:

- Divide a piece of paper into 4 sections. For each part, create a picture of any subject that conveys one of the following emotions: worried, excited, sad and joyful. Consider in particular the colours you use and the type of marks you make.

Further Art research on Warhol: Warhol's legacy on contemporary art.

- You may wish to research the work of the following artists who cite Warhol as a key influence: Takashi Murakami whose work focuses on commercial goods and items for mass media; Julian Opie who makes portraits of well know people in a similar flat style, Jean-Michel Basquiat whose graffiti based work is often compared to Warhol's approach in mixing high and low art, and Stella Vine who draws on the cult of celebrity.

Other themes you may wish to explore in greater depth:

Filmmaking

Fashion

Music

Photography

Politics

Religion

Gender

The digital revolution

Manipulation of images

Relationship between fine art, design and advertising

Collaborative working.

Resources available at the De La Warr Pavilion

There is an Audio Installation on the Roof Top Foyer: Jean Wainwright- the Warhol Interviews.

There is a selection of books, catalogues, post cards and related material in the De La Warr Pavilion shop.

Further Reading

Hartley, Keith. *Andy Warhol A Celebration of life... and death*. National Galleries of Scotland. Edinburgh, 2007.

Hackett, Pat. *The Andy Warhol Diaries* New York, 1991.

Hickey, Dave *Andy Warhol Giant Size* 2009

Sartogo, Domitilla. *Studio 54: the legend*. New York 1997

Warhol is Here. De La Warr Publication, 2011 – available from 24 September from the DLWP bookshop

Websites

<http://www.dlwp.com/> The De La Warr Pavilion Website

<http://www.warhol.org/education/> Education activities and ideas

<http://www.artnet.com/> Information on key artists and movements.

<http://www.artcyclopedia.com/> Information on artists and images.

http://www.oxfordonline.com/public/book/oao_gao Access to the Grove Dictionary of art online.

<http://www.last.fm/music/Lou%2BReed%2B%2526%2BJohn%2BCale> Access to listen to the album inspired by Warhol's life by Lou Reed and John Cale released in 1990 called 'Songs for Drella.'

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