

American MASTERS

20
years

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press information

Andy Warhol Timeline

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AMERICAN MASTERS Andy Warhol: A Documentary Film



Through four tumultuous decades, artist Andy Warhol produced a prodigious number of paintings, silk screens, sculptures, photographs, books, and films. His work continues to hang in world-class galleries and museums and one of his paintings - the 1961 hand-painted Superman - recently sold for \$25 million. Director Ric Burns considers the artist's prolific output in the two-part *AMERICAN MASTERS Andy Warhol: A Documentary Film*, which premieres Wednesday, September 20 and Thursday, September 21 at 9 p.m. (ET) on PBS (check local listings). Below is a timeline of major events in the artist's life, from an account written by Matt Wrbcian, the archivist at The Andy Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh:

1928

Andrew Warhola is born in Pittsburgh on August 6 to Julia and Andrej Warhola, Carpatho-Rusyn immigrants from the village of Mikova in present-day eastern Slovakia. He joins two older brothers, Paul and John.

The family regularly attends St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church.

1936

Projects cartoon images on the walls of his home.

1937

Grows interested in photography and takes pictures with the family's Kodak Brownie camera. An area of the family basement is cleared for use as a darkroom.

Attends free Saturday art classes at the Carnegie Institute until about 1941.

After contracting rheumatic fever, is stricken with St. Vitus dance (Sydenham chorea) and confined to home for more than two months, during which time his mother encourages his interest in art, comics and movies.

1942

Signs a portrait he paints of his friend Nick Kish with the name "A. Warhol."

Graduates from Holmes Elementary School and enters Schenley High School, where he receives the

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highest marks in his art classes.

Andrej Warhola dies after a lengthy illness. He had saved several thousand dollars to be used for Andy's education.

1945

Andy Warhola admitted to the Carnegie Institute of Technology (now Carnegie Mellon University) and enrolls in the Department of Painting and Design.

1947

In 1947-1948, he experiments with a blotted line drawing technique that becomes a mainstay of his 1950s commercial work.

Works a summer job in the display department at the Joseph Horne department store in downtown Pittsburgh.

1948

Warhol's painting *I Like Dance* and his print *Dance in Black and White* included in the annual exhibition of the Associated Artists of Pittsburgh.

Serves as art editor for the student magazine *Cano*.

1949

Warhol's painting *The Broad Gave Me My Face, But I Can Pick My Own Nose* is rejected for the annual exhibition of the Associated Artists of Pittsburgh.

Graduates from Carnegie Tech with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in pictorial design.

Shortly after graduating, moves to New York City and begins work as a commercial artist, usually under the name Andy Warhol. Throughout the 1950s and early 1960s, he illustrates a great variety of published projects and designs department store windows.

1951

Receives an Art Directors Club Medal for newspaper illustrations that advertise the CBS radio feature "The Nation's Nightmare."

Receives numerous graphic arts awards throughout the 1950s.

1952

First solo exhibition, "Fifteen Drawings Based on the Writings of Truman Capote," is held at the Hugo Gallery, New York.

Julia Warhola moves to New York, where she lives with her son until 1971.

1953

Produces the illustrated books *A Is an Alphabet* and *Love Is a Pink Cake*, "by Corkie and Andy," with his friend Ralph T. Ward. He gives these and other books to clients and associates and also sells them through shops.

1954

Exhibited in both group and solo shows at the Loft Gallery, New York. Among his works are marbled and folded or crumpled paper works displayed on the walls, floors and ceiling.

Self-publishes the illustrated book *25 Cats Name (sic) Sam and One Blue Pussy*, with text by Charles Lisanby. These and Warhol's other books are hand-colored at "coloring parties" with friends and associates.

1955

Uses hand-carved rubber stamps to create repeated images, which are often hand-colored. He employs this technique through the early 1960s.

The shoe company I. Miller selects Warhol to illustrate its weekly newspaper advertisements, which become a great success and run for about three years.

1956

Studies for a *Boy Book* exhibited at the Bodley Gallery, New York. During the 1950s, fills numerous sketchbooks with his drawings of young men.

Exhibits gold leaf-collaged shoe drawings in his "Golden Slipper Show or Shoes Shoe in America" at the Bodley Gallery. His gold shoes published in the January 21, 1957, issue of *Life* magazine.

Drawing of a shoe is included in the exhibition "Recent Drawings U.S.A." at the Museum of Modern Art.

Becomes acquainted with the photographer Edward Wallowitch. Uses images from Wallowitch's photographs, as well as other photographs and images, in his own works.

1957

Self-publishes *A Gold Book*, with many drawings based on Wallowitch's photos.

Andy Warhol Enterprises is legally incorporated.

Undergoes cosmetic surgery on his nose.

1959

With his friend Suzie Frankfurt, self-publishes *Wild Raspberries*, a cookbook of absurd recipes;

the title is a joke referencing Ingmar Bergman's film Wild Strawberries.

1960

Acquires a townhouse at 1342 Lexington Avenue, which accommodates his growing collections of art, furniture and objects while giving him the space to create larger artworks.

1961

Paints his first works based on comics and advertisements by using an opaque projector to enlarge the original image onto a canvas, which he then traces and paints.

Shows his paintings Advertisement, Little King, Superman, Before and After, and Saturday's Popeye with a display of dresses in a window of New York's Bonwit Teller department store.

1962

Publishes his first editioned print, Cooking Pot, a photoengraving of a detail from a newspaper advertisement.

Uses rubber stamps to create S & H Green Stamps and other works, including portrait illustrations for Harper's Bazaar.

Bases his Do It Yourself paintings on common paint-by-numbers images.

Makes paintings of entire newspaper front pages.

After creating a few series of works using hand-drawn silkscreens, begins to use the photo-silk screen technique.

Experiments with instant photography, which becomes essential to his portrait process in the early 1970s.

After silk-screening portraits of teen idols Natalie Wood, Troy Donahue and Warren Beatty, he begins photo-silk screening Marilyn paintings after Marilyn Monroe's death.

Starts a series of paintings of suicides and car crashes.

His hand-painted Campbell's Soup Can paintings are shown at the Ferus Gallery, Los Angeles.

Recent paintings are shown at the Stable Gallery, New York.

Included in the exhibition "New Painting of Common Objects," at the Pasadena Art Museum.

Time magazine features him in an article on Pop artists.

1963

Makes multiple image silk screened portraits of the collector Ethel Scull and others based on photographs of his subjects taken in common photo booths.

Begins paintings of Elvis Presley and Elizabeth Taylor using publicity photographs as sources.

Buys a 16mm movie camera.

Makes the films *Sleep*, *Kiss*, *Haircut*, and *Tarzan and Jane Regained...Sort Of*, and the first of more than 500 screen tests.

While in Los Angeles for the exhibition of his Elvis and Liz paintings, meets Marcel Duchamp at his exhibition in Pasadena, and attends a "movie star party" arranged in his honor by Dennis Hopper.

Included in the exhibition "Six Painters and the Object," at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York.

Included in the exhibition "The Popular Image" at the Washington Gallery of Modern Art, Washington, D.C. The exhibition travels to London.

Baby Jane Holzer, Taylor Mead and Ondine (Bob Olivo) became his associates at about this time, acting in his films. Warhol's first "Superstars," they are synonymous with his work.

Rents an abandoned firehouse near his home for use as a painting studio.

Designs costumes for a Broadway production of *The Beast in Me*, by James Thurber. His work isn't credited because he's not a union member.

1964

Establishes his studio at 231 East 47th Street, soon to be known as "the Factory." It's painted silver and covered with aluminum foil by Billy Name (Billy Linich) a theatrical lighting designer whom Warhol had met the year before.

Makes the Thirteen Most Wanted Men mural for the facade of the New York Pavilion at the 1964 New York World's Fair. Officials object to the work, and it's painted over in silver paint.

Makes Brillo Boxes and other box sculptures, which are exhibited at the Stable Gallery.

Begins his series of Jackie paintings after President Kennedy's assassination.

Begins Flowers paintings, which are shown at the Castelli Gallery and in Paris the next year.

His paintings of car crashes and suicides are shown at Galerie Ileana Sonnabend in Paris and elsewhere in Europe.

Makes the films *Blow Job*, *Eat*, *Empire*, and *Harlot* (his first with live sound). His film *Andy Warhol films Jack Smith filming Normal Love* (1963) is confiscated in a raid by the New York City Police Department and lost.

Acquires his first tape recorder, which later becomes his constant companion.

His painting Orange Disaster No. 5 included in the Pittsburgh International (now the Carnegie International) exhibition at the Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh.

A Warhol film installation with a soundtrack by LaMonte Young is exhibited at the New York Film Festival.

Receives the Independent Film Award from Film Culture, the avant-garde film periodical edited by Jonas Mekas.

1965

Makes the films Poor Little Rich Girl, Vinyl, Kitchen, Lupe, Outer and Inner Space, My Hustler, and others.

Designs the cover for an issue of Time magazine.

Exhibits his video art; the first artist to do so.

While in Paris for the opening of his "Flowers" exhibition at the Galerie Ileana Sonnabend, describes himself as a "retired artist" who plans to devote himself to film.

The opening night crowd overwhelms the retrospective of Warhol's work at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia.

Meets Paul Morrissey, one the most important figures for Warhol's work in film.

Eddie Sedgwick stars in about 10 of Warhol's films.

"Superstars" Brigid Polk (Brigid Berlin) and Ultra Violet (Isabelle Colin Dufresne) begin to frequent the Factory.

Film producer Lester Persky hosts "The Fifty Most Beautiful People" party at the Factory. Judy Garland, Rudolf Nureyev, Tennessee Williams, Allen Ginsberg, Montgomery Clift, and others attended.

1966

Produces the "Exploding Plastic Inevitable," multimedia shows featuring the Velvet Underground rock and roll band, performance, film, and light shows.

At the Castelli Gallery, exhibits his Cow wallpaper in one room and fills a second, white-walled room with his floating Silver Clouds.

Makes the films The Velvet Underground and Nico and The Chelsea Girls. The Chelsea Girls is distributed widely and receives international media attention.

Publishes the print editions Kiss, Jacqueline Kennedy (I, II, and III), Banana, and Self-Portrait. In the following years, creates more than 400 print editions.

Produces the first LP album by the Velvet Underground and Nico. The cover, which he designs, shows a banana with vinyl skin that can be peeled off to expose the pink fruit. A larger fine art print is also produced.

The following advertisement appears in the February 10 issue of The Village Voice: "I'll endorse with my name any of the following; clothing AC-DC, cigarettes small, tapes, sound equipment, ROCK N' ROLL RECORDS, anything, film, and film equipment, Food, Helium, Whips, MONEY!! love and kisses ANDY WARHOL, EL 5-9941."

Invited to author Truman Capote's "Black and White Dance," referred to as "the party of the decade."

1967

Makes Self-Portrait paintings, which are included in the United States Pavilion at Expo '67 in Montreal.

Makes the films *Bike Boy*; *I, a Man*; and *The Nude Restaurant*.

Designs the poster for the fifth New York Film Festival.

Two Warhol books are published: *Andy Warhol's Index* (Book) and *Screen Tests/A Diary*, a collaboration between Warhol and Gerard Malanga.

The FBI reports on Warhol's activities during location shooting in Oracle, Arizona for his film *Lonesome Cowboys*.

Meets Frederick W. Hughes, who becomes a close associate and Warhol's exclusive agent and business manager.

Joe Dallesandro, Candy Darling, and Viva become "Superstars."

1968

Moves his studio to a white-walled office space on the 6th floor of 33 Union Square West.

Valerie Solanas, who appeared in Warhol's film *I, a Man* and is the founder and sole member of S.C.U.M. (Society for Cutting Up Men), shoots Warhol in his studio.

Produces the film *Flesh*, directed by Paul Morrissey, and makes *Blue Movie*. Begins to take a less active role in filmmaking.

1969

Curates "*Raid the Icebox I with Andy Warhol*," a selection from the storage rooms of the Museum of Art at the Rhode Island School of Design.

Produces the film *Trash*, directed by Paul Morrissey.

The first issue of Interview magazine published.

Included in the Metropolitan Museum of Art's "New York Painting and Sculpture: 1940-1970."

Vincent Fremont begins to work for Warhol. He becomes a close associate on video and television projects and eventually becomes his executive manager.

1970

Production of commissioned portraits increases in the early 1970s. Most are based on his Polaroid photographs of sitters, including collectors, friends and celebrities.

Creates the Rain Machine, an installation that incorporates a water shower and 3-D lenticular prints of flowers, in connection with the Los Angeles County Museum of Art's Art and Technology Program. The Rain Machine is exhibited in the United States Pavilion at Expo '70 in Osaka, Japan.

Acquires a portable video camera and begins to work regularly with video.

A major retrospective of Warhol's work is held at the Pasadena Art Museum. The exhibition travels to Chicago, Eindhoven, Paris, London, and New York.

The first monograph on Warhol is published, written by art historian Rainer Crone.

1971

With Vincent Fremont and Michael Netter, Warhol begins Factory Diaries, a series of videotaped recordings of life at the studio.

Designs the album cover of the Rolling Stones' Sticky Fingers in collaboration with Craig Braun. The cover, a male torso in jeans with a functioning zipper, is nominated for a Grammy Award.

Warhol's play Pork, based on his tape recordings, is performed in London and New York.

Warhol and Paul Morrissey acquire a 20-acre compound in Montauk, Long Island. Lee Radziwill and other friends spend much time there.

1972

Begins Mao paintings, drawings, and prints.

After publishing his print Vote McGovern for a presidential candidate, the Internal Revenue Service audits Warhol; he is audited annually until his death.

Produces the films Women in Revolt! and Heat, directed by Paul Morrissey.

Removes the films he had directed from circulation.

Warhol's mother dies in Pittsburgh. She had returned there from New York in 1971.

1973

Makes the videos *Vivian's Girls* and *Phoney*, directed with Vincent Fremont.

Appears in the film *The Driver's Seat* with Elizabeth Taylor.

1974

Begins assembling Time Capsules in standard-sized boxes. This collection of objects and ephemera from his entire life eventually numbers more than 600 boxes, and includes antiques and works of art.

Co-produces the films *Andy Warhol's Dracula* and *Andy Warhol's Frankenstein (in 3-D)*, directed by Paul Morrissey.

Maos exhibited at the Musée Galliera, Paris, hung on Warhol's Mao wallpaper.

Moves the studio to 860 Broadway, which becomes known as "the office."

Acquires a townhouse at 57 East 66th Street. Jed Johnson decorates the house, which is filled with art and collectibles.

1975

Makes *Ladies and Gentlemen* paintings, drawings and prints, depicting transvestites. Makes the video *Fight*, co-directed with Vincent Fremont.

THE Philosophy of Andy Warhol (From A to B and Back Again) is published by Harcourt Brace Jovanovich.

Produces the musical *Man on the Moon*, with book, music and lyrics by John Phillips, directed by Paul Morrissey.

1976

Makes *Skull* paintings, drawings and prints and begins *Hammer and Sickles*.

Produces the film *Bad*, directed by Jed Johnson.

Begins dictating his diary to Pat Hackett. It is published posthumously and becomes a bestseller.

1977

Makes *Torso* paintings and drawings.

"Andy Warhol's 'Folk and Funk,' " an exhibition of Warhol's folk art collection, is held at the Museum of American Folk Art, New York.

Begins to frequent the nightclub Studio 54 with friends Halston, Bianca Jagger and Liza Minnelli.

1978

Makes Self-Portraits with Skulls, Shadows and Oxidation paintings.

1979

Begins to produce the 10-episode video program Fashion, directed by Don Munroe.

Andy Warhol's Exposures, with photographs by Warhol and text co-written with Bob Colacello, published by Andy Warhol Books/Grosset and Dunlap.

At the request of BMW, Warhol hand paints an M1 racing car for the 24-hour Le Mans race.

Shadows paintings are exhibited at the Heiner Friedrich Gallery, New York.

"Andy Warhol: Portraits of the 70s" is presented at the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York.

1980

Develops Andy Warhol's T.V., directed by Don Munroe.

POPism: The Warhol '60s, by Warhol and Pat Hackett, published by Harcourt Brace Jovanovich.

Warhol's photographs exhibited at the Museum Ludwig, Cologne and the Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam.

A life mask of Warhol is made for a robot that is intended for an unrealized theater project conceived by Peter Sellars and Lewis Allen.

In Vatican City, Warhol and Fred Hughes briefly meet Pope John Paul II.

1981

Makes Dollar Signs, Knives, Crosses, and Guns works.

Produces and stars in three one-minute episodes of Andy Warhol's T.V., directed by Don Munroe for Saturday Night Live.

Begins to be represented by the Zoli modeling agency.

1982

The Castelli Gallery exhibits Dollar Sign paintings.

An exhibition of works by Joseph Beuys, Robert Rauschenberg, Cy Twombly, and Warhol shown at the Nationalgalerie, Berlin.

Zeitgeist paintings shown in the group exhibition "Zeitgeist" at the Martin-Gropius-Bau, Berlin.

1983

Warhol, Jean-Michel Basquiat and Francesco Clemente began collaborating on paintings. Warhol and Basquiat become close friends and work together into 1985.

Begins a series of works, many hand-painted, based on advertisements, commercial imagery and illustrations.

Designs the official poster for the Brooklyn Bridge Centennial.

Appears in a Japanese television commercial for TDK.

1984

"Paintings for Children" exhibition at Bruno Bischofberger Gallery, Zurich. Small paintings of toys are hung at child's eye level on Fish wallpaper.

Makes Rorschach paintings.

Makes a music video for The Cars' Hello Again with Don Munroe. The video also features Warhol.

"Collaborations: Jean-Michel Basquiat, Francesco Clemente, Andy Warhol" exhibited at the Bruno Bischofberger Gallery, Zurich.

Moves his studio and Interview magazine to a former Consolidated Edison building at 22 East 33rd Street.

1985

Makes Absolut Vodka paintings, which are used in "Absolut Warhol" advertisements, the first in the series created by artists.

Exhibits his Invisible Sculpture, consisting of a pedestal, a wall label, and Warhol himself in a showcase, at the nightclub Area. An earlier version consisted of motion detectors that set off a cacophony of alarms.

Andy Warhol's Fifteen Minutes, directed by Don Munroe, airs on MTV from 1985 to 1987.

America, with photographs and text by Warhol, is published by Harper and Row.

Appears as a guest star in the 200th episode of The Love Boat and in a television commercial for Diet Coke.

1986

Makes Last Supper and Camouflage paintings.

Makes Self-Portrait paintings, which are exhibited at the Anthony d'Offay Gallery, London.

Oxidation paintings shown at Gagosian Gallery, New York.

Options film and television rights to Tama Janowitz's book *Slaves of New York*.

1987

Sewn Photographs shown at Robert Miller Gallery, New York.

Last Supper paintings exhibited at the Palazzo delle Stelline, Milan.

After suffering acute pain for several days, Warhol is admitted to New York Hospital for gallbladder surgery. The operation is successful, but complications during recovery cause his death on February 22. He is buried near his parents in a suburban Pittsburgh cemetery.

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