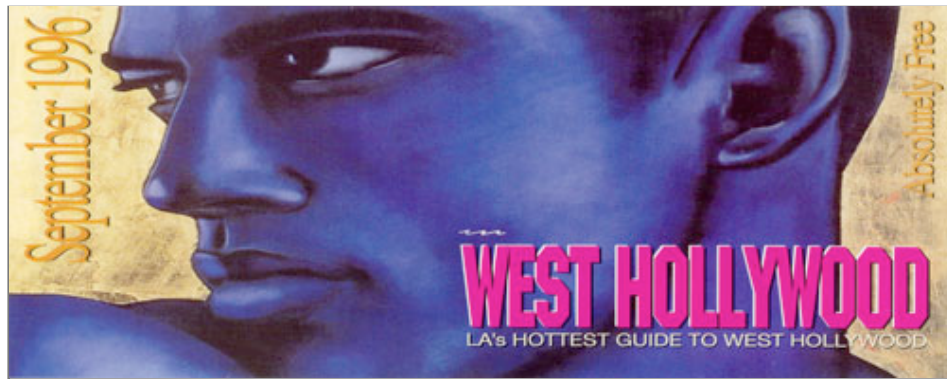


KANTOR GALLERY

PRESS



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WARHOL ANDY

Gallery Talk Once

Campbell's CONDENSED CREAM OF CHICKEN SOUP

WEST HOLLYWOOD
LA's HOTTEST GUIDE TO WEST HOLLYWOOD

in every century there appears a person who not only contributes to that time frame's art and culture, but shapes it as well. In our own century that person was Andy Warhol. It was he who helped found the Pop Art movement of the late 1950s and early 1960s. His silk-screen replicas of Campbell soup cans and wood sculptures of Brillo soap pads are recognizable even to people who are not art connoisseurs. He created sound and light shows with a psychedelic twist in the mid '60s (which were also known as Andy Warhol's "Exploding Plastic Beestables"), which in turn gave rise to the Velvet Underground, which in turn gave rise to Lou Reed and eventually led to the "punk" or New Wave music phenomenon of the '70s and '80s.

He also immortalized the cultural icons of our times—Eliot, Marilyn, Jackie O—with his silk-screen art and, together with director Paul Morrissey, produced underground art films in the 60s (one, entitled Sleep showed a person sleeping and ran the full eight hours, another Warhol/Morrissey production actually ran 23 hours). In the '70s he and Morrissey went mainstream with their own renditions of classic horror films such as *Andy Warhol's Frankenstein* and *Andy Warhol's Dracula*, which earned critical acclaim, but were not fit for the squeamish or faint of heart.

Even in death Warhol became a cultural force to be reckoned with. After he died in 1987 at the age of 58, it was revealed that he had kept an extensive diary of his life at the helm of American mid-century art. From New York to the French Riviera, the *Beautiful People* of whom he had become such an intrinsic part, began shaking in their Guccis, each wondering just what was said about him or her. Somehow this was all in keeping with Warhol's image as dean of the school of what his critics termed was dehumanizing or inhuman art (today he would probably be called a "deconstructivist").

And yet Warhol's greatest legacy may not be anything he painted, silk-screened or produced. It may be a remark he made in the mid-1960s, a remark that at the time was considered mean-spirited or petty caution. The remark was: "In the future, everyone will be famous for fifteen minutes." In the ensuing three decades that remark was proven so prophetic that today, everybody, even those whose name is an acronym of black-sheep paintings, quotes it.

All this was not bad for a man who was born in McKeesport, Pennsylvania to Czech immigrant parents (Warhol's given name was Waraschko). He studied at one of the most famous art schools in the East—the Carnegie Institute of Technology in Pittsburgh. He became known for his final figure this health could not have been helped when he was shot by a disgruntled female prospect in 1968, his distinctive white wig and his thick glasses which made him look like a negative print of Woody Allen.

Excessive years after his death, the great Warhol lives on through his paintings, silk screens and sculptures. Two galleries located side-by-side in West Hollywood are featuring the works of this extremely influential artist. The **Galuzzo Gallery** at 8642 Melrose Avenue and its immediate neighbor they were once the same gallery) the **Kantor Gallery** have in their respective collections many works by Warhol that you can either drop by to peruse or purchase.

The Kantor Gallery lists among its collection of Warhol's the artist's "Dollar Sign", which was done on synthetic polymer and silk-screen. The work measures 20 1/2" by 15 7/8" and carries a price tag of \$31,000. Getting into the field for which Warhol was best known—commercial signs usually colored and then spooled—the Kantor Gallery has a 1965 print by Warhol titled "Moby" which they will let go for \$5,000, a Campbell's "Tomato Soup Label" print from 1986, which is actually signed by Warhol (this one goes for \$1,700) a print of Jackie Kennedy done in 1966 and which costs \$4,000 and a print of another '60s cultural bad boy, Mick Jagger, which measures 43 1/2" by 29" and goes for \$6,500.

The **Galuzzo Gallery** in Beverly Hills has shadow paintings (these are paintings of shadows done on silk-screen) made by Warhol in the late '70s, as well as drawings done by the artist in the '80s. These shadow paintings are actually smaller versions of larger (as it about 10 feet high) shadow paintings in the possession of the IFA Center for the Arts in the city that Warhol used as the base of his operations—New York. The shadow paintings and drawings run from \$15,000-\$25,000 apiece, depending on the work. The Galuzzo Gallery is located at 426 N. Carolan Drive in Beverly Hills.

As we have mentioned, you don't have to buy any of these silk-screens or prints, you are perfectly free to walk around the galleries and admire the work of Andy Warhol without spending a nickel. Because these works of art are on silk, however, you may want to visit before too much of September passes you by. After all, there are a lot of people in the Hollywood/West Hollywood area who were not only fans of Warhol, but probably close friends too and they have the money to buy these prints. So perhaps it would be a good idea to call the Galuzzo (310)854-0572, the Kantor (310)979-5380 or the Galuzzo (310)771-6440) galleries to find out what paintings are still hanging or available.

For the true Warhol devotee, however, a permanent collection resides in the **Andy Warhol Museum** in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania—the most comprehensive single-artist museum in the world. It's definitely worth the visit! We truly would like to thank them for most of the images used in this article.

And remember, Andy Warhol's face lasted longer than fifteen minutes... it has so far lasted three decades. ●

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