

Andy Warhol

Born 1928 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, U.S.; died New York, New York, U.S., 1987



Andy Warhol was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. When he was young, he was sick in bed for many months. While in bed, he read magazines with pictures and stories about movie stars and other celebrities, as well as comic books. As a young boy, he took free art classes at the Carnegie Institute. After he graduated from art school, he moved to New York. There, he worked for fashion magazines and fancy stores, designing magazine ads and window displays before he became a successful artist. He became famous for making paintings of things that referenced popular culture, including everyday products you could buy in stores (such as soup or shoes), as well as famous people.



Andy Warhol, *National Velvet*, 1963

Warhol began this painting by choosing an image of the young movie star Elizabeth Taylor from the movie *National Velvet* (1944). He printed the same image of Taylor on horseback over and over again on a silver canvas. When Warhol was a child, people used the phrase “the silver screen” to refer to motion pictures and the movie industry. Movie screens were coated with a metallic surface so that the projected images could be seen better. Andy Warhol loved movies and the glamorous world of Hollywood and painted many **portraits** (pictures of people) of famous people throughout his career.

Explore

How many times does the image of Elizabeth Taylor appear in this painting?

Are all of the images of Taylor exactly alike? How are they the same or different?

If you could make a portrait of anyone in the world, who would it be? Why?

Fun Fact!

In 1968, Andy Warhol said, “In the future, everybody will be famous for fifteen minutes.”

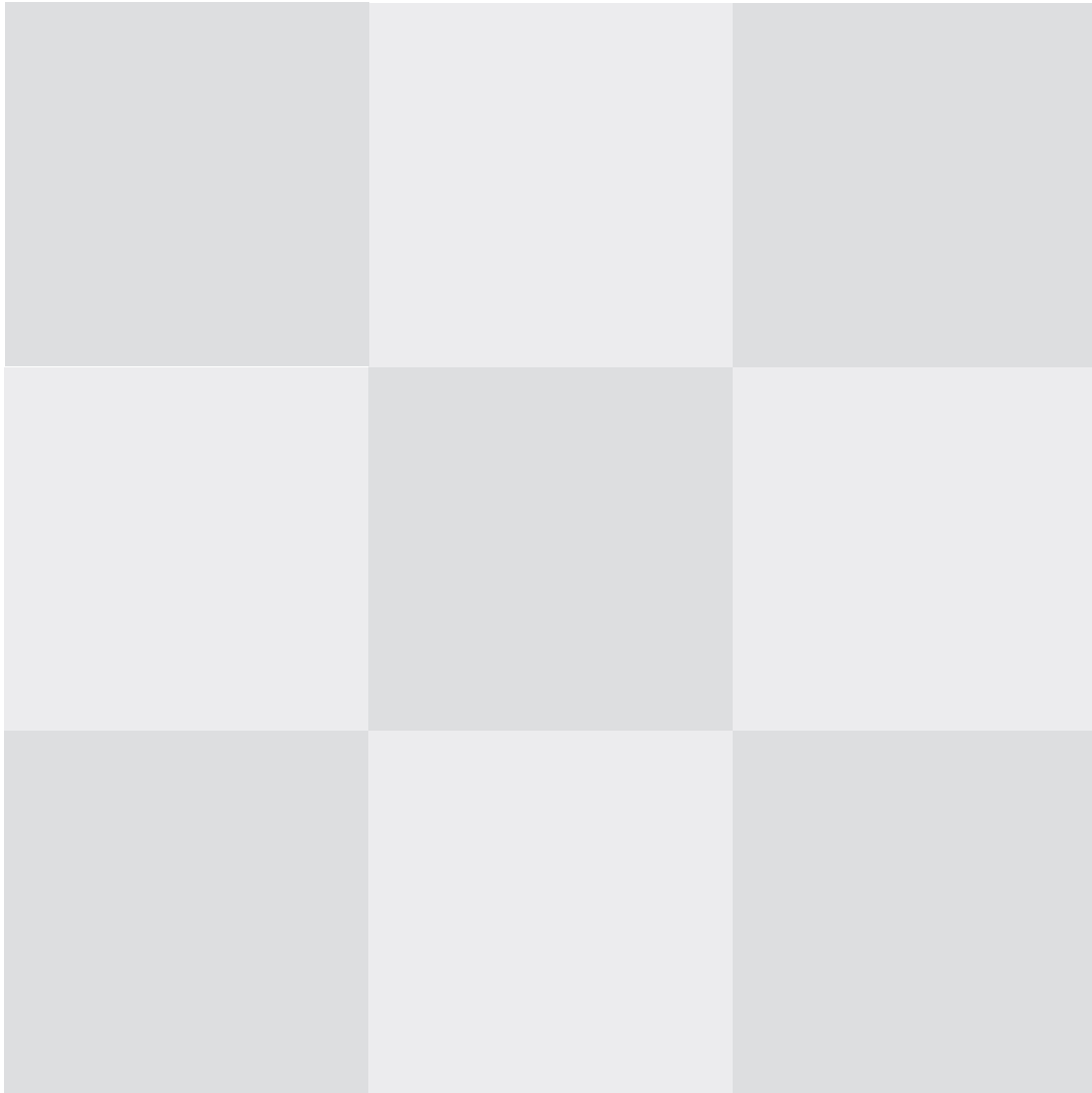
If you were famous for fifteen minutes, what would you be famous for? Write your story in the space below.

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Create

Warhol liked to repeat images over and over and used different processes to create lots of artworks that look the same. To him, making art was making a product, no different from a production line in a factory making Campbell's soup cans.

Draw a picture—a face, a fashion item, a product from the grocery store—in the frames below, using Warhol's style of repeating the same image again and again. Are the images all the same or is each one slightly different?



Front cover image: Andy Warhol, *National Velvet*, 1963 (detail); collection SFMOMA, Accessions Committee Fund purchase: gift of Barbara and Gerson Bakar, Doris and Donald Fisher, Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr., Mimi and Peter Haas, Byron R. Meyer, Helen and Charles Schwab, Danielle and Brooks Walker, Jr., and Judy C. Webb; Albert M. Bender Fund; Tishler Trust; Victor Bergeron Fund; Members' Accessions Fund; and gift of the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc.; © 2020 The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc. / Licensed by Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York

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