

## Andy Warhol, 1928-1987

- 1. Discuss:** (5 min) What is art? Does it have to be a painting? Does it have to look exactly like what it represents? Today we are going to learn about an artist who helped stretch the meaning of what makes "art."
- 2. Read:** (10 min) Uncle Andy's, by James Warhola (Andy Warhol's nephew). In this book, "Uncle Andy" shows his family that you can find art in anything!
- 3. Show the art piece:** (5 min) "Green Marilyn." Also show the photo that Warhol used to create this Silk Screen Print. He chose it because it was very well-known.



Andy Warhol was called a "Pop Artist," because all of his subjects came from popular culture. The subject of this piece, Marilyn Monroe, was very famous in popular culture. She was a movie star who had recently died, so everyone was thinking and talking about her. There was no bigger image in pop culture at the time. "Green Marilyn" is just one of the many images Warhol created using her photo.

A lot of people said, that's not art, that's just a picture you added color to! But remember, Mr. Warhol believed in finding the "art" in everything. Remember the Campbell's Soup cans from the book? He helped us to see ordinary, well-known things in a whole new way.

Notice how "Green Marilyn" doesn't have realistic colors. Warhol loved playing with color, making us see familiar things differently every time. Let's try it!

(Ahead of time, talk with your teacher about a person that the class has recently discussed. This could be used to reinforce some recent curriculum. It could be the President, or a sports figure, or an historical figure. If the teacher wants, it could even be the Principal!)

**4. Art Project:** (30 min) We are all going to make prints of the same famous person, using a printing process that lets us play with color like Warhol.

1. You will need: white construction paper (half sheets), washable paint (several colors), about 10 foam brushes, and about 30 styrofoam plates.
2. Explain that you are going use a pencil to create an impression in the styrofoam. These impressions will turn these boring plates into our "PrintMakers."
3. Hand out the plates. Plan out your drawing in your head before you start drawing the face.
4. Draw on the under side of the plate (like an upside-down bowl). Try not to poke holes, but make your impressions deep enough to print. Don't worry if your drawing doesn't come out just the way you wanted it to. An artist can turn a mistake into a masterpiece!
5. When your impression is done, ask to have a drop or two of one color of paint put on your "PrintMaker." Use the foam sponge to thinly spread your color around. Now carefully lay your white paper on top of your PrintMaker. Holding it so the paper doesn't slide around, use your other hand to smooth the paper and press it onto your image. When you lift off the paper, you should see your image in white, with color all around. If you can't see your image, you might not have smoothed it well enough onto your print.
6. Try painting it again with a different color, then "pulling off" another print. Try painting with two or more colors. You'll get a weird and wonderful print!
7. After you've done about 4 prints, look at them side-by-side. Which one is your favorite? Sign your favorite one or two, and mount them on the paper provided. Great work! You can take your PrintMaker home and try some more if you want.

**Conclusion:** (5 min) Today we learned about Andy Warhol, a person who believed that everything is art— in one way or another. We also learned how to make prints, and how fun it is to experiment with the colors in the prints, just like Warhol did.

Does anyone's print look exactly like the subject you chose? Probably not! But is it still art? Of course!