

From Nana's Back Porch: Famous Artist Andy Warhol

Hello, this is Nana from my back porch. Thank you for joining me today. You are all artists!

Hello and welcome. I am Nana and I'm glad you've joined me here on my porch today. You'll be able to hear the birds and you might even hear the bees that are making a lot of noise, boring holes in the roof of my porch. It's fine. It really is. It's a beautiful day. And we're going to talk about, discuss, an American artist whose name you might be very familiar with. His name is Andy Warhol.

Andy Warhol painted his way into America's mind and imagination as a leading figure in the visual art movement known as pop art. His works were part of his artistic expression. He used advertising and his great love of movie stars or celebrities. Some of his best known works include the silk screen painting of the Campbell soup cans, and actresses Marilyn Monroe and Elizabeth Taylor.

Warhol was born on August the 6th, 1928, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to immigrant parents from Hungary. In the third grade, Andy developed Sydenham's chorea, also known as St. Vitus Dance, which is a nervous system disease that causes involuntary movements off the arms and legs, which is thought to be a complication of Scarlet fever. He was confined to bed and he listened to the radio. And as he listened, he drew and collected photos of movie stars out of magazines. Andy later described this period in his life as very important in the development of his personality and skill as an artist.

In later years, after graduating from Carnegie Mellon University with a bachelor of arts degree, he moved to New York City and began a career in magazine illustration and advertising. He worked for Glamour Magazine as a designer and became known for his whimsical ink drawing of high heel shoes in advertisements.

Warhol was an early advocate of the silk screen makers process. It's a technique for making paintings while working in the shoe industry. He

developed the blotted line technique, which means he applied ink to paper and then blotted the ink while it was still wet onto a canvas, which was a very basic printmaking process.

In 1962, his famous soup cans. They are paintings of the iconic tomato soup cans. They debuted and were exhibited in Los Angeles. They were an instant success. It was during this time that Warhol began to make paintings of American objects, such as dollar bills, Coca Cola cans, celebrities such as I said before—Marilyn Monroe, Elvis Presley, Muhammad Ali—as well as newspaper headlines, or even photos from the newspaper.

In the 1970s, Warhol worked on rounding up new rich art patrons for portrait commissions, including the Shah of Iran, rock star Mick Jagger, Broadway star Liza Minnelli, the Beatles' John Lennon, Diana Ross, who was the lead singer of the Motown Supremes, and actress Brigitte Bardot.

Warhol's famous portrait of Chinese communist leader Mao Zedong was completed in 1973. During this time, Warhol is quoted as saying: "Making money is art and working is art and good business is the best art."

Andy Warhol was responsible for many of the most famous works in art history. Becoming really famous in the 1960s, he focused on distinctly American objects and advertisements and celebrities, producing work in a medium other than silk screening. He did some photography, film, and sculpture. Some of his creations are the most expensive ever sold.

He has a portrait that's called Eight Elvises. And it is! His painting of Elvis Presley, the same pose eight times on a canvas, sold for \$100 million in 2008.

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"There are no mistakes in chalk pastel art!" - Nana

In his later life, Warhol suffered from chronic issues with his gallbladder. On February the 20th, 1987, he was admitted to New York Hospital where his gallbladder was successfully removed and he seemed to be recovering. However, days after, he suffered complications that resulted in a sudden cardiac arrest, and he died on February 22nd at the age of 58. Thousands of people attended a memorial service for the artist at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York.

I sometimes think of Andy Warhol, and I know he would probably grin and just shake his head at what I think. I sometimes think he was a little boy in his art and his seeking for fame and fortune, and this little boy never grew up. He never wanted to grow up, and his art reflected it.

Thank you for joining me today. I have enjoyed being with you! I hope you've enjoyed hearing about these famous pop artists and will consider studying and looking at their art. And I want you to always, always remember that you are an artist.

Love, Nana.

Thank you for listening, artist friends! Please leave a review and share this with a friend. We invite you to join us in the You ARE an Artist Clubhouse at ChalkPastel.com where we have over 700 (Yes, 700!) video art lessons. We would also love for you to join us on Instagram, Facebook, and more, and be sure to tag us when you share photos of your artwork. We cannot wait to see. I'll be talking to you again soon.

