AN ICON YOU SHOULD KNOW...

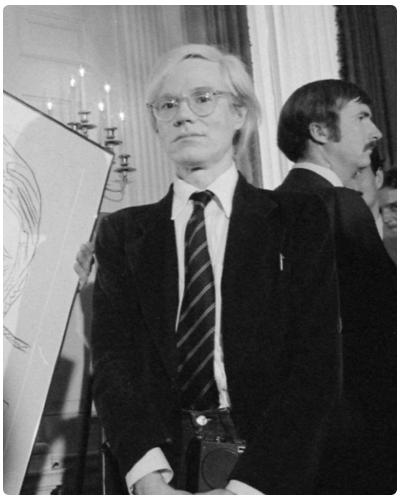
Andy Warhol

American commercial artist and Pop artist, 1928 to 1987

Andy Warhol was an American artist who began his career drawing ads for fashion and retail clients in New York. In the early 1960s he moved into fine art and became a leader of Pop Art, painting everyday products and famous faces. He also made films, ran a magazine and blurred the line between art and advertising. Read this page in about five minutes, then use the links at the end to look deeper.

FURTHER LOOKING

The Andy Warhol Museum: A full biography with photos. warhol.org
MoMA: The collection page for *Campbell's Soup Cans*. moma.org
Wikipedia: The history of the *Campbell's Soup Cans* series. en.wikipedia.org
Video: 1986: Andy Warhol Interview



Andy Warhol. Wikimedia Commons, public domain. Full credit on page 3.

01 Fact Sheet

1928	Born Andrew Warhola on August 6 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
1949	Earns a degree in Pictorial Design from the Carnegie Institute of Technology and moves to New York to work as a commercial artist.
1950s	Becomes one of the most successful illustrators of his time, with clients such as Tiffany & Co., *The New York Times* and I. Miller Shoes.
1962	Shows his *Campbell's Soup Cans* paintings and starts a series of celebrity portraits.
1963	Begins making films.
1966	Releases *The Chelsea Girls*, made with Paul Morrissey, his first commercial success as a filmmaker.
1968	Survives being shot at his studio on June 3.
1969	Co-founds *Interview* magazine, devoted to film, fashion and popular culture.
1987	Dies February 22 in New York City.
1994	The Andy Warhol Museum opens in Pittsburgh.

Life and career Milestones tied to the key works

THREE KEY WORKS, PAGE 2

1966
The Chelsea Girls Poster

1966
My Hustler Poster

1967
Bike Boy Poster

02 Three Key Works

Warhol's best-known work is *Campbell's Soup Cans* (1962), a set of 32 paintings, one for each variety of soup Campbell's sold at the time. The canvases look printed, but they were traced and painted by hand, and the Museum of Modern Art acquired the full set in 1996. Images of his paintings are not shown here, so use the MoMA link under Further Looking to see them. The three works below are posters made to sell his films, and they are public domain in the United States. The posters do not name a designer, so they show how his films were marketed, not his own drawing.

1966: *The Chelsea Girls* Poster

Selling an underground film

The Chelsea Girls, directed by Warhol and Paul Morrissey, is known for its split-screen presentation and runs just over three hours. It became Warhol's first commercial success as a filmmaker. This poster puts "Andy Warhol's" above the title, using his name like a brand. Press quotes in bold capitals fill the right side, and a high-contrast black and white photo of the cast runs down the left.

LOOK FOR The director's name used like a brand | Press quotes as the main text



The Chelsea Girls Poster, 1966. Wikimedia Commons, public domain in the US.

1966: *My Hustler* Poster

A theater poster in bold type

My Hustler, a 1965 film by Warhol and Chuck Wein, opened at the Film-Makers' Cinematheque in New York in January 1966. It was the first Warhol film to make money. This poster for the theater uses type and color only. Tall condensed letters in black sit on a bright pink panel, with the dates, times and ticket price below. Warhol's name again sits above the title.

LOOK FOR Tall condensed letters stacked tight | One bright color panel on plain paper



My Hustler Poster, 1966. Wikimedia Commons, public domain in the US.

1967: *Bike Boy* Poster

Drawn by hand

Bike Boy is a 1967 Warhol film that follows a motorcyclist through a series of loose scenes. It opened at the Hudson Theater in New York on October 5, 1967. Unlike the other two posters, this one is drawn by hand in black ink. A motorcycle wheel and spiky hand lettering fill the frame, and the cast names sit in a white box on the right. Commons credits the poster to Andy Warhol Films.

LOOK FOR Hand lettering instead of type | Cast names used as a selling point



Bike Boy Poster, 1967. Wikimedia Commons, public domain in the US.

TRY THIS

Pick an everyday package from your kitchen. Draw or photograph it six times in a row, changing only one thing each time. What does the repetition make you notice that one image would not?

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REFLECT
Think About It

Warhol moved from commercial art to fine art, but he kept using the look and tools of advertising. Where is the line between design and art in his work, or is there one?

03 Sources

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IMAGE CREDITS

The three film posters are public domain in the United States only, because they were published without a copyright notice. They may still be protected in other countries.

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Poster for *The Chelsea Girls*. 1966, released through the Film-Makers' Distribution Center, author listed on Commons as Paul Morrissey, via Wikimedia Commons. Public domain in the United States (published without a copyright notice, tagged PD-US-no notice on Commons). Accessed 26 Nov. 2026. Resized for display.

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