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## Art Masterpiece: *Ten Marylins, 1967\**, by Andy Warhol

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**Keywords:** Pop-art, silk-screen printing, repetition

**Grade(s):** 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Activity:** Pop-art handprints

*\*Alternate artwork: [A Set of Six Self-Portraits, 1967](#)*



### About the Work:

- Andy Warhol was born on August 6, 1928 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. His family had immigrated to America northeastern Slovakia. They changed their name from Warhola to Warhol. He had two older brothers named Paul and John.
- In third grade, Warhol had Sydenham's chorea, a nervous system disease which is believed to be a complication of scarlet fever. He was sick often as a child and missed a lot of school. At times when he was confined to bed, he drew, listened to the radio and collected pictures of movie stars around his bed. Warhol later described this period as very important in the development of his personality, skill-set, and preferences.
- After high school, Warhol attended the Carnegie Institute of Technology in Pittsburgh, where he studied commercial art. After graduating, he moved to New York City and began a career in magazine illustration and advertising. By the beginning of the 1960s, Warhol had become a very successful commercial illustrator.
- Pop art was an experimental form that several artists were independently adopting. Warhol, who would become famous as the "Pope of Pop," turned to this new style, where popular subjects could be part of the artist's palette.

- His early paintings show images taken from cartoons and advertisements, hand-painted with paint drips.
- Warhol's friends suggested he should paint the things he loved the most. For his first major exhibition Warhol painted his famous cans of Campbell's Soup, which he claimed to have had for lunch for most of his life.
- He loved celebrities, so he painted them as well. Warhol admired Marilyn Monroe and made several different pop art paintings of her. They were (and are) very popular.
- Many of his creations are very collectible and highly valuable. The highest price ever paid for a Warhol painting is \$105 million for a 1963 canvas titled "Silver Car Crash (Double Disaster)".
- The Andy Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh, Pa. Is the largest American Art Museum dedicated to a single artist – there are more than 4,000 works by Warhol himself there.
- Trivia: Warhol coined the widely used expression "15 minutes of fame."

### **Definitions:**

Pop-Art was a major art movement of the 20th century in the United States that uses elements of popular culture (pop = popular), magazines, movies, music, bottles, and cans. In other words, Pop-Art would take everyday objects and show them in a new way.

Repetition is created when objects, shapes, space, light, direction lines , faces, etc. are used over and over again as an identical form.

Silkscreen: See below.

### **About the Artwork:**

*Ten Marilyns, 1967* is not a painting or drawing but a silkscreen. Screen printing is a printing technique. It uses a mesh-based stencil to apply ink onto another object, like T-shirts, posters, stickers, vinyl, wood, or other material. It is also known as serigraphy or serigraph printing. One color is printed at a time, so several screens can be used to produce a multicolored image or design.

Warhol was an early adopter of the silk screen printmaking process as a technique for making paintings. His earliest silk-screening involved hand-drawn images but Warhol soon progressed to the use of photographic images, like *Ten*

*Marilyns, 1967.* Andy Warhol is recognized for popularizing screen printing as an artistic technique.

Warhol was a pop artist, meaning he would use images from popular culture, like commercial products and advertisements. He would then change them somehow and present the new images as art. Warhol used a photograph of Marilyn Monroe to make *Ten Marilyn's, 1967*. Monroe was a very famous movie star in the 1950's and had become an icon of pop culture. Like many modern-day celebrities, Monroe was no longer seen as a "real" person with depth and character. Her portrait is a symbol for beauty and fame, but not necessarily a picture of who she really was.

Warhol increased the contrast between the dark and light areas. This "flattens" the image of Monroe, perhaps representing how little most people knew and understood about the person, Marilyn Monroe (instead of the movie star Marilyn Monroe.)

By repeating the image, picture after picture, Warhol demonstrates how frequently we see images of Marilyn Monroe, how common they have become.

Warhol also used vibrant colors that are not natural or usual in realistic portraits. This helps make each picture of Monroe seem different than the one next to it, even though the photos are exactly the same. These colors also helped Warhol show how Marilyn Monroe was not seen as a "real" person, but just a symbol of Hollywood glamour and fame.

### **Discussion Questions:**

- What do you see in this painting? (Rows of pictures of Marilyn Monroe. Monroe.)
- Why do you think he used pictures of Marilyn Monroe? (Warhol was actually a big fan of hers. She also represented beauty and the glamour of a Hollywood movie star.)
- How many pictures are there? (Ten.) This design style is called REPETITION - a design that is used over and over again, repeated.
- What colors are in the painting?
- Why do you think Warhol used these colors instead of using "realistic" colors? (He wanted each image to be unique, even though they were the exact same picture.)

## **Activity:** Pop-Art Handprints

### **Materials Needed:**

- White construction paper (9" X 13"), one per student
- Watercolors, except black and brown. Liquid watercolors make this project quicker but you can use watercolor sets if you prefer. (This project is written for liquid watercolors.)
- Paint brushes, one per student
- Black tempera paint
- White tempera paint
- Disposable dinner-size plates, 6
- Plastic or Styrofoam cups, about 24
- Paper towels

**Preparation:** Students will work in small groups of three or four and will share paints. For each group, pour about an inch of watercolor paint in four cups. Each group should have four different watercolors. Each group should also have a cup with water. Set up a hand printing station on a table in the room. On this table have three plates of white tempera paint and three plates of black tempera paint. An adult should be at this station to help the students when they make their handprints.

### **Process:**

1. Tell the students that they will be making handprints in the style of Andy Warhol. It is not the same as silkscreen printing, but it is a form of print-making.
2. Pass out the paper and have each student write their name on the back.
3. Have each student fold their paper in half lengthwise, and then in half again width-wise. You may have to demonstrate this.
4. Have them open their papers and press them flat. Their paper should now be divided into quarters (a grid of four rectangles) two on top and two on the bottom.
5. Pass out sets of watercolor paint cups, brushes, and water cups. Pass out a paper towel per student.

6. Have the students paint each rectangle a different color.
7. If there is a color they want to use but their group doesn't have, they can take their brush and paper and go to a group that does have that color. After they paint with that color, they should return to their original group.
8. The paper doesn't have to be completely dry, but should be at least partly dry before the handprints are attempted.
9. When everyone is done painting with their watercolors, tell them they can bring their paper to the hand printing table.
10. Have them put one hand flat in the white paint and print it in one of the upper rectangles. Then have them place their handprint in the lower rectangle opposite of the one they already printed. (Diagonal. See example.) Have them place the opposite hand in the black paint, and leave a handprint in the remaining two rectangles.
11. When the handprints are dry, hang to display.

Example:



**Parent Note:**

Andy Warhol (1928 – 1987) was an American artist who was a leading figure in



the visual art movement known as pop art. His works explore the relationship between artistic expression, celebrity culture and advertisement that flourished by the 1960s.

Today in Art Masterpiece, students printed their own handprints in the style of Warhol.

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**“Messy Art” Note:**

Our next Art Masterpiece lesson might be a little messy. We will be using \_\_\_\_\_. Most art media is “washable” but it still might leave a faint stain. Please don’t send your child to school in new clothes on this day: \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_.  
(date) (time)

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Extra Help Needed Note:

# We need extra hands!!

The next Art Masterpiece lesson could use some extra helping hands. If you can, please come and lend your hands on \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_.  
*(date)* *(time)*

## Thanks so much!

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## Thanks so much!