Not Pop Art but Op Art

What else was happening in the art world while Andy Warhol was creating pop art?

Op Art or Optical Art began in the 1960’s also. It focuses on creating optical illusions. An optical illusion tricks your eye into seeing something that does not exist. It may appear that the paper is three-dimensional or moving. Bridget Riley and Victor Vasarely are several famous Op artists.

Try It Yourself!
Create your own optical illusion art.

1. Hands that POP!
1. Lightly trace the shape of your hand onto the paper.
2. Start at the bottom of the page and use a black marker to make curved lines inside your arm. Add straight lines to the background.
3. Color the stripes in a pattern.

What you need: paper, pencil, circle stencils, ruler, color pencils, and markers.

2. Victor’s Op Spheres
1. Use a circle template to trace one or two circles onto your paper.
2. Create grids on the circle like the one above.
3. Color the grid in a pattern
4. Use a ruler to make a straight grid in the background and color it.
5. Add a drop shadow by shading one side of the circle with a pencil.
Stan Natchez draws inspiration from the artwork of Andy Warhol. In his mixed media painting *Four Powers of the World* we see clear similarities to Andy Warhol’s colorful portraits. His artworks often combine traditional American Indian imagery with American pop culture. The source material for the background relates to the portrait in the foreground and impacts the message portrayed in the painting.

**Try It Yourself!**

Create a mixed media portrait like Stan Natchez by painting a portrait onto similar source material.

**Think About:**

What meaning do you want your artwork to have? Which source material most relates to your subject? **Consider the relationship between the portrait and the background.** How do they impact one another? How do the colors you use in your portrait relate to the background imagery?

1. Sketch out the figure, it could be a self portrait, a person from pop culture, or anyone.

2. Paint the portrait. Think about what colors you are going to use.

3. After the paint dries go back in and create outlines and details using black paint or black markers.

**Looking at the Art**

In *Four Powers of the World* can you recognize each of the background materials? They symbolize humor, territory, communication, and trade. Natchez suggests that these are the sources of disunity and the purposes behind art and culture.
Roy Lichtenstein was an American pop artist that worked at the same time as Andy Warhol. However, their artworks look very different. Roy’s art is inspired by comic books. Like Andy Warhol, Roy used bright eye-catching colors in his art.

His artwork often features onomatopoeias which are words associated with sounds. For example, words like: pop, wham, splat, bang, and boom

Roy used a technique called Ben-Day dots, which uses dots to create the illusion of color. Notice in his painting Crying Girl her skin is composed of tiny dots.

Try It Yourself!

Create a pop art drawing using Roy Lichtenstein’s techniques. Include at least one onomatopoeia and Ben-Day dots.

1. Sketch out your design. Include an onomatopoeia.
2. Make outlines of the shapes with a dark color.
3. Add some solid colors.
4. Create the illusion of color by adding Ben-Day dots.

What you need: paper, pencil, and markers.
James Rosenquist was a contemporary of Andy Warhol who created pop art. Like Andy, James was a commercial artist before his career as a professional fine artist. As a commercial artist he painted billboards, he incorporated this job experience into his fine art career by painting in a similar style and on a very large scale. James Rosenquist was also inspired by objects and figures from popular culture. He was known for his **collage** paintings.

**Collage** is a type of art that combines different things to create a single artwork. James’ artwork is bold and eye-catching because we are not used to seeing these objects displayed together.

Try It Yourself!

Create your own collage using images of objects that are popular today. Cut, arrange, and glue images to create your own pop culture **collage**!

**Think About:** What objects will you choose to place together? What reason do you have for choosing these images?

1. Look for images you would like to include and cut them out.
2. Arrange the images on the paper.
3. Choose a final arrangement and glue down the images.

What you need: source material (images, advertisements, magazines) paper, scissors, and glue.
John Nieto is a contemporary artist with a love for color. He is still producing art today. It is said that his artwork is influenced by fauvism, an art movement from the early 1900’s. **Fauvism** is known for using big expressions and non-realistic colors. Andy Warhol also uses non-realistic colors in his vibrant screen prints. Create colorful drawings using oil pastels. Push the limits of color and imagine how much color can change the way we view an object. Nieto sometimes depicts animals in his work but does not keep them in their natural colors. Create a drawing of an animal that uses many colors.

**Try It Yourself!**

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1. Sketch out your animal.
2. Add blocks of color by using oil pastels.
3. Add black to create strong outlines that will keep the viewers eye focused on the animal.

What you need: paper, pencil, and oil pastels.
Andy’s Cats

Andy Warhol loved cats, in fact, he had over 25 cats! He made so many illustrations of his cats that he chose to publish them in a book.

Try It Yourself!

Read the book *Uncle Andy’s Cats* written by Andy Warhol’s nephew James Warhola.

Draw your own version of Sam. How can you show the personality of your cat?
Where is your cat? Is your cat happy or sad? Is there a story to tell about your cat?

1. Use a pencil to sketch your cat and setting.
2. Use watercolor pencils to color your drawing.
3. Dampen a paintbrush with water and paint over areas of your drawing. Notice how the water changes the way the pencil looks.
4. Use a marker to outline and add details to your cat drawing.

What you need: paper, pencil, watercolor pencils, paintbrushes, water, and black markers.
Andy Warhol also designed cover art for music albums. He designed for famous musicians like Aretha Franklin, The Rolling Stones, Diana Ross, and John Lennon. Cover art for music varies widely, it sometimes features images of the singers other times it may contain representations of a particular song.

**Try It Yourself!**

Think about your favorite music album, how is the cover image of it designed? How would you design your cover art? Design your own album or redesign an album cover.

What you need: square paper, pencil, and color pencils

Notice how some of Andy's cover art is done in his recognizable screen printing style. Knowing Andy’s pop fame, do you think this would have increased the popularity of the album?
After graduating college Andy Warhol worked as a commercial artist in New York City. A **commercial artist creates art that is used for advertising**. They may create advertisements or design logos and packaging for products. The goal of a commercial artist is to increase sales using visual art. Today we associate this job with graphic designers because most visual advertisements are made using computer software. Even as a fine artist Andy Warhol’s artwork focused on commercial ideas. His *Campbell’s Soup* prints remain one of his most popular artworks perhaps because they are so recognizable.

Successful commercial art usually contains:
- Bright and bold colors
- Sharp Lines
- Attention grabbing words
- Repetition or pattern

**Think About:**
- What makes ads appealing?
- What colors look best together?
- What is needed to make it ‘POP’?
- What catches your attention at a store?

**Try It Yourself!**

Create a visual advertisement or logo! Create the design for a product you would like to invent or adapt a logo for an existing product you love.

Include some of the elements that commercial art usually contains.

What you need: paper, pencil, and markers.
Andy Warhol loved bright colors and repetition. Create your own Pop art print that has both of these elements.

What you need: watercolor paper, light color crayons, liquid watercolor, paintbrush, construction paper, pencil, scissors, glue, foam brushes, washable paint, and markers.

Warhol Hand Prints

1. Divide your paper into four equal rectangles. Use a white or light colored crayon to trace the lines.
2. Paint each rectangle a different color. The crayon will act as a barrier between the rectangles.
3. Let the background dry. Trace your hand onto colored construction paper and cut out four copies of your hand.
4. Once the background has dried glue one construction paper handprint to each rectangle.
5. Paint your hand with a foam brush and stamp it onto each construction paper hand.
6. Once your handprints are dry use a marker to trace them.

Andy’s Layers

Some of Andy Warhol’s artworks have many layers!

1. Painted Background
2. Painted shape of image
3. Printed Image
4. Lines on top of image

Fritz Scholder was a famous artist working at the same time and within the same circles as Andy Warhol. In fact, within the exhibit Warhol and the West, there is a portrait of Fritz Scholder by Andy Warhol. Scholder’s paintings are often considered to be abstract expressionist, an art style that focuses on emotional expression and spontaneous acts of creativity. Even though the art styles of Andy Warhol and Fritz Scholder are very different some collectors and critics have called Scholder “the American Indian Andy Warhol” because of his public fame. His paintings redefined American Indian art at the time.

Try It Yourself!
Create a painting inspired by abstract expressionism and Fritz Scholder. Use bold colors and big brushstrokes to create a landscape or a portrait. Don’t worry about making it realistic instead let your creativity flow without planning out your painting.

1. Paint the background. Scholder’s paintings usually only have colors in their backgrounds.
2. Add a figure, animal, or landscape to the foreground.

What you need: paper, paint, and paint brushes.

“It’s all up to you. And you, in a way, can’t make a mistake, because if you don’t like a certain area, cover it over”
-Fritz Scholder
Willem Volkersz produces art that is similar to pop art. His art is mixed media, and often combines two-dimensional and three-dimensional objects. A key feature of his artwork is the use of 3D Neon Lights to create objects or figures. His art work is focused on his fascination with America. Volkersz came to America when he was 14 years old and has said he was always “fascinated with pop culture: larger than life advertising figures, neon signs, post cards, and travel souvenirs.”

Looking at the Art

- The paintings that are in the background of his works are often landscapes that have bright colors placed side by side without blending.
- In some of his artworks the neon signs sit alone on the ground in front of the paintings, however some emerge from the painting.

How does the neon man fit in with the landscape? What is he doing?

Try It Yourself!

What about America fascinates you? Create a mixed media artwork that is inspired by Willem Volkersz.

1. Draw a landscape background using crayons or oil pastels.
2. Use pipe cleaners to create a figure or object to go with your drawing.
Make your pipe cleaner sculpture stand on its own or attach it to your drawing by using a hole punch.

What you need: paper, oil pastels or crayons, pipe cleaners, and hole punch.
COLOR COLLAGE

Use tissue paper to create colorful artworks.

Animal Images

Create a tissue paper mosaic of an endangered animal species to honor Andy Warhol's series Endangered Species.

1. Use a stencil to trace an animal outline onto the paper or draw your own outline.
2. Use a paintbrush to paint a layer of glue over a small area in the corner of your paper and press down tissue squares.
3. Continue adding tissue paper and fill your artwork!


Think about what colors you would like to use. When the colors overlap what color is created?

Will your tissue squares overlap? How does this change the way your artwork looks?

Color Wash (Older Artists)

Because tissue paper is so thin we can use it over images to experiment with color. Like Andy Warhol, you can see how color changes an image.

1. Choose a black and white image that you would like to add color to and gather tissue squares in the colors you want.
2. Use a paintbrush to paint a layer of liquid glue over a small area of your image and press down tissue squares.
3. Think about if you want the colors to follow the lines of the image. If so, cut the tissue squares into different shapes.

What you need: black and white images, paintbrush, glue, scissors, and tissue paper.
Combining Tom Gilleon & Andy Warhol

Tom Gilleon is a contemporary artist whose work is influenced by Andy Warhol. We can see it clearly in his paintings that feature figures from the American West. Like Warhol, Gilleon depicts traditional Western Icons in an untraditional way. He uses the same panel style that Andy Warhol used, which creates repetition within his art. Tom Gilleon’s famous tipi paintings show vibrant saturated colors. The bright colors are captivating to viewers.

Try It Yourself!

Combine the subject matter of Gilleon with the techniques of Warhol while sharing their love of captivating colors! Create a Tipi artwork with a painted background and printed tips. Think about what colors will create an attention grabbing painting!

1. Paint your background using liquid watercolor paints. Most of Gilleon’s backgrounds just show the colors of the sky and land and don’t have a lot of detail.

2. Paint your tipi stamp using tempera paint. Try creating a gradient, pattern, or multiple colors.

3. Print the tipi on your painting by stamping it onto the paper.

4. Once the paint has dried use a marker to add drawings to the tipi. Gilleon does not always rely on traditional American Indian drawings or stories, he adds original illustrations.

What you need: paper, liquid watercolor, tempera paint, paintbrushes, foam stamps, and black markers.