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Andy Warhol, Prince Of Pop



Synopsis

“IN THE FUTURE EVERYBODY will be world famous for 15 minutes.” The Campbell Soup Cans. The Marilyns. The Electric Chairs. The Flowers. The work created by Andy Warhol elevated everyday images to art, ensuring Warhol a fame that has far outlasted the 15 minutes he predicted for everyone else. His very name is synonymous with the 1960s American art movement known as Pop. But Warhol’s oeuvre was the sum of many parts. He not only produced iconic art that blended high and popular culture; he also made controversial films, starring his entourage of the beautiful and outrageous; he launched Interview, a slick magazine that continues to sell today; and he reveled in leading the vanguard of New York’s hipster lifestyle. The Factory, Warhol’s studio and den of social happenings, was the place to be. Who would have predicted that this eccentric boy, the Pittsburgh-bred son of Eastern European immigrants, would catapult himself into media superstardom? Warhol’s rise, from poverty to wealth, from obscurity to status as a Pop icon, is an absorbing tale—one in which the American dream of fame and fortune is played out in all of its success and its excess. No artist of the late 20th century took the pulse of his time—and ours—better than Andy Warhol. Praise for Vincent van Gogh: Portrait of an Artist: “This outstanding, well-researched biography is fascinating reading.” —School Library Journal, Starred “Readers will see not just the man but also the paintings anew.” —The Bulletin, Starred “An exceptional biography that reveals the humanity behind the myth.” —Booklist, Starred A Robert F. Sibert Honor Book An ALA Notable Book From the Hardcover edition.

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Starred Review Gr. 8-up. As in the authors' previous titles about iconoclastic artists, such as *Runaway Girl* (2003), about sculptor Louise Bourgeois, Greenberg and Jordan offer a riveting biography that humanizes their controversial subject without making judgments or sensationalizing. Chronological chapters follow Warhol from his Pittsburgh youth through his infamous decades in New York City, ending with a chapter that examines his profound influence on American art and culture. With honesty and tact, the authors frankly discuss Warhol's insecurities (his struggles with "fiery acne," his wavering self-image); his sometimes astonishing detachment; and the infamous Factory studio, with its wild, experimental sex-and-drugs culture. Their lucid insight into the art is also exceptional. In clear, evocative language they describe how Warhol made his art, the cultural context in which he worked, his originality, and the controversies he raised. With the exception of a few missing references, the source notes are exemplary, adding dimension to the story. A chronology, glossary of art terms, and numerous quotes from family, friends, critics, and Warhol himself bolster this highly readable, balanced, and fascinating survey of an American icon. An insert of color reproductions of the artist's work was not available in galley. Gillian Engberg
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"By the end, the man and the myth have become one." - Kirkus Reviews, Starred
"Greenberg and Jordan offer a riveting biography that humanizes their controversial subject without making judgments or sensationalizing. Their lucid insight into the art is also exceptional." - Booklist, Starred
"As usual for this author pairing, the text is a model of thorough and inventive research." - The Bulletin, Starred

Well written but too concise. I was expecting more details. I was done with it in a day, and I'm a slow reader.

I really enjoyed the Andy Warhol, Prince of Pop book. It was very well written and enjoyable to read.

I learned far more than I expected to. The book was so well researched. I would definitely read more books by this author.

Biography lite. Good read for the train.

I needed a book to do my final paper for school. This had every thing I needed to do my paper.

If you're only going to read one book about Warhol, this would be a good choice. It was the "Goldilocks pick" among three I read, one for children (too thin, though it was fun seeing how his life was dumbed-down-but-not-too-sanitized for kids' reading), one too academic (too thick, all tell, no show), this one juuusst right, really captured the flavor and excitement of Andy's world. Highly recommended. (But where are the pix? Not in the Kindle version, at least. Ironically, only the kids' version was illustrated. But that's what click-on-Wikipedia is for, I guess.)

It's not every day that one reads a biography so insightful and compelling that one wants to go learn more about the subject. I first encountered ANDY WARHOL: PRINCE OF POP as an excerpt in RUSH HOUR: Volume Two - Bad Boys. The excerpt, covering the central controversial period of Warhol's celebrity in the 1960s, excited me so much that I knew I had to read more. The rest of the biography does not disappoint. Organized in a linear narrative, the book covers Warhol's life, from his early childhood as the sickly child of Eastern European immigrants to his death at the age of 58 of complications after routine surgery. It organizes each period into thematic chapters filled with interesting anecdotes, pithy Warhol aphorisms, and memories from people who were there at the time. Jan Greenberg and Sandra Jordan's extensive knowledge of the subject and in-depth research into Warhol's life make this book a treasure. It includes a timeline, a glossary of unfamiliar art terms, an extensive bibliography of sources, and is heavily illustrated with some of Warhol's most famous works. While intended as a biography for young adults, this book makes Warhol's life, work, and the art of his age accessible in a way that will appeal to readers of all ages. One of the strongest aspects of the book is the authors' understanding and clear explanations of many of the art movements of the twentieth century. Also invaluable is the authors' illumination of the many processes Warhol used to produce his art, including painting, silk-screening, and experimental film. It is difficult for biographers to avoid the trap of finding greatness in the origins of their subjects. This book contains many stories about the Warhol being drawn to art at an early age. However, the authors' careful plotting of the transformation of a shy and painfully awkward boy into the international celebrity also

suggests that one of Andy's greatest creations was his own image as an artist. **ANDY WARHOL: PRINCE OF POP** does not shy away from the racy subject matter of Warhol's experimental films or the raucous entourage he incorporated into his work in the 1960s. It also deals extensively, though not explicitly, with Warhol's homosexuality. The work of Andy Warhol is so influential that even readers who do not know anything about him will probably recognize his famous paintings of Campbell soup cans, or his celebrity portraits silk-screened onto brightly colored backgrounds. Greenberg and Jordan's book is engaging and thought-provoking. It will undoubtedly set the standard for young adult biographies for years to come. --- Reviewed by Sarah A. Wood

Greeneberg and Jordan are well-known for their lively biographies of artists. *Prince of Pop* is no exception. The cover prints of Warhol in full wig mania are stimulating and invite the reader in. It is highly accessible and easy to read but not dumbed down. Their presentation takes the reader through a well-researched, chronological examination of his life in a balanced and honest way. There is much explanation of his inspiration and actual work process to interest the young artist. For non-artists there is a useful glossary of people and terms in the back. The authors also do a good job of explaining his personal dilemma between choosing a lucrative commercial art career and becoming a "great" artist. One of the best moments in the book shows how an art consultant gave him the Campbell soup can idea. Further insight into his unusual philosophies of art and life is revealed through the many quotes by Warhol, his critics, family and friends heading each chapter. Although geared for teens, the book does not avoid discussion of his decadent, wild social life nor his homosexuality. This is handled in a sensitive, but matter-of-fact way. It's just included as part of the wider context of his work in art, films and celebrity manufacturing. A really hip, fun biography!

This is a quick and enlightening biography of America's greatest pop artist, Andy Warhol. The book outlines his life, his art, and how Andy Warhol became an American icon. It not only provides a short life-sketch (his mother was his greatest encouragement), but also describes how Warhol became inseparable from American Pop Art (his application of art into media, extending the boundaries of art), his contribution to American culture (advertising, design, books, films, TV production and fashion), and his rise as an American icon (everybody wanted to be in Andy Warhol's company). The book also contains a Warhol timeline, a list of Warhol's films and books, a glossary of art terms, notes on quotes and references, and sources of research material on Warhol, making it an interesting mini-compendium on the artist. Both art lovers and laymen will find this book enlightening.

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