

The artist

Andy Warhol (1928-1987) was born in Pittsburgh to immigrants. He began his career as an illustrator for and promotional materials. During the 1960s he began his paintings of American and mass-produced products: film stars, bottles, dollar ... often using silk-screen as his preferred technique. He became the centre of culture at his studio, "The " and also produced films. A lot of people accused him of being a purely artist, but others saw him as the of popular culture.

The background

Post-war America saw a boom in the business and a in the numbers of artists like Andy Warhol. But their work was not taken by an elitist art world which, at the time, preferred expressionist art by painters like Jackson Pollock. Pop art – which depicted objects and or things associated with culture (cartoons, movie stars...) – arrived in the s as a reaction to this. Subjects were often treated with a touch of or , so that a lot of pop art is still considered to be kitsch (of quality, ...) or "camp" (deliberately bad taste, in style...).