



## An Exploration of Pop Art

**Lesson Description:** You've probably seen or at least heard of Andy Warhol's famous soup can painting– by far, the most popular piece of Pop Art in the past century. In this lesson, students will explore the history and cultural significance of pop art and eventually make their own Pop Art piece as well. As discussed in "Art History/Theory Relation," the most unique aspect of Pop art is its celebration of everyday objects and its criticism of contemporary consumerism culture (although it should be noted that not all Pop Art explicitly conveys this). After choosing an everyday object, students will draw it while trying to emulate the style of Pop Artists.

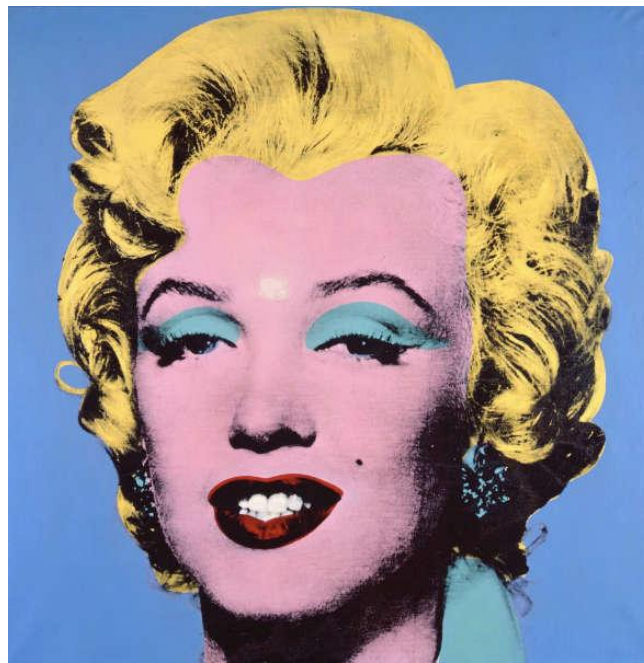
**Lesson Objective:** Students will explore the history and cultural significance of Pop Art and examine some of the most famous Pop Art pieces. They will then choose an everyday object to draw in the Pop Art style. Make sure to emphasize the use of bright colors and Pop Art's typical focus on mass media and consumerism!

**Art History/Theory Relation:** Pop Art was first created in the UK in the 1950s in a postwar climate and questioned the commodification of art in a mass-consumerist, capitalist society and traditional "high art" techniques, compositions, and subject matters. Two of the most famous Pop Artists are Andy Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein. Andy Warhol's art focused intensely on the mechanical replication of everyday objects, the most famous of which are his series of soup can paintings which dot the walls of museums just as soup cans sit on store shelves. By tying the value of the commodity represented in the painting to the value of the art itself, Warhol presents a powerful commentary on the core nature of art as a product itself. In fact, what makes Pop Art so recognizable and unique is its incorporation of commercial images. Representing images such as Marilyn Monroe's or John Kennedy's face as mass produced products, Pop Artists also create another layer of cultural critique. In addition, the use of everyday objects as subject matter– essentially insisting that art can borrow from any subject matter, a juxtaposition to the corresponding attitude of "high art"– is another primary characteristic of Pop Art. Below are some of the most famous pieces of Pop Art.

 all for art



"Drowning Girl," Roy Lichtenstein, 1963



"Marilyn Monroe," Andy Warhol, 1967



all for art



"Campbell's Soup Cans," Andy Warhol, 1962



"President Elect," James Rosenquist, 1960-61





## Materials Needed:

NOTE: All for Art lesson plans are always flexible with materials and students can use whatever they have on hand! We always strive to make art available to everyone, no matter how limited the resources available to them are. Thus, the following list is simply an ideation of possible materials for the above project.

1. Paper (Colored/construction paper is always fun!)
2. Objects/pictures to reference (i.e. Coca-Cola cans, food products, or anything else "mass-produced")
3. Markers
4. Crayons
5. Colored Pencils
6. Any collaging materials if students wish to collage for this project
7. Anything else you have available!

## Step-by-Step Procedure:

1. Introduce students to Pop Art, its origins, and its cultural significance/commentary. Make sure to show lots of examples of Pop Art to help them find inspiration!
  - a. This article is a great supplement to the information already provided: [Pop Art Movement Overview | TheArtStory](#)
  - b. This short video gives a concise and fun introduction to Pop Art with great animation: [What is Pop Art? Art Movements & Styles](#)
2. Give students ideas of potential products they could use as their subject matter. Remind them that Pop Art emphasizes the use of everyday objects and manufactured products as primary subjects!
3. Introduce the project to students and give them the materials. Either give them a subject matter to work off of or encourage them to find their own (the latter is always highly recommended).
4. Give students time to brainstorm and help them think of ideas if they get stuck.
  - a. The best way to inspire them is to show them other pieces of Pop Art! This website has a lot of great examples: [POP Art Artists And Their Famous Artworks](#)



5. Throughout the process, stay updated on their progress and offer feedback and encouragement always!
  - a. If students get stuck, try asking the following questions:
    - i. What did you choose to draw? Why did you choose that particular object?
    - ii. Out of all the examples of Pop Art you've seen thus far, what has been your favorite? Can you think of a reason you liked that piece the best?
    - iii. Have you taken inspiration from any pieces of Pop Art you've seen so far? If so, how?
    - iv. When you think of everyday, mass produced products, what products first come to mind?

### **What Students Should Aim to Accomplish with their Final Piece:**

1. Students should have created a piece inspired by the Pop Art style with an everyday, mass-produced product as its subject matter.
2. Students should understand the cultural significance of Pop Art.
3. Most importantly, they should have fun creating their piece!