Early Life

Andy Warhol was born Andrew Warhola to Slovakian emigrants who settled in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. In the 1930s, when Andy was growing up, Massillon would have looked very similar to Pittsburgh. Both cities had booming industries, like steel mills. Life in a working class neighborhood, surrounded by factories, would have been much different than the glamorous lifestyles of the celebrities Andy so admired. As a young man, he attended art school and learned how to create designs and advertisements for department stores. In 1948, he drops the “a” from Warhola. He moved to New York City in 1949, where he worked as an illustrator for more than 10 years.

Pop Art Movement

Around 1960, he became an important figure in the Pop Art movement. His prior work in advertisement became foundation for his iconic style and memorable paintings and prints that appropriated imagery of consumer goods and famous celebrities. Warhol’s silkscreen technique made it easy for him to manipulate and reproduce images repeatedly and frequently. He created a space, The Factory, where many artists, musicians, and writers collaborated and influenced the subject matter of Warhol’s work.

Later Life

Warhol continues creating art, focusing a lot of time on photography using Polaroid and Kodak Instamatic cameras. He publishes books and exhibits his photographs in the United States. He collaborates with many young artists, musicians, and celebrities and hosts MTV’s Fifteen Minutes. After nearly four decades as an artist, Warhol died in 1987 after complications from gallbladder surgery. He is buried in a Pittsburgh suburb near his parents.