

Kerouac, Warhol, Holland

Andy Warhol's Campbell's soup can paintings, Marilyn silkscreens, and Brillo box sculptures are among the most famous works of art of the twentieth century. Much lesser known are his films. But during the 1960s, as he created his most famous art, Warhol made over 500 films. Most were shown only a few times in the '60s, as part of the experimental cinema scene in New York City. Some have been shown more recently in major retrospectives of Warhol's work, but, for the most part, viewing opportunities have been rare. We are very pleased to bring these films to Lowell tonight.

Beat writers, including Jack Kerouac, Gregory Corso, Allen Ginsberg, and Peter Orlovsky, as well as other artists and friends who associated themselves with the Beats, like Taylor Mead and Ann Buchanan, appear in Warhol's films. By showing several of the films involving the Beats we hope to open up questions about the influence and interconnection between two of the central cultural and aesthetic movements of post-war America — the Beats and Pop Art.

All of tonight's films are silent, but Warhol, at least sometimes, imagined them as part of multimedia performances. The Velvet Underground provided the soundtrack to the screenings in 1966 and '67 at Warhol's Exploding Plastic Inevitable events. We are thrilled tonight to have Jolie Holland and her band, whose songs unmistakably flow from both Jack Kerouac's writings and the VU's sound, performing with Warhol's films. So . . . three generations of influences and interactions — the Beats, Warhol, Holland.

Tonight's Films

Andy Warhol

Screen Tests, 1964-66

16mm film transferred to digital files (DVD)
Black-and-white, silent, 4 minutes each at 16 frames per second

Collection of The Andy Warhol Museum,
Pittsburgh

Contribution: The Andy Warhol Foundation for
the Visual Arts, Inc.

This program includes:

Screen Test: Allen Ginsberg [ST115], 1966

Screen Test: Peter Orlovsky [ST250], 1966

Screen Test: John Ashbery [ST13], 1966

Screen Test: Ann Buchanan [ST33], 1964

Screen Test: Lou Reed [ST263], 1966

Andy Warhol

Kiss, 1963-64

16mm film transferred to digital file (DVD)
Black and white, silent, 54 minutes at 16 frames per second

Collection of The Andy Warhol Museum,
Pittsburgh

Contribution: The Andy Warhol Foundation for
the Visual Arts, Inc.

Andy Warhol

Couch, 1964

16mm film transferred to digital files (DVD)
Black and white, silent, 58 minutes at 16 frames per second

Collection of The Andy Warhol Museum,
Pittsburgh

Contribution: The Andy Warhol Foundation for
Visual Arts, Inc.

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