

Start at home

Pocket Portrait



“I want to throw things right out of the window as they’re handed to me, but instead I say thank you and drop them into the box-of-the-month. But my other outlook is that I really do want to save things so they can be used again someday.”

Andy Warhol, The Philosophy of Andy Warhol. (From A to B and Back Again), 1975

About the Artist

Andy Warhol (1928-1987) was an American artist most commonly associated with the Pop Art movement which emerged in the 1950s in Britain and America. Pop artists borrowed imagery from the everyday and popular culture including movies, advertising, product packaging, music and comic books. Warhol made the everyday iconic, using commercial products as subjects in his works such as Brillo washing powder, Coca-Cola, and the Campbell’s soup can.

About the work

From the beginning of Warhol’s career, photographs became an important source material and were used by the artist as the basis of his paintings and screenprints. Warhol used his own photographs and photographs taken by his friends but he also used images he found in magazines, advertisements and publicity material. His well-known painting of Elvis Presley, for example, is based on a publicity still from the movie Flaming Star (1960).



Materials

- Mobile phone or digital camera
- Selection of small items/objects from your pocket, school bag or at home

Take it further

Print or draw your pocket portrait image and write a description of all the things captured in your image. What story does this pocket portrait tell about you?

Tips

If you don't have many items in your pockets or bag, select small objects from your home and photograph these instead.

The Activity

Make a pocket portrait

Create an usual self-portrait by photographing the contents of your pocket or bag.

- 1 Empty all the items from your pockets or school bag.
- 2 Do not rearrange them and photograph them as they fall.
- 3 Now place the objects in an interesting composition where you might focus on order of size, shape, or colour.
- 4 Photograph your arrangement.
- 5 Now compare the candid and the created image you have made.

Andy Warhol *Masks in shop window* can be viewed in the exhibition *Andy Warhol and Photography: A Social Media* until 14 May 2023

image detail Andy Warhol, United States of America, 1928 - 1987, *Masks in shop window*, 1982, New York, gelatin-silver photograph, 20.3 x 25.3 cm (sheet), 15.6 x 22.2 cm (image); V.B. F. Young Bequest Fund and d'Auvergne Boxall Bequest Fund 2018, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, © Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc. ARS/Copyright Agency.

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