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Andy Warhol

991 words

Andy Warhol is known as a fascinating Pop artist who brought the future to the Pop art and commercial art. He worked in a wide range of visual arts: drawing, painting, and photographing.¹ He was more than an artist. He appears as an icon even these days because he did not only do arts but also left his legacy for the future of arts.² Most of his works were dedicated to The Andy Warhol Foundation for Visual Arts in New York. There are tons of his works, both official works and his personal collections. Among those valuable objects are hundreds of ordinary cardboard boxes. Those boxes appear so insignificant that no one would expect that later they would be the important keys to the arts history. They are Andy Warhol's Time Capsules. This is the starting point of an important project. The Time Capsules are one of the most interesting aspects in all Andy Warhol's works.

Where this idea of collecting things in the boxes came from is not known for certain. One year before Andy started this project, one professor of anthropology suggested the theory of garbology saying that garbage could tell history as much as

¹ The Andy Warhol Museum contributors. "Career." *The Warhol*. 13 Jan. 2013.

<<http://www.warhol.org/collection/aboutandy/career/>>

² Bernhard Mendes Bürgi. *Andy Warhol the Early Sixties: Painting and Drawings 1961-1964*. 2011. p.19-29.

civilization did and that is probably what we get from Andy's boxes.³ Andy was a person who hated throwing things away. Instead of getting rid of what he had, he would throw them inside a cardboard box. Then, when it was full he sealed it with tape and dated it. His assistants who handled these boxes in the storage had not known before what objects inside the boxes were and considered them as normal Andy's stuff. Andy once wrote about these boxes in his *Philosophy of Andy Warhol's* book suggesting that people should get one box a month and put everything in it and then seal it.⁴ However, if we calculate the number of months since 1974 when he began to collect things in his Time Capsules until his death, there would be only about 200 boxes. In reality there are over 600 Time Capsules and each consisted of over 200 objects. It is a strange feeling to see valueless things next to valuable things inside the same box. Moreover, the interesting thing of this project is that you never know what you are going to find in each Time Capsule because there are various kinds of things in the same boxes ranging from a piece of paper to celebrity portraits.

Opening the Time Capsules is not an easy work to do. Also, the cost of categorizing each Time Capsule is very high. It has been estimated that it would require about 50 years to fully categorizing all of the Time Capsules.⁵ The work of doing this is very delicate and time consuming. First step is to identify each object by type. There are many categories such as books, magazines, equipment, business

³ Ronald Jones. "Living in a box." *Frieze*. 22 Jan. 2013.

<http://www.frieze.com/issue/article/living_in_a_box/>

⁴ Andy Warhol. *Philosophy of Andy Warhol (from A to B and back again)*. 1975. p.139-160

⁵ Jean Wainwright. "Warhol's archives undergo a reorganization." *The Art Newspaper*. 24 Jan. 2013. <<http://www.theartnewspaper.com/articles/Warhol%E2%80%99s-archives-undergo-a-reorganisation/27206>>

records, newspapers, presents and artworks. Next is to rearrange them in the place where it is acid-free in order to protect them from deterioration. The goal of doing this is more than just the physical description. They have to thoroughly analyze each object to know what its purpose is and how it was connected with Andy's life. After that the items can be electrical searched in the database so that people who are interested can find the information.⁶ Now, the Time Capsules are kept in the archives in the Andy Warhol Museum in Pittsburg and they are widely appreciated more and more every day because of the increase in his popularity even after he died. There are many cataloguers who are working on this project and they were all amazed of what they had discovered. Today, there is a blog informing people about discovery of new things in the Time Capsules.⁷

The Time Capsules have given us a lot of information about Andy Warhol. There are many things that people do not know about Andy because he did not write down much about himself. Even the diaries that he published by himself covers only the last ten years of his life.⁸ Hence, these Time capsules enable us to learn more about him in every aspect of his life. They tell us about his personal life. Furthermore they give us information about Andy's motivation and the connection around him. There are some works that were just the ideas of him and have never been exposed to the public before. Some of the items could tell you how he made some particular

⁶ Julie Hannon. "Andy Warhol's Time Capsules." *Carnegie Museums*. 22 Jan. 2013.

<<http://www.carnegiemuseums.org/cmaga/article.php?id=125>>

⁷ The Andy Warhol Museum contributors. "time capsules: blog." *The Warhol*. 27 Jan. 2013. <

<http://www.warhol.org/connect/blogs/tc/>>

⁸ Julie Hannon. "Andy Warhol's Time Capsules." *Carnegie Museums*. 22 Jan. 2013.

<<http://www.carnegiemuseums.org/cmaga/article.php?id=125>>

artworks. Moreover, they could tell you about what was important to Andy. There are many things related to his mother such as the postcards that he sent to her and there are photographs of him and his friends laughing happily. Newspaper's parts can also tell about Andy's interest. Many of them are news about strange deaths and accidents. Many other artists' works and their photographs can be found as well.⁹ Some of them were the things that Andy received as presents which clearly give information about his connection with the famous people around him. Something that seems like a meaningless piece of paper can tell you a lot about Andy Warhol's world.

Clearly, Andy Warhol was not just a mere artist. He along with his works makes the arts approachable to every people.¹⁰ Hence, arts became easier to understand. Though there are many people who think that these Time Capsules are just a bunch of boxes which contain a lot of junks, they are very important and interesting for the study of arts of that period and they reveal great information about Andy's world. Exploring the Time Capsules is like exploring the whole life of Andy. No one would have thought that random things in boxes which seem meaningless can give you a lot of information and this is what is great about Andy Warhol. He could transform an easy thing in our daily life to be great arts and impressive things.

⁹ The Andy Warhol Museum contributors. "Time Capsule 21." *The Warhol*. 21 Jan. 2013. <
<http://www.warhol.org/tc21/main.html>>

¹⁰ Karrie Jacobs. "Warhol's Time Machine." *Metropolismag*. 22 Jan. 2013. <
<http://www.metropolismag.com/story/20051017/warhols-time-machine>>