

Revisiting Warhol

An April 23 program explores the life and art of Pittsburgh's most beloved pop artist.

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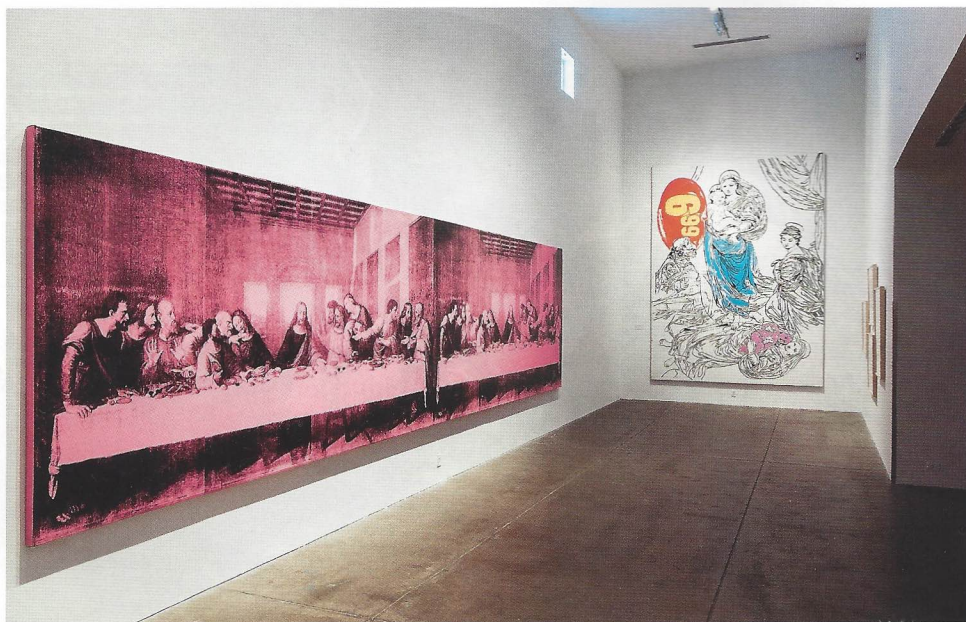
AS PART OF THE Alumni Association's "City Lights" series, Sarah K. Rich, associate professor of art history at University Park, will lead a night of discussion about Andy Warhol on April 23 at the Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh. We talked to Rich to learn more about one of the most influential figures of contemporary art and culture.

When most people think of Warhol, they envision the Campbell's soup can. Why was that piece so important?

One of the key features of Andy Warhol's work is his use of seriality. There were 32 Campbell's soup cans painted and they were all lined up on a little shelf in the exhibition space to emphasize their sameness and repetition. This was a very new and strange thing in the 1960s. In the past, you might have a bunch of paintings that were made together, but they were meant to represent moments in a narrative. Warhol's work has a lot to do with the now-ness of things—being less interested in history and more interested in the present.

Did Warhol have any ties to Penn State?

To my knowledge, there's



no specific Penn State connection, but it's funny: Whenever I'm asked to give a public lecture, they always want me to lecture on Warhol. I think it's partly because of this strong Pennsylvania connection

INSIDE THE MUSEUM:

A sprawling and spiritual canvas hangs among other pieces of Warhol's series called "The Last Supper." On left: The interactive Silver Clouds gallery, where dozens of silver helium balloons float and dance around visitors.

people feel to him. I fantasize one day the Palmer Museum of Art will get a Warhol work on canvas, a Warhol film to show, or even some of those Mylar balloons that he did (pictured).

What's something you want people to take away from your talk?

Waking ourselves up to the notion that objects that

are handmade have really evaporated. Two hundred years ago, you'd be surrounded by things made by hand. That's no longer the case. A lot of people get very nervous about Warhol because his paintings seem to not be made by hand. They're made by silkscreen, and later on, they're made by people who are not Warhol. That's an important part of what Warhol does, because, in a way, he's bringing the status of the art object closer to the way objects actually operate in our lives.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

alumni.psu.edu/events/citylights