Pearl at Home

Art projects designed for family fun, for suggested ages of 5 and up to be completed at home with easily-accessible art materials.

POP ART PAINTING

Share your artwork with us on social media! Tag @pearlfinchermfa, and use #pearlathomeworket

6815 Cypresswood Dr, Spring, TX 77379 | 281.376.6322 | pearlma.org
POP ART PAINTING

MATERIALS

• **Substrate** (surface that you paint on)
  Canvas, mixed media paper, cardstock, canvas paper, canvas board, or a hard surface like thin MDF or masonite
  - You can use one large piece, or multiple pieces of the same size

• **Pencil**

• **Paint:** Tempera, acrylics, watercolor, or gouache

• **Templates:** Print our provided patterns OR make your own

• **Transfer method:**
  Carbon paper, artist’s transfer paper, or sewing transfer paper
  - Alternatively, can use a pencil to transfer – see instructions

• **Optional:**
  Dry Media: markers, charcoal, color pencil, dark graphite pencil, conte, crayons

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Andy Warhol (1928-1987) was an American artist and icon of the Pop Art movement. Pop art, which flourished in the United States during the 1960s and 1970s, saw artists use “popular” items as subject matter in their artwork. Warhol used images from advertisements and photos of celebrities in many of his pieces. He created paintings, sculptures, silkscreen prints, films, and photographs of common mass-produced objects.

“I just paint things I always thought were beautiful, things you use every day and never think about.”

In this project, we’ll explore the pop art style of Andy Warhol’s work. Some of his most important pieces were made by creating multiples of the same image. Screenprinting – a form of printmaking – made it easier for him to create multiples.

Instead of screenprinting, we’ll be using templates to transfer a design to several substrates, or to transfer a design multiple times on one single substrate. The success of this style of design depends on **symmetry** and **repetition**.
The success of this style of pop art design depends on symmetry and repetition.

1. Pick a style

Begin by deciding which type of project you’ll create: several individual paintings of the same subject, like Warhol’s Queen Elizabeth II or Campbell’s Soup Cans series; OR several images on a single substrate, like his Goethe series. Keep your substrate’s size the same. Our example to the right is an 8” square.

For a Series of Separate Paintings:
Transfer the design in exactly the same place on each substrate.

For a Single Painting with Multiple Images:
Measure off each section of your substrate for the template image to sit within. You can put the sections right next to each other or leave space between them, as in Goethe (on next page).

TIP: Leave about 1/2 inch around the outside edges to allow for any future framing.

2. Transfer the design

Print out one of our provided templates, or design your own. Use carbon paper, artist’s transfer paper, or sewing transfer paper, to transfer a printed design onto your substrate.

Alternatively, use a regular pencil to cover the back of the pattern in graphite (the pencil lead). Turn the pattern over to the right side, then use it like carbon paper: trace the design with a pencil onto your substrate underneath. If using a canvas, be careful to not push too hard and create gouges.

For a Series of Separate Paintings:
Transfer the design in exactly the same place on each substrate.

For a Single Painting with Multiple Images:
Measure off each section of your substrate for the template image to sit within. You can put the sections right next to each other or leave space between them, as in Goethe (on next page).

TIP: Leave about 1/2 inch around the outside edges to allow for any future framing.
3 **Time to paint!**

Apply paint over the design, creating “flat” areas of paint – areas with one color and not a lot of shading. You can think of it as a “paint by number” painting. Switch up the colors in each image repetition, as in the examples below.

As with any painting, use the right size brush for working in a certain area of your painting. Use a larger brush for big areas, and a small or pointy brush for tight areas and fine lines.

After the paint dries, you can experiment with dry media such as markers and color pencils, to create more interest in the piece.

**TIP:** Less is more! Keep your designs simple to create a clean, repetitive look.

![Detail of Goethe](image)

Andy Warhol, *Goethe*, 1982, screenprint

![Goethe images](image)
Andy Warhol
Albert Einstein