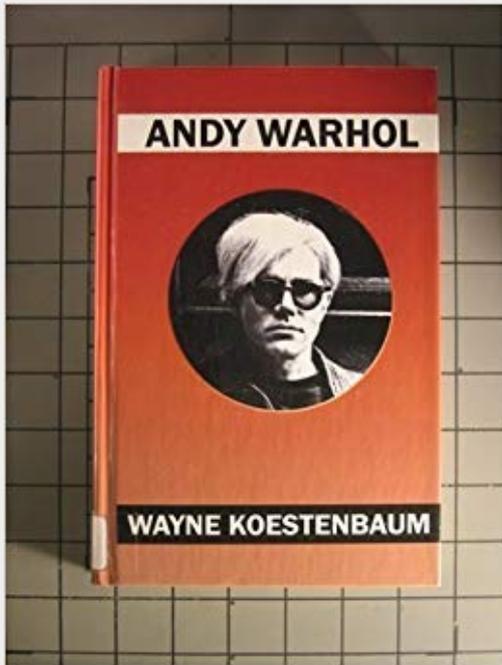


## Andy Warhol *by* Wayne Koestenbaum



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**Author:** Wayne Koestenbaum

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The sixties were the "sex, drugs, and rock-and-roll" era, and Andy Warhol was its cultural icon. Painter, filmmaker, photographer, philosopher, Warhol was both celebrity and celebrant, the man who put the "pop" in art. His studio, The Factory, where his free-spirited cast of "superstars" mingled with the rich and famous, was ground zero for the explosions that rocked American cultural life. And yet for all his fame, Warhol was an enigma: a participant in the excesses of his time who remained a faithful churchgoer, a nearly inarticulate man who was also a great aphorist ("In the future everybody will be world famous for fifteen minutes"), an artist whose body of work sizzles with sexuality but whose own body was a source of shame and self-hatred. In his bravura account of Warhol's life and work, scholar and culture critic Wayne Koestenbaum gets past the contradictions and reveals the man beneath the blond wig and dark glasses. Nimble weaving brilliant and witty analysis into an absorbing narrative, Koestenbaum makes a convincing case for Warhol as a serious artist, one whose importance goes beyond the sixties. Focusing on Warhol's provocative, powerful films (many of which have been out of circulation since their initial release), Koestenbaum shows that Warhol's oeuvre, in its variety of form (films, silkscreens, books, "happenings"), maintains a striking consistency of theme: Warhol discovered in classic American images (Brillo boxes, Campbell soup cans, Marilyn's face) a secret history, the erotic of time and space.



## Reviews of the [Andy Warhol](#) by Wayne Koestenbaum

### 1. Landaron

An artist life and times shape their art, of course. But, in Andy's case, his social scene seems to edge out his artistic contributions. In the hands of other biographers, that is. This is not the case with Mr. Koestenbaum. Thanks to him, I finally get Andy's artistic intentions. This is the point of difference between this biography and other I have read. But don't think it is a dry read. It is fun and enlightening.

### 2. Gnng

Great book with a lot of information. Arrived in timely manner.

### 3. Era

Excellent biography.

4. Mayno

I can't get enough of the NY pop art scene. I'll read anything about it. Warhol is my favorite. Cant wait to read it

5. Jeb

Really dull and not worth the paper it was written on

6. Vushura

Unless you are looking to read a freudian analytical account for every incident in Andy Warhol's life do not bother to purchase this book. Indeed, I intend to return it.

7. Granijurus

Fascinating biography of Warhol and his enduring effect on the art world. Koestenbaum is a rock star poet and cultural critic and his biography of Warhol is a shining example of what he's capable of. A must read for fans of Warhol, counterculture and contemporary art.

8. I found this book to be long on irrelevant stories, poor instances of name dropping and a very confusing mix of someone trying to ascribe his point of view onto Andy Warhol. This book is heavy on personal opinion and short on facts.

I really wanted to like it, but it was pretty bad.

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