



# ANDY WARHOL

## Christmas Trees

Andrew Warhola; August 6, 1928 Pittsburgh –  
February 22, 1987





The first recorded Christmas cards were sent by **Michael Maier** to **James I of England** and his son **Henry Frederick, Prince of Wales** in 1611

commissioned by Sir **Henry Cole** and illustrated by **John Callcott Horsley** in London on 1 May 1843. The central picture showed three generations of a family raising a toast to the card's recipient: on either side were scenes of charity, with food and clothing being given to the poor

His parents were working-class **Lemko**<sup>[1][12]</sup> emigrants from **Mikó, Austria-Hungary** (now called Miková, located in today's northeastern **Slovakia**)

The family was Ruthenian Catholic

In third grade, Warhol had Sydenham's chorea (also known as St. Vitus' Dance), the nervous system disease that causes involuntary movements of the extremities, which is believed to be a complication of scarlet fever which causes skin pigmentation blotchiness.<sup>[14]</sup> At times when he was confined to bed, he drew, listened to the radio and collected pictures of movie stars around his bed.

Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, where he studied commercial art.

Bachelor of Fine Arts in pictorial design in 1949

## Commercial Illustrator

Pop Art: 'One of its aims is to use images of popular (as opposed to elitist) culture in art, emphasizing the banal or kitschy elements of any culture, most often through the use of irony' (wiki: POP ART)

1960s that Warhol began to make paintings of iconic American objects

During these years, he founded his studio, "**The Factory**" and gathered about him a wide range of artists, writers, musicians, and underground celebrities. His work became popular and controversial.

American Supermarket,



<https://www.moma.org/artists/6246> 1960's

While still in college at Carnegie Tech in Pittsburgh, some of Warhol's first works were the Christmas cards he sent to friends.

Upon his arrival in Manhattan where he came to pursue the world of art, Warhol began working for the Fifth Avenue temple of Tiffany & Co in 1956, creating everything from shoe advertisements to Christmas cards. His cards were subsequently published by Tiffany's every Christmas up to 1962, when he started to create his famous Campbell's Soup works.

<https://www.widewalls.ch/magazine/andy-warhol-christmas>



In the 1950s, Warhol was featured in a couple of Christmas-card catalogs for the Museum of Modern Art. He was in good company: Picasso and Matisse were in the catalogs, too



Unknown photographer, *Andy Warhol and his Christmas tree in the Factory* (1964) Photo: The Andy Warhol Museum



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Christmas Tree

Ink and aniline Dye on Paper

Circa. 1954





Andy Warhol

Stamped Gold Collage (Tree)

circa 1957

stamped gold collage on Strathmore paper

21 1/2 x 13 1/2 in. (54.6 x 34.3 cm)

Andy Warhol (1928-1987)  
Christmas Tree  
with the Estate of Andy Warhol Stamp;  
with the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts stamp and numbered '324.01' (on the reverse)  
ink on Strathmore paper  
28½ x 22½in. (72.4 x 57cm.)  
Executed in 1957



*Christmas Tree, 1957*  
Offset lithograph Christmas card  
in gold and black, on wove paper, folded (as issued).







Andy Warhol

