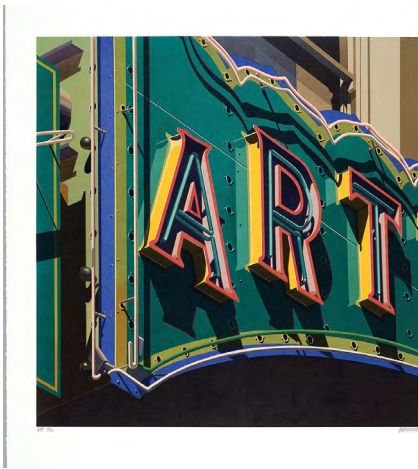


Pop Art at Dubuque museum to feature work of Warhol, be an experience for all senses

BY TIA CAROL JONES tia.jones@thmedia.com Feb 10, 2017 (0)



"American Signs: ART," by Robert Cottingham
Contributed



Jordan D. Schnitzer

Robert Hubner WSU Photo Services
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You might not know all of the artists by name. But the images they created are part of the modern art landscape. Pop Art has flooded into the mainstream with the work of Roy Lichtenstein, Jeff Koons and Andy Warhol.

Shiny, Sticky, Smooth: Pop Art and the Senses will be displayed at the Dubuque Museum of Art from Saturday, Feb. 18, to Sunday, May 14. It features more than 70 pieces, paintings, prints and sculptures from Warhol, Lichtenstein, Koons, Wayne Thiebaud, James Rosenquist, Ed Ruscha, Robert Cottingham and Claes Oldenburg.

"It's going to be sensory, like a 360-degree sound system," said David Schmitz, executive director of the Dubuque Museum of Art. "When I saw this show I thought, 'What a great opportunity to educate our community to Pop Art.'"

Schmitz said Pop Art shows the power and cultural impact ordinary images can have.

"It does have an impact on what we do, where we go and what we buy," he said.

Schmitz added, the artists elevate the ordinary image by putting them on gallery walls.



David Schmitz

Telegraph Herald

If You Go

Schedule of Events

5-8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 17: Members' Preview.
Free for members; \$10 for guests.

1 p.m. Saturday, Feb 18: Jordan Schnitzer
Presentation to college and university
students.

1:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 19: Jordan Schnitzer
gallery talk.

1:30 p.m. Sunday, March 5: Alan Garfield
art talk.

"The work is just fun to look at," he said. "They have a visual punch to them."

The work is part of the collections of Jordan D. Schnitzer and the Jordan Schnitzer Family Foundation, based in Portland, Ore.

Schnitzer decided nearly 25 years ago that he wanted to accumulate a significant private collection of prints from artists, whom he described as chronicles of our time.

"Artists are always at the forefront of the scenes facing society," he said. "The contemporary artists working today deal with scenes about our lives, our society, our values."

Schnitzer and the foundation have shared more than 100 exhibitions at 80 museums, all free of charge to the institutions. Shiny, Sticky, Smooth was created by Patricia McDonnell, executive director of the Wichita (Kan.) Art Museum.

"She came up with this idea, and she and her team came up with a brilliant collection of contemporary artists," Schnitzer said. "There are many pieces that will resonate with Dubuque audiences."

Those pieces include Lichtenstein's interior series, which he called spectacular, and Thiebaud's little red suckers.

"Work that showed common objects, but in an artistic way no one ever considered," Schnitzer said.

He added, another gem of the show is Jim Dine's "Bathrobe" — a 14-color woodcut.

As for his favorite piece, Schnitzer referenced the Robert Cottingham's "American Signs: ART."

"I love the way he takes words and neon signs, but he makes them come alive in an abstract, realism technique," he said.

Schmitz said although the work was done in the 1950s and 1960s, it remains relevant today.

"To really appreciate pop art, you have to first consider the times that pop artists were living and working in," he said. "Some people will remember how, in the 1960s, television, advertising and mass media began to reshape our culture in very fundamental ways, which is a process that has accelerated today with the Internet and social media. Pop artists understood the power of these new mediums early on, and by adopting similar strategies in their art, they in turn made us more aware of how seductive they really are."