

The Religious Art of Andy Warhol

By Jane Daggett Dillenberger



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Two images of Andy Warhol exist in the popular press: the Pope of Pop of the Sixties, and the partying, fright-wigged Andy of the Seventies. In the two years before he died, however, Warhol made over 100 paintings, drawings, and prints based on Leonardo da Vinci's The Last Supper. The dramatic story of these works is told in this book for the first time. Revealed here is the part of Andy Warhol that he kept very secret: his lifelong church attendance and his personal piety. Art historian and curator Jane Daggett Dillenberger explores the sources and manifestations of Warhol's spiritual side, the manifestations of which are to be found in the celebrated paintings of the last decade of Warhol's life: his Skull paintings, the prints based on Renaissance religious artwork, the Cross paintings, and the large series based on The Last Supper.



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Editorial Review

Review

"A groundbreaking study of the relationship of Warhol's religious life to his art and the way in which his art points us to religious meaning." - Arts

"This is a must-have book of challenging originality." - Common Boundary

"The most unexpected find of the season is without a doubt Jane Daggett Dillengerger's The Religious Art of Andy Warhol." - The Oregonian

"This volume will have to be considered seriously by any future scholar writing on Warhol." - Theological Studies

"One of the most provocative books of the season explores the private religious life of artist Andy Warhol and its impact on the painter's prolific output, especially the overtly religious works of his last years." - Washington Post

"The Religious Art of Andy Warhol is a 'must' for all Warhol fans, as well as students of 20th century American art."

- The Bookwatch, May 2001

"Jane Dillenberger has written a valuable book that kicks off an overdue reassessment of an artist whose oeuvre we thought we knew."

—Nova Religio, The Journal of Alternative and Emergent Religions, July 2003

"This [Warhol's] life and this book reminds the reader of the power of art and image in contemporary culture and also reveals the complexity of a life resisting the cliché of it own reputation." -Rod Pattenden

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About the Author

Jane Daggett Dillenberger is the author of Image and Spirit in Sacred and Secular Art; Style and Content in Christian Art; and Secular Art with Sacred Themes. She is Professor Emerita of Visual Arts and Theology at the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley CA. She lives in Berkeley, Ca.

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