

the warhol: resources & lessons

Unit Lesson Plans / Critical Thinking / Aesthetics / Lesson 2 / Handout 2.1



Andy Warhol at the *Silver Factory* with Cow wallpaper and *Silver Clouds*, 1965-1966
Photo © Stephen Shore



The Red Room in the White House, circa 2000 during the Clinton Administration.

Andy Warhol's Silver Factory

Warhol's *Silver Factory* was a large studio space coated in silver paint and aluminum foil. Even some furniture was spray painted silver, including chairs, a trunk, and the toilet. Billy Klüver's apartment, decorated entirely in silver, inspired Warhol, and he asked Klüver to do the same for the Factory. Warhol used the Factory for making large photographic silkscreen prints—usually working on the floor—as well as for filming movies, entertaining, and as a hang out for his friends. The fashion designer Betsey Johnson, created silver clothes around the same time period. Edie Sedgwick, a model, socialite, and actress, dyed her hair silver to match Warhol's look. The "space race" that started with the 1957 Soviet launch of Sputnik ushered in a "Space Age" style. The fad embraced new technology, creating everyday products with modular designs and shiny "modern" surfaces.

The Red Room of the White House

In 1962 Jacqueline Kennedy redecorated the White House and refurnished the Red Room in Empire Style (1810-30). Richly finished, carved woods containing dolphins, acanthus leaves, lion's heads, and sphinxes were common motifs in French Empire furnishings following Napoleon's 1798-99 campaign in Egypt. American cabinetmakers working in the early 1800s adopted these same motifs. The American Empire furniture selected for the room was upholstered in red silk. The Red Room is one of four state reception rooms, and it was the first to be redecorated to "restore" grandeur to the White House. The Red Room has served as a parlor, music room, and dining area for small dinner parties. Eleanor Roosevelt used the room for meeting with women members of the press. Following President John F. Kennedy's State Funeral, Mrs. Kennedy received foreign heads of state in the Red Room.

Aesthetic Questions:

Compare and Contrast the two rooms using the following questions:

1. When was this room created? Who used the room and for what purpose?
2. What colors are in the room? What shapes?
3. How is the room lit? What kind of feelings do you think you would have had standing in each of these rooms?
4. What kind of person would have used each of these rooms.

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