



Andy Warhol's Marilyn Monroe Series

At first glance, it is easily recognizable that each print evokes a different feeling as a result of the color combinations used. For instance, in print 1, the monochromatic scheme makes the portrait seem very dated and classic. The black and white effect makes the print seem like a photograph and adds a somber atmosphere. The grey tones emphasize a depressing story behind Marilyn. In contrast, print 2 has analogous yellow, green, and blue analogous colors placed together. The stark contrasts make Marilyn seem more manly, especially the purple and blue layers on her lips. For print 3 and 8, the blaring red and magenta in contrast to the subdued grey puts a strain to the viewer's eyes. The color combinations are certainly eye-catching, but the pronounced contrast makes Marilyn seem almost menacing. In print 4, we can see yellow and purple complementary colors being used. The yellow is closer to skin tone than neon yellow, adding a sort of realistic element to the print. The dark purples also create a mature look. Overall, she seems older unlike her face in print 7. In print 7, Marilyn looks extremely young and vibrant. The yellow hair brings life to her and subsequently the whole artwork. Furthermore, the pink eyeshadow conveys a fun and playful personality. It even makes her seem more awake and alive. In print 5, the blue tones portray a sad tone, but the highly visible pink lips draw the viewer's attention. The contrast almost seems to convey a narrative in which Marilyn has things to say that we'd be interested in. In print 6, infrared effect creates an uneasy feeling. The purple face makes her look sickly and not being able to distinguish her eyes properly adds to this unsettling feeling. In print 9, Marilyn's pink face adds a theatrical element to the print. The dramatic red lips and blue eyeshadow enhance the overly dressed up feeling as though she is about to perform on stage. In print 10, the blue face simply makes Marilyn appear like an alien. Similar to print 2, analogous colors are used. But in this case, the pink, red, orange, blue, and green are combined in a way that makes Marilyn seem inhuman and simply emphasizes that this is an artwork.