

Volume 1 – Interview Guest: JAMES WARHOLA
Moderator: Chris Wesche



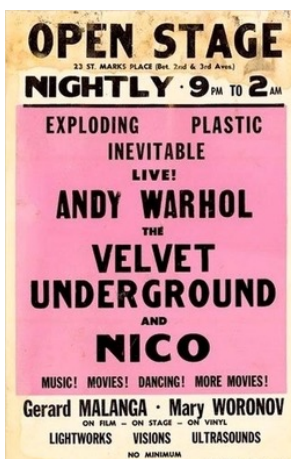
Dear James,
„it is an honor to welcome you being our first interview guest in the new Interview section of Exploding-Plastic.info. It shall be a homage to the work of Andy Warhol and all creative Pop Art protagonists worldwide.“

In 1969, Andy Warhol and British journalist John Wilcock founded *Interview magazine, a monthly film journal.*
Edited with Gerard Malanga and Paul Morrissey.

About art:

What has influenced your path as an artist the most?

„I would have to say my family starting with my grandmother, Julia Warhola. She had a very deep old country spirit about creating, whether it was an elaborate drawing, sewing a decorative doily or cooking. It was all related to her spirit of invention.“



About Exploding Plastic: "Exploding Plastic"
- do you have any memories of those early Andy Warhol events in 1966 and 1967?

„I know my uncle had a lively night life and as kids we would wait for his bedroom door to open so we could hear about what famous people he met the night before. Otherwise we'd always be looking for his name in the papers. It was so different from our country upbringing.“

Exploding Plastic

What kind of **famous people** you remember?

„Uncle Andy would rattle off many names of famous people many of which we never heard of. We only wanted to hear if he had met the Beatles and of course he did become friends with John Lennon.“



About „Fake“: “

„Fake Warhols in this day and age seem to be common, it’s only an issue if someone wants to have his art as an investment. Otherwise copies are usually just as good as originals.“

Factory Life:

You were often at the Factories at 231 East 47th Street (Silver Factory) and later at 33 Union Square West – right?

„To summarize my uncle had a total of 5 studios over a period of 25 years one after the other. But before the studios we saw him work at home. The first studio outside the house was an old firehouse. Anytime we would visit my uncle he was always very hard at work. It was never a party scene. The last studio was located near the Empire State building and it was the most corporate of all of them with very organized work areas, Interview magazine in one area painting in another, etc.“



What does **New York City** mean to you?

„For me NYC was always a happening place for everything. In regards to the art world I thought of it as the epicenter but as time passes everything changes.“



The Andy Monument, Union Square, New York, America Andy Warhol statue unveiled in Union Square, New York, America - 30 Mar 2011 The Andy Monument, by artist Rob Pruitt

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What stimulates **your creativity**?

„Humor. The world path has been so dark anymore that I love that there can still be humor to counter that reality.“

What comes to mind when you think of the **Leo Castelli** Gallery?

„What first comes to mind is Ivan Karp who worked for Castelli. He was the brilliant mind at the forefront of the Pop Art movement. He helped pull it altogether at the very beginning of the early sixties. He recognized the important change the art world was going through.“



Do you regret

not having done something in your life?

„Actually that question has never crossed my mind so I guess not.“

What was your **first job**?

„My first job was in a New York City art studio doing ‘paste-up’ which was putting together mechanicals to be prepped for printing.“

Your **main mission!**

Being an artist, an illustrator, a designer – what are you?

I started out as an illustrator – but today I feel that my passion is to work as an contemporary artist.

What do you think of when you hear terms like **AI and crypto**?

„Evil! - the downfall of society and the earth as we know it, but before that came plastic and the evil computer. I believe that the world is spiraling downward faster than we can control it in such a short period of time.“

Exploding Plastic

About faith:

Do you believe in the American dream?

„I guess it did exist at one time like when I was growing up but now it is definitely harder to find.“

About sexuality and **ensorship**:

Should there be censorship?

„As a kid growing up in America censorship has always been too strict. I think the standards in Europe were probably more realistic. Censorship is probably necessary to a certain degree.“

About life:

Do you think the world can be saved?

„Yes I think it can be saved but it'll require a revolution.“

About personal preferences:

What is your **favorite fruit**?

„Peach“

About personal preferences: What is your **favorite color**?

„Purple“

About cooking:

Are you a good cook?

„I rate my cooking abilities as adequate but baking is a little better.“



Andy on the left

James on the right

This interview was conducted in the end of November 2025