

Document 18

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Andy Warhol Authentication Board

To Whom It May Concern:

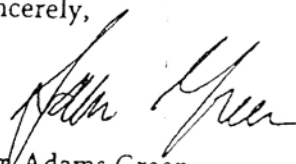
Joe Simon recently showed me his self-portrait by Andy Warhol and asked my opinion. I was, after all, the curator of his Retrospective at the ICA in Philadelphia in 1965 and as such, saw a great deal of his work being done at that time and before.

The portrait in question was, I believe, one of the many works he was producing at the time and I was not attracted to it as an inclusion for the exhibition because it seemed too "manufactured" to go with the other paintings. Andy was pushing for it, though, because he said it exemplified his new technique for having works produced without his personal touch: he wanted to get away from that. At the time he was ambivalent about his personal authorship. So now there seems to appear to be problems because of that. This ambivalence was part of his creativity. I understood that and embraced it at the time, but it did create problems for the future. Much, I'm sure, to Andy's "amusement" were he here or about to be a party to it.

Regarding parties - the Simon portrait and some others from the same series (or group) were featured at a party that I recall was somewhere near the private railroad terminal under the Waldorf Towers. The party was some kind of promotion for a camera manufacturer (Kodak?) who was lending Andy equipment. I felt Andy was being exploited not to his advantage, because he was trading self-portraits and promotion in exchange, when just the latter contribution would have been enough. The Simon portrait, was, I believe one of the trades. In any case, the painting is familiar to and known by me.

I hope this letter can help to inform you who find yourselves in the complicated business of deciding what is a Warhol and what is not.

Sincerely,


Sam Adams Green

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