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Surface Pattern

Word Count 1504

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Seeing in a Different Way

Neurodiversity

Having an autistic child, I have decided to look at how different ways of seeing can be more creative.

We do not all see and experience things the same way. We don't all see colours the same way or understand and experience sensory stimuli in the way we might expect. Indeed, there have been many famous people who are thought to have been on the Autistic Spectrum. I am going to include some of these people in this exhibition as well as look at other types of neurological diverse artists who experience the world in a very different way to a neuro-typical brains.

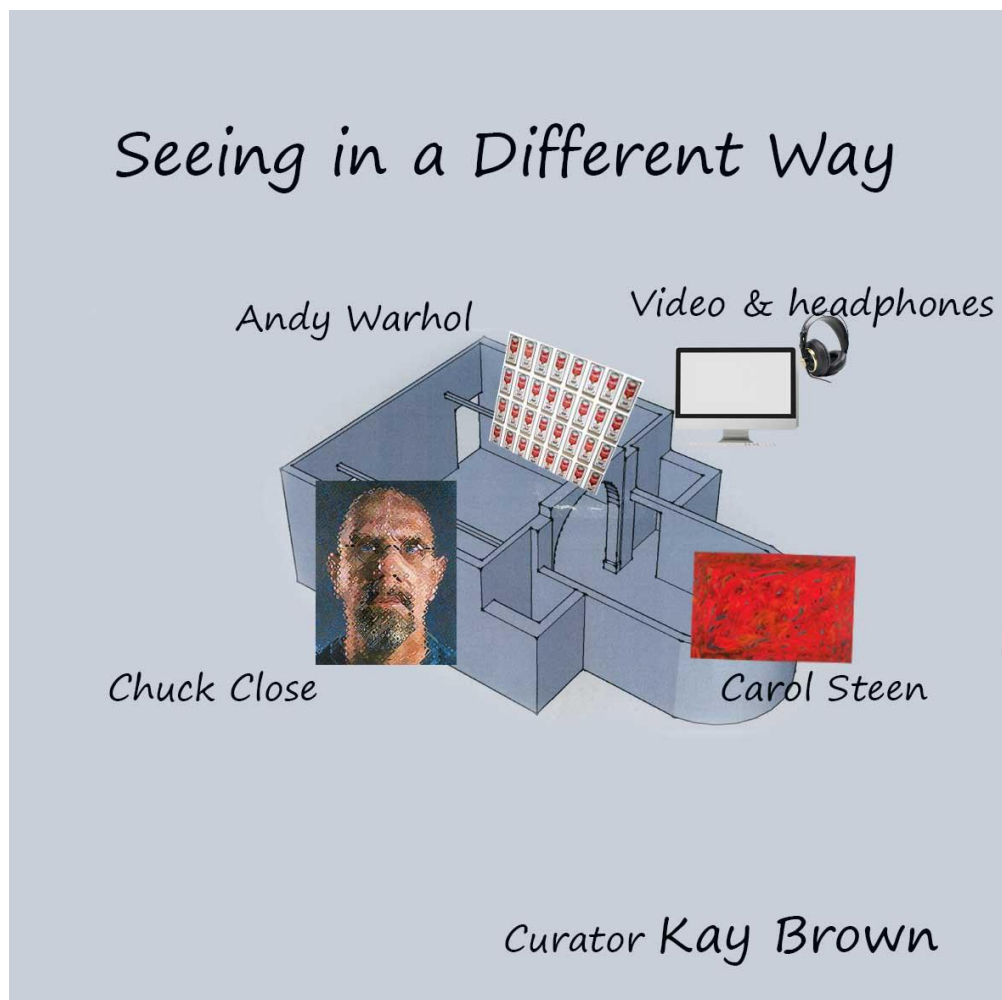


Image 1

Map explanation

Seeing in a Different Way - Neurodiversity, held in The Mission Gallery is an interactive exhibition. It can be viewed in any order and the interaction be up to the viewer. They can choose to view the You Tube videos which are of the artists or not. It can be dipped in and out of. This is an exhibition that can be visited many times, if the viewer wishes to discover more. It will be a quiet opening time set with dim light for autistics that prefer this, plus headphones available and if the time slot is unsuitable, a viewing appointment can be requested.

The large exhibits being Campbells Soup Cans by Andy Warhol and a Chuck Close self-portrait can be seen on the large walls of the gallery, with Carol Steen's painting hanging from the ceiling in the rounded area.

The video screens will be found in both alcoves where videos can be seen, showing interviews with the artists via You Tube, along with a Ted Eds on synaesthesia, and videos on face blindness and autism. This will be set up so that the viewer can click on the headings provided on the screen.

The video links are:

Andy Warhol

Andy Warhol Working at His New York Studio In 1980:

Available at:

www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=7&v=ceTJbC3pye4&feature=emb_logo
1/4 A Day in the Life of Andy Warhol:

Autism: Simon Baron-Cohen: Autistic Spectrum Test | WIRED 2012 | WIRED

Available at: <http://bit.ly/SmTS17>

Autism, Sex and Science: Simon Baron-Cohen at TED x Kings College London

Available at: <http://bit.ly/SmTS17>

Why everything you know about autism is wrong | Jac den Houting | TED x Macquarie University

Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A1AUdaH-EPM>

Chuck Close:

: Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7OKC9CJoLdk>

Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7OKC9CJoLdk>

Face Blindness, part 1.

Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dxqsBk7Wn-Y>

Face Blindness, part 2.

Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q8cXus7SNQY>

Carol Steen

You've Got Carol Steel: Available at: <https://youtu.be/s0p8En8nEy4>

Synaesthesia Ted Ed Available at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=rkRbebvoYqI

Andy Warhol and Autism

Many famous scientists are suspected to have had Asperger's; a term used in diagnoses for high functioning autism. Amongst them are Albert Einstein, Sir Isaac Newton, Charles Darwin, Bill Gates, Mozart, Lewis Carrell, Hans Christian Anderson, Bobby Fisher (Chess Grandmaster) and Satoshi Tajiri (Creator of Pokémon).

'It seems that for success in science or art a dash of autism is essential.'
Baron-Cohen (2012)

Andy Warhol may have been autistic too. He liked to use repetition in his art. The tins of Campbell soup are a good example. He struggled with interviews and came across as eccentric and distant. It may have been that he found talking to others difficult. Probably for self-preservation it was better not to say or let on too much. Previous situations may have shown people that he was different and this could lead to hurtful remarks and people staying away from him creating isolation. A lifetime of

this will make a person guarded.

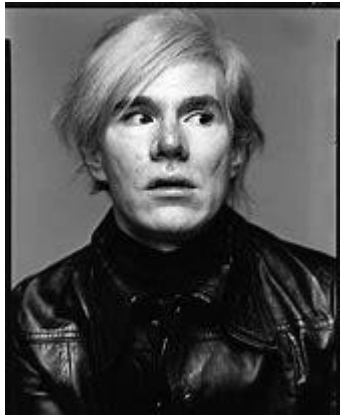


Image 2

Judith Gould, the director of the leading diagnostic centre for autism in the United Kingdom, insists that it makes perfect sense that Andy Warhol was autistic. After all, much of the artist's work focuses on repetition and in interviews, Warhol almost always responded to questions with monosyllabic answers Writer and year unknown
<https://www.appliedbehavioranalysisprograms.com/historys-30-most-inspiring-people-on-the-autism-spectrum>

Each autistic person is different of course just like every neurotypical person is different. They often find emotions difficult and interaction with people can be confusing, sometimes unable to understand facial expression and irony. Often a deep interest in something, and often so much so that they have little or no interest in anything else. They often are overwhelmed by too much stimulation, such as sounds, smells, visual stimuli, touch. They may have things that make them feel more at ease at this time, such as hand flapping or rocking back and forth. Others find reputation calming. A need to find order in things is common and how something works can be vital to them. *People with autism show a broader interest in systems,"* Baron-Cohen (2012)

The repetition of imagery was something that Warhol felt compelled to do. The

regimented order of the image would have made him feel at ease with his surroundings and the repetition of doing the same thing that created the same outcome if he concentrated would have been soothing. It would have made sense in a world that was overwhelming to him as an autistic. I speak as though it is true that he was an autistic but there is no proof and there never will be.

1st Exhibit

Campbells Soup Screen Prints by Andy Warhol.



Image 3

Chuck Close and Prosopagnosia

Chuck Close did not let his disabilities prevent him from becoming one of Americas most famous portrait artists. To look at him you would not be aware of any disabilities whatsoever for they were hidden, not because he chose to hide them but because we could not see them. Close suffers with Prosopagnosia (face blindness) and cannot recognise faces or can tell them apart from one another.

The process he uses is the grid method. He flattens the image by taking a photo first and then uses a ratio of 1 – 10 to create huge canvas portraits. Then he works on one grid box at a time, covering up the others.

American Academy of Neurology Magazine Brain &Life

According to Farley (2011) Chuck Close has dyslexia, paralysis and face blindness.

He has been Face Blind (prosopagnosia) all of his life. He can not retain general

information either. In the 1940/50s schools did not recognise learning difficulties and Close was simply seen as lazy. He also suffered with muscle weakness from an

early age. Close suffered a paralysis when he was 48 and has made even more paintings since by using a powered chair that also lifts up and down and by strapping a brush to his hand. Close says *“People’s faces have an urgency for me. I don’t care about anything as much as knowing who people are.”*

2nd Exhibit
Chuck Close Self Portrait

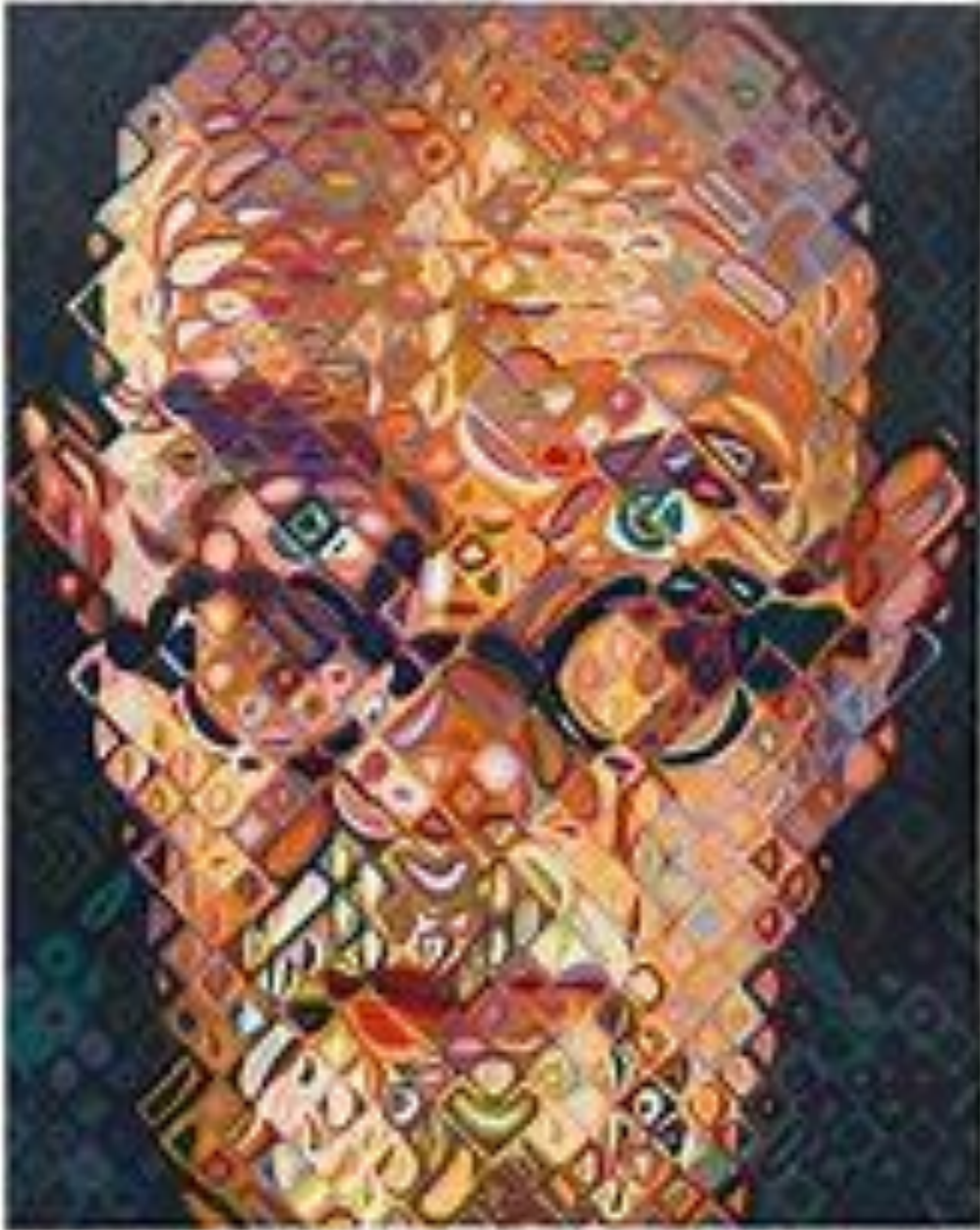


Image 4

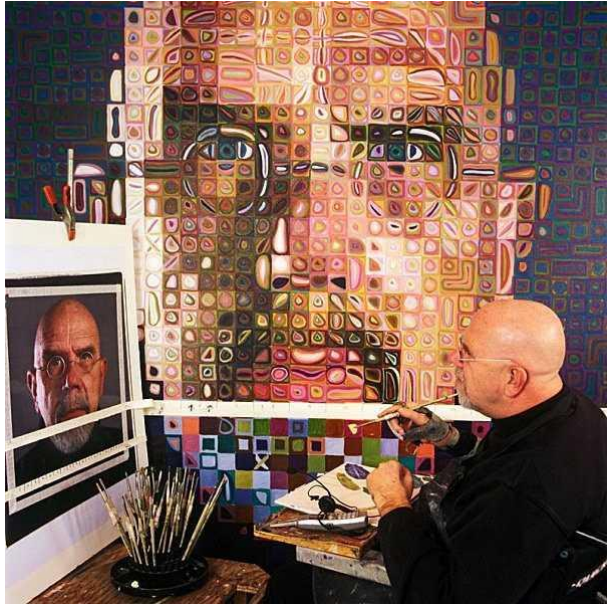


Image 5

Chuck Close Prints: Process and Collaboration, (2015). In this interview Close talks about the fact that he has been using the digital process years before it came out.

Chuck Close and what its like to live with Face Blindness (2015). Here Chuck talks about how Face Blindness affects him. He says that he could be having a meal with a friend he has known for years, and remembers all the things about them, going back many years. But if he sees that person the next day, he won't know them at all and will argue that he has never met them before. He needs context in order to know a person. An appointment at his studio for instance so he expects to see them, but he will still ask their name to make sure. Distinguishing features also help like haircuts help him. If he knows a person by their short blond hair, were to put a hat on, he wouldn't know them.

Carol Steen and Synaesthesia

Carol Steen a top American artist has Synaesthesia. In her case she experiences of pain link to her seeing colour. She states that it is a bright chrome orange.

Urist (2016) states that 4% of the public have one of the 80 different kinds of Synaesthesia discovered so far and that this ability to link the senses has led Many artists in their career. He lists Kandinsky and Hockney as well as the author Nabokov and musically, Duke Ellington, Lady Gaga and Beyoncé as well as well as many other people in the arts. Some examples of these neurological links are personalities in numbers and sound linked to moving images. Some see sound as colour, and this is called Chromesthesia. The most common one is seeing letters and numbers as colour.

3rd Exhibit Carol Steen



Image 6

Carol Steen's painting painted immediately after a trip to the acupuncturist had removed hundreds of needles and the colours, she experienced during her discomfort.

It is where the brains wiring crosses in the wrong way. I am not so sure that it should be classed as wrong as more of a different experience. Many people don't see colours the same way or are tone deaf, is it a disability or not the same as most. After all we are not robots and just like we have different personalities is just part of our differences. I find it fascinating and wonderful.

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Image 1 - Map of Seeing in a Different Way Exhibition at the Mission Gallery. Kay Brown

Image 2 - Andy Warhol. Blogspot.com

Image 3 - Campbells Soup. Andy Warhol. masterworksfineart.com

Image 4 - Chuck Close self - portrait. Contessa Gallery

Image 5 - Chuck Close in his studio showing how it he works. Artyfactory

Image 6 - Carol Steen's painting painted immediately after a trip to the acupuncturist had removed hundreds of needles and the colours, she experienced during her discomfort.
Photo by Carol Steen.