

kids have become drag queens. They think they are the only people who ever thought of being a drag queen, which is sort of weird. It's like they invented it, and it's all new again, so it makes it really interesting.

BUCHLOH Are your TV program and your paintings, then, in a sense the extreme opposite poles of your activities as an artist?

WARHOL Yes, we are trying to do two things, but the painting is really exciting. I don't know, I'm just really excited about all the kids coming up, like Keith Haring and Jean-Michel [Basquiat] and Kenny Scharf. The Italians and Germans are pretty good, but the French aren't as good. But like you were saying about Yves Klein and stuff being. . . . But the French do really have one good painter, I mean, my favorite artist would be the last big artist in Paris. What's his name?

BUCHLOH A painter?

WARHOL Yes, the last famous painter. Buffet.

BUCHLOH Many of the new painters seem to imitate him anyway.

WARHOL Well, I don't know, I don't see any difference between that and Giacometti. Somewhere along the line, people decided that it was commercial or whatever it was. But he's still painting, and I still see the things; the prices are still \$20,000 to \$30,000. He could still be there. His work is good; his technique is really good; he's as good as the other French guy who just died a couple of days ago, Dubuffet. What do you think has happened? Do you think it is not that good?

35 "Andy Warhol: An Artist and His Amiga"

GUY WRIGHT AND GLENN SUOKKO

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Warhol's infatuation with technology never let up. In the way that Norelco approached Warhol to help promote their early portable video equipment in the mid-60s,¹ the Commodore computer company in 1985 asked Andy to endorse their new graphics-savvy machine, the Commodore Amiga A1000. In return, Warhol received a machine to use in his studio.

*On July 23, 1985, Commodore unveiled the A1000 at a high-profile media event at New York's Lincoln Center. As a demonstration of the Amiga's ability, Warhol was invited to create a live portrait of Debbie Harry, lead singer of the rock group Blondie, using a graphics program called *Graphicraft* in front of a mob of spectators. Warhol's performance was accompanied by music written on a software program called *Musicraft* which also ran on the Amiga.*

In its day, the Commodore A1000 was a rival to the graphical user-interfaced Macintosh and had some of the most impressive audio and visual capabilities available to the home user. The machine had hardware that smoothly integrated the computer with video, creating an ideal environment for the capture and manipulation of images. But the A1000 never managed to catch the popular imagination: most retail outlets were toy stores instead of computer stores, and, priced at about \$2000, it was considered too expensive for the average consumer. Commodore went bankrupt in 1994.

*The following interview was conducted after the Lincoln Center event and published in the trade magazine *AmigaWorld*, which ceased publication in 1995.*

—KG

¹ See Richard Ekstract's 1965 interview, "Pop Goes the Videotape: An Underground Interview with Andy Warhol," p. 71.

