

Museum conveys birthday Andy Warhol cemetery

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A museum dedicated to the American artist Andy Warhol, who died in 1987, initiated a live webcam of the grave where he is buried in Pittsburg, United States.

The initiative is part of the celebrations for the anniversary of Warhol, who would have turned 85 years on Tuesday.

The project was titled 'Figment' ('fiction', in free translation), in allusion to the word that the artist asked to be engraved on his tombstone, informed the Warhol Museum, also in Pittsburgh.

The desire, however, never materialized. The tombstone of Warhol, located in a cemetery on the outskirts of town, has just the original surname of the artist, Warhola, dates of birth and death and a cross.

He became famous for synthesizing movement known as pop art, which criticized the capitalist mass popular culture.

The video began airing at midnight on Monday.

The museum's director, Eric Shiner, said the museum decided to call the project 'Figment' because of one of Warhol's famous phrase: "I always thought I'd like my own tombstone was blank. Epitaph No or name. Well in fact, I wish it were stated in the word 'Figment' ".
Live transmission

Shiner said the museum decided that the webcam installed on the tombstone "would be a really fantastic way to put Andy in the air 24 hours a day seven days a week to a global audience."

"We believe that the Warhol would be pleased to know that it is still plugged in and turned 25 years after his death."

EarthCam The company, which is behind the design of the webcam in partnership with the museum, said it will also be a live video stream of the church where Warhol was baptized. People can send flowers and watch as they are placed on the grave.

Warhol, who is buried near his parents in the Byzantine Catholic Cemetery Saint John the Baptist, was a fervent Catholic. He went to Mass every day to pray, said Shiner.

His tomb is visited by hundreds of people every year. Many lay there objects that characterized his works of art, like a can of Campbell soup and bottles of Coca-Cola.

Warhol, who was also a filmmaker, said on one occasion, prefer movies to paintings because he considered making movies "easier".

One of his films, eight hours in length, depicting nightfall in the Empire State Building in New York, consisted of a single shot of the postcard city.

The place where the artist is buried is also the subject of another ongoing project, the artist Madelyn Roehrig, named 'Figments: Conversations with Andy Warhol' (Conversations with Andy Warhol, in free translation).

Roehrig is filming people who visit the tomb of Warhol and photographing objects that leave his fans in place.

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