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Webcam from Andy Warhol's grave

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The Andy Warhol Museum has launched a live video feed from the pop artist's grave site to honour his 85th birthday.

The project, a partnership with the EarthCam webcam network, went live on Monday at midnight.

Museum director Eric Shiner said the project is titled "Figment" because of a Warhol quote in which he said: "I always thought I'd like my own tombstone to be blank. No epitaph and no name. Well, actually, I'd like it to say, 'Figment.'"

The gravestone in the US has Warhol's name, the dates of his birth and death and a cross.

Shortly after dawn on Tuesday, the live video showed a starshaped silver balloon and two smaller black-and-white balloons swaying gently in the breeze, next to a headstone surrounded by flowers.

Shiner said the museum, which is based in Pittsburgh, Warhol's hometown, decided that the grave site webcam "would be a really fantastic way to put Andy on the air 24/7 and plug in to our global audience."



Warhol, who died in 1987, was a devout Catholic who went to church every day to pray, Shiner said.

The Warhol grave site also is documented in artist Madelyn Roehrig's ongoing art project "Figments: Conversations with Andy." Ms Roehrig videotapes people who visit the grave and photographs the many objects fans leave there.

Hundreds of people visit Warhol's grave every year, often leaving pop culture items featured in his artworks, such as Campbell's Soup cans and Coca-Cola bottles.

EarthCam said it also will have a live webcam from the church where Warhol was baptised and people will be able to send flowers and watch as they are delivered to the grave.