

## Chapter 1 : Andy Warhol | Biography & History | AllMusic

*The album cover for The Velvet Underground & Nico is recognizable for featuring a Warhol print of a banana. Early copies of the album invited the owner to "Peel slowly and see"; peeling back the banana skin revealed a flesh-colored banana underneath.*

History[ edit ] Pre-career and early stages â€” [ edit ] The foundations for what would become the Velvet Underground were laid in late Reed sometimes used alternative guitar tunings to create a droning sound. The pair rehearsed and performed together; their partnership and shared interests built the path towards what would later become the Velvet Underground. This quartet was first called the Warlocks, then the Falling Spikes. The band immediately and unanimously adopted The Velvet Underground as its new name in November Their music was generally much more relaxed than it would later become: Cale described this era as reminiscent of beat poetry, with MacLise playing gentle "pitter and patter rhythms behind the drone". Nothing ever came of this, but the demo was eventually released on the box set Peel Slowly and See. When they decided to take the gig, MacLise abruptly left the group, protesting what he considered a sellout ; he was also unwilling to be told when to start and stop playing. After her drums were stolen from one club, she replaced them with garbage cans brought in from outside. Warhol included the band with his show in an effort to "use rock as a part of a larger, interdisciplinary-art work based around performance" McDonald. Because of the punishing lights, the band took to wearing sunglasses onstage. This soon changed to "the exploding plastic inevitable". For these appearances, Cale sang and played organ, Tucker switched to bass guitar and MacLise was on drums. Also at these appearances, the band often played an extended jam they had dubbed "Booker T", after musician Booker T. Some of these performances have been released as a bootleg ; they remain the only record of MacLise with the Velvet Underground. According to Morrison, MacLise is said to have regretted leaving the Velvet Underground and wanted to rejoin, but Reed specifically prohibited this and made it clear that this stint was only temporary. It should be noted, however, that MacLise still behaved eccentrically with time and commerce and went by his own clock: Also enclosed was a 2-sided flexi disk: The album was released by Verve Records the following year in March The album cover is famous for its Warhol design: Those who did remove the banana skin found a pink, peeled banana beneath. A technique used on many songs was the "drone strum", an eighth-note rhythm guitar style used by Reed. Despite his proficiency on the instrument, Morrison hated playing bass. The album was released on March 12, after a lengthy delay by Verve and reached No. The album was re-distributed at nearly the same time as Sgt. He saw no talent in Lou [Reed]. Reed once commented on their leaving Warhol: Do you want to keep just playing museums from now on and the art festivals? Or do you want to start moving into other areas? Because I thought that was one of the things to do if we were going to move away from thatâ€” [38] Steve Sesnick was soon brought in as a replacement manager, much to the chagrin of Cale, who believes that Sesnick tried to push Reed as band leader at the expense of band harmony. Both Cale and Reed called Sesnick a "snake" in different interviews after leaving the band. The band performed live often, and their performances became louder and harsher and often included extended improvisations. Warhol arranged for the band to get an endorsement deal with Vox to enable them to use Vox equipment, including special effects pedals and an organ, for free. Gary Kellgren , who is ultra-competent, told us repeatedly: Just do the best you can. The album was released on January 30, , entering the Billboard Top chart for two weeks, at number The differences showed in the last recording sessions the band had with John Cale in Further, some songs the band had performed with Cale in concert, or that he had co-written, were not recorded until after he had left the group such as "Walk It and Talk It", "Ride into the Sun", and "Countess from Hong Kong". According to Tim Mitchell, however, Morrison reported that while there was creative tension between Reed and Cale, its impact has been exaggerated over the years. Cale had some wacky ideas. He was trying to make the band more accessible. Reed, Tucker, Yule, and Morrison Before work on their third album started, Cale was replaced by musician Doug Yule of the Boston group the Grass Menagerie, who had been a close associate of the band. It was during this period that Morrison heard Yule playing guitar in his apartment, and mentioned to Reed that Yule was practicing guitar and was

improving quickly. The cover photograph was taken by Billy Name. The harsh, abrasive tendencies on the first two records were almost entirely absent on their third album. While Reed had covered a vast range of lyrical subjects on the first two Velvet Underground albums, the lyrical themes of the third album were more "intimate" in nature. In addition, Reed and Morrison had purchased matching Fender string electric guitars, but Doug Yule plays down the influence of the new equipment. Year on the road and the "lost" fourth album [ edit ] The Velvet Underground spent much of on the road both in the US and Canada, and not making much headway commercially. Despite these commercial setbacks, the band focused on performing live shows on the road, playing both re-worked songs from their past albums, and debuting new songs that would find their way onto the Loaded album, such as "New Age", "Rock and Roll", and "Sweet Jane". While the band continued to do extended improvisations in their live shows, by they were focusing on tight live performances,[ citation needed ] and several of the live shows the band played during this period would end up released as live albums many years later. The live album Nelson asked singer-songwriter Elliott Murphy to write liner notes for the double album. During the band recorded on and off in the studio, creating a lot of promising material both singles and one-offs that were never officially released at the time due to disputes with their record label. What many consider to be the prime songs of these recording sessions were released years later, in , in a compilation album called VU. The rest of the recordings, as well as some alternative takes and instrumental tracks were later bundled on Another View which was released in By the MGM and Verve record labels had been losing money for several years. A new president, Mike Curb, was hired and he decided to cancel the recording contracts of 18 of their acts who supposedly glorified drugs in their lyrics, including their many controversial and unprofitable acts. The cuts were made partly to do with the drug scene—like maybe a third of them had to do with drug reasons. Loaded Cotillion Records a subsidiary of Atlantic Records that specialized in blues and Southern soul signed the Velvet Underground for what would be its final studio album with Lou Reed: Though the record was not the smash hit the company had anticipated, it contains the most accessible pop the VU had performed,[ according to whom? Yule once commented on the recording of Loaded: I did a lot on Loaded. It sort of devolved down to the Lou and Doug recreational recording. Although Reed had informed Tucker, who was attending the show but not playing with the band because of her pregnancy, that he planned to leave the group on his last evening, he did not tell Morrison or Yule. It must have been hard for Lou to hear that because he depended on him, so he quit. Reed often said he was completely surprised when he saw Loaded in stores. He also said, "I left them to their album full of hits that I made". Reed was perturbed about a verse being edited from the Loaded version of " Sweet Jane ". For the box set Peel Slowly and See, the album was presented as Reed intended;[ citation needed ] the "Fully Loaded" two-disc edition includes the full versions of "Sweet Jane" and "New Age". On the other hand, Yule has pointed out that the album was for all intents and purposes finished when Reed left the band and that Reed had been aware of most, if not all, of the edits. Following a show in Houston, Texas, he left the group in August to pursue a Ph. He had packed an empty suitcase and when the time came for the band to return to New York City, he told them at the airport that he was staying in Texas and quitting the band—the last founding member to quit. This line up of the band played several shows in late in England, Wales, and the Netherlands to support the European release of Loaded, some of which are collected on the box set Final V. Due to publicity around the release, and growing interest in the Velvet Underground in Europe, Sesnick was able to secure a single album deal with Polydor in the UK, and a handful of promotional shows were booked in the UK in November and December After Sesnick failed to show up in London to meet the band with the necessary money and equipment, [70] they played the handful of dates to secure enough money for flights back to the US, and Yule left the band when the brief tour ended in December Yule recorded the Polydor album ultimately titled Squeeze under the Velvet Underground name virtually by himself, with only the assistance of Deep Purple drummer Ian Paice and a few other session musicians in an unspecified London studio. While Yule intended to recruit Tucker to play drums on Squeeze, Sesnick vetoed his decision and claimed she was "too expensive" to hire. Stephen Thomas Erlewine notes that the album received "uniformly terrible reviews" upon initial release, [72] and in the early s, the NME Book of Rock counted it as "a Velvet Underground album in name only". He gave me six copies of Squeeze as pay. I never got any money. He not only made an arrangement with them but actually signed as

me and took the money. In music writer Steven Shehori included Squeeze in his "Criminally Overlooked Albums" series for The Huffington Post , and in a lengthy review of the album, offered the following positive assessment of Squeeze: In a retrospective way I really enjoy it. It has kind of a naivety about it. The band members objected to the billing instigated by their tour manager ; according to Yule, the promoter was not supposed to bill the band as the Velvet Underground. Post-VU developments – [ edit ] Reed, Cale and Nico teamed up at the beginning of to play a concert in Paris at the Bataclan club. Before that, Cale and Nico had developed solo careers. Nico had also begun a solo career with Cale producing a majority of her albums. Reed started his solo career in after a brief sabbatical. Sterling Morrison was a professor for some time, teaching Medieval Literature at the University of Texas at Austin, then became a tugboat captain in Houston for several years. Yule became a member of American Flyer , then dropped out of the music industry altogether before reappearing in the early s. Some of the songs had been recorded when Cale was still in the band. More unreleased recordings of the band, some of them demos and unfinished tracks, were released in as Another View. On July 18, , Nico died of a cerebral haemorrhage following a bicycle accident. Though some attribute the name of the " Velvet Revolution ", which ended more than 40 years of Communist rule in Czechoslovakia, to the band, Reed pointed out that the name Velvet Revolution derives from its peaceful nature–that no one was "actually hurt" during those events. Please help improve this section by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. February Learn how and when to remove this template message In , Reed and Cale released Songs for Drella , a song cycle about Andy Warhol who had died in

### Chapter 2 : Velvet Underground moves to protect Banana Album design | Music | The Guardian

*The banana itself is, of course, the handiwork of Andy Warhol, who crafted the image and slapped it on the cover of his pet band's first record in The original album cover allowed fans.*

At the instigation of their mentor and manager Andy Warhol, and his collaborator Paul Morrissey, German singer Nico was also featured; she had occasionally performed lead vocals for the band. Although Andy Warhol was the only formally credited producer, he had very little direct influence or authority over the album beyond paying for the recording sessions. He just made it possible for us to be ourselves and go right ahead with it because he was Andy Warhol. This sample contains the first verse. Problems playing this file? The droning electric viola accompanies the "ostrich"-tuned guitar. This sample contains the second verse. An English major who studied for a B. You have the fun of reading that, and you get the fun of rock on top of it. The Velvet Underground Story. While the song does seem to be another observation of Factory denizens, Reed wrote the song before meeting Warhol, having recorded a demo in July at Ludlow Street. As the song nears its final crescendo, the percussion quickens and the electric viola produces feedback. He was influenced greatly by his work with La Monte Young, John Cage and the early Fluxus movement, and encouraged the use of alternative ways of producing sound in music. For instance, Reed had "invented" the ostrich guitar tuning for a song he wrote called "The Ostrich" for the short-lived band the Primitives. Ostrich guitar tuning consists of all strings being tuned to the same note. Often, the guitars were also tuned down a whole step, which produced a lower, fuller sound that Cale considered "sexy". The viola used guitar and mandolin strings, and when played loudly, Cale would liken its sound to that of an airplane engine. Early copies of the album invited the owner to "Peel slowly and see"; peeling back the banana skin revealed a flesh-colored banana underneath. A Japanese re-issue LP in the early s was the only re-issue version to include the banana sticker for many years. On the CD reissue, the banana image is on the front cover while the image of the peeled banana is on the inside of the jewel case, beneath the CD itself. The album was re-pressed onto heavyweight vinyl in, featuring a banana sticker. Having recently been arrested for drug possession and desperate for money, Emerson threatened to sue over this unauthorized use of his image, unless he was paid. The complaint involved copyright infringement, trademark infringement and unfair competition. According to Judge Nathan, the Constitution allows federal courts to decide only "Cases" or "Controversies", which means ongoing or imminent disputes over legal rights, involving concrete facts and specific acts, that require court intervention in order to shield the plaintiff from harm or interference with its rights. Since, according to the court, the Foundation promised not to sue the partnership for any "potentially copyright-infringing uses of the Banana Design", the partnership could continue using the design and there would be no legal action that the Foundation could take under copyright law [a 1] to stop it. It then re-entered the charts on November 18, , at number, peaked at number on December 16, , and finally left the charts on January 6, , at number. One of the few print reviews of the album in was a mostly positive review in the second issue of Vibrations, a small rock music magazine.

Chapter 3 : Andy Warhol Banana: Records | eBay

*The album made the Top 10 Best Album Covers of All Time, according to Rolling Stone's Readers Poll. It was pure high-concept Warhol: against a white background, a silk screen banana with a sticker that said "peel slowly and see," revealing a pink banana underneath.*

He was not a musician, and probably knew little about the technological processes by which music is recorded. Nonetheless, he made notable contributions to rock history as a producer and manager of the Velvet Underground. He managed the Velvets until about the summer of 1967, and was credited as producer of the bulk of their debut album. Although Warhol was about 15 to 20 years older than the members of the Velvet Underground, he did have a considerable enthusiasm for rock music before he met them. Two rock fans in his Factory entourage, filmmaker Barbara Rubin and Gerard Malanga, told Warhol about the Velvet Underground in late 1966, when the group was struggling through a residency at a Greenwich Village club. When Warhol saw the Velvets, he was impressed enough to offer them his management. Of course, management by someone like Warhol was not a conventional business proposition geared toward building career, media exposure, record contracts, and bank accounts. The Velvet Underground, unlike most other rock bands, were probably more interested in being avant-garde than making money, so it was a good match. First of all, he was a huge media superstar, and the Velvet Underground were unknown. Simply having his name associated with them increased their profile to an infinitely higher level, virtually overnight. Warhol also was responsible for adding Nico to the band as vocalist, and while the other members of the group somewhat resented this and relegated her to just a few lead vocals, she was a significant visual and atmospheric addition to the band, in addition to singing some of the best tunes on their first album. Warhol also built a multimedia show, the Exploding Plastic Inevitable, around the Velvets, with films, lights, and dancers, that gave them a lot of press attention and notoriety in 1967, well in advance of the release of their first LP. In more conventional areas, Warhol helped finance the recording of their classic first album self-titled, but known as "The Banana Album", which was largely made before they got a record deal. This was mostly produced by Warhol too, although his contribution, as is sometimes the case with good production, probably consisted of not interfering with the music and letting them be themselves. Indeed, much of the album was recorded in one or two days, although once they got signed to Verve, producer Tom Wilson did some additional re-recording although Wilson is only credited as producer on one song, "Sunday Morning". A cover painting by Andy Warhol -- a peelable banana -- graced the sleeve as did his signature, again ensuring media attention. Despite all that Warhol had done for the band, disenchantment set in after a while. All the media attention had not translated to stardom and record sales, in part because various factors conspired to delay the release of the album until March 1968, about a year after much of it had been recorded. Nico, whom the band particularly Lou Reed, who had to give up some lead vocals to her had never really wanted as a full member to begin with, left for a solo career that year. Warhol did maintain friendly, if tempestuous, relations with the Velvet Underground, particularly Reed and John Cale, throughout the rest of his life.

### Chapter 4 : The Story Behind The Velvet Underground's Most Iconic Album Cover | HuffPost

*Find great deals on eBay for andy warhol banana album. Shop with confidence.*

Andy Warhol was a freelance graphic designer long before he become one of the greatest pop culture artists and icons of the 20th century. His vintage LP cover designs are now in great demand. Andy Warhol album covers? Have you ever wondered what some of your old Warhol covers might be worth? Warhol covers have exploded in price on eBay. I fear early in my record collecting days, I may have missed some of the more obscure covers, not even knowing it was a Warhol cover. Sticky Fingers LP cover, from my own collection. Other photos used with permission via Amazon. I mentioned in the introduction, these Blue Notes Carry a premium value from Blue Note Record Collectors in general, It is hard to tell exactly how much the Warhol effect drives the price of this particular record. It is not uncommon for an original first pressing Blue Note from this era to fetch 4 figures any way, but one way to gauge the value is. The cover features just a basic drawing from Warhol. The album cover is a period piece in the style that the record company was looking for him to create. I highly recommend the session to you or bop influenced swing fans. Presumably right after his move from Pittsburgh to New York, Warhol would have been only 21 years old at the time of this drawing. Imagine having all four of the variations framed? Typically when you talk about the vintage vinyl record and cover market, condition is of the utmost importance, but Warhol covers seem to be immune to this. I am not even sure if a buyer would even need the record inside. This original pressing is one the rarest and highly sought after covers within art or rock. A special machine was needed to make the banana covers, and due to the expense, all pressings after did not feature the sticker. Actor Eric Emerson threatened a lawsuit when his image was used on the back cover, as a result, further copies had the actor airbrushed out, this also adds to the collectible nature of the original covers. With so many variations, much care needs to be taken, to ensure you have an original. Sticky Fingers Sticky Fingers is my personal favorite Stones album music wise. Warhol stated that Jagger was not among them. Original pressings of Sticky Fingers with the working zipper are highly collectible and quite plentiful, a top condition original copy can be had for as little as 50 dollars. You can find this one on eBay for a few dollars. The album cover is still a Warhol and I believe a completest would want it in their own collection. Andy Warhol would be gone just 5 years later, It seemed like every music artist was having a Warhol cover done for them by this time. I must admit I am not the biggest fan of the iconic Warhol art, though it has grown on me as I age. So once again, learning just a little more about an artist, be it music or paint, I learn to appreciate them more than I otherwise would. All photos used with permission via Amazon. Related posts at Spacial Anomaly.

### Chapter 5 : The Velvet Underground Experience | A New York Exhibition

*Maybe you still have The Rolling Stones Sticky Fingers album, or possibly the Velvet Underground and Nico, the one with the banana on the cover? Warhol covers have exploded in price on eBay. I fear early in my record collecting days, I may have missed some of the more obscure covers, not even knowing it was a Warhol cover.*

Designed by pop artist Andy Warhol, the image was a silkscreen made from simple black-and-white acetate film. But for Verve Records, the banana was a production nightmare. By , the peelable banana was dropped. The fruity image has since thrived on everything from art prints to T-shirts to handbags. Turning away from a concrete piling, located in an old English mining town called Easington Colliery, the band appear to have just left their urine signatures on the stone. But Russell recalled discreetly, "Most of the members were unable to go, so rainwater was tipped from an empty film canister to achieve the desired effect. Faced with deadlines and a dwindling budget, design company Hipgnosis took the weather into their own hands, painting a honey-peach dawn and hand-tinting bare bottoms to a rosy glow. Worried that those bare bottoms might cause controversy, Atlantic Records tied the finished album with a Japanese-style band of paper called an "obi. The Floyd was "bored with the photos" from their earlier LP covers and wanted something "smarter. The triangle is a symbol of ambition, one of the themes Roger was concerned with. So you had several ideas coming together. It was named by a band of 19th century Mormons. The cover photo, snapped by Anton Corbijn, proved a perfect foil to the grand rock hymnals on the album. It must have been pretty old, because it fell over and died in U2 fans have since built a makeshift shrine in the desert to commemorate the famous tree. The Beastie Boys tapped into this idea with a gatefold sleeve whose glamorous front unfolds to a charred and smoking back. Omes assembled the Beastie Boys jet from photographic elements American Airlines later complained that it looked like one of theirs , then drew over and hand-colored it with water soluble crayons. We threw all kinds of ideas around and Kurt jokingly suggested a fish hook. We spent the day thinking of all the things you could put on a fish hook. Although Kurt never gave me a rationale for the design, I must assume that the naked baby symbolized his own innocence, the water an alien environment and the hook and dollar bill his creative life entering into the corporate world of rock music. The airborne dog, a Hungarian breed with matted, cord-like fur, provoked a lot of "Huh? Which was exactly what Beck hoped for. A quirky artist who often relies on found objects and unintentional mistakes to inform his process, Beck stumbled on the Komondor picture in a vintage book of dog breeds. Art director Robert Fisher said, "The photo was taken by a famous dog photographer called Ludwig, who lived a few blocks from the office. She was in her late seventies, and was enthusiastic to have a visitor. The viewer could read into the cover whatever they wanted. Odelay also sounded a bit like a dog command. Stacks of poker chips? A microscopic close-up of hair shafts? An allusion to the recently fallen Twin Towers?

### Chapter 6 : Andy Warhol and Velvet Underground - Pittsburgh Music History

*The Velvet Underground and The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts have split their differences over the iconic cover art for the album The Velvet Underground & Nico. The Andy Warhol.*

Such was his impact that he is called the Pope of Pop Art. The subject of his works varied from iconic American objects to celebrities to fictional characters to traditional subjects like flowers. His paintings revolutionized the perception of art. Here are 10 of the most famous pop art paintings by the pre-eminent pop artist. All the portraits were inlaid with diamond dust which made them shine with soft, wavering light. The same year Andy Warhol obtained a photograph of the empty execution chamber. He used it to create a series of paintings depicting the electric chair as a metaphor of death and thereby commenting on the controversy surrounding the death penalty in the s. Big Electric Chair is the most famous painting of the series. The source image for the series was photographs published in the issue of Modern Photography taken by the nature photographer Patricia Caulfield. At a time when Warhol was concentrating on consumerism, celebrity, death and disasters, the series was a departure as it depicted a more abstract and philosophical subject. The paintings were immediately sold out when they were put on show. In fact one of his most famous quotes revolves around it. Warhol created several works on the Coke bottle. Coca Cola 3 is a hand painted work unlike his later silkscreens. President Richard Nixon made his first visit to China. This huge painting is about 15 feet tall and is the most well-known Mao portrait by Warhol. It exhibits Warhol at his most painterly self and is considered one of the best paintings created by him. It is one of the five versions green, blue, purple, yellow and here, red of the set. The image of the time-worn artist with the remarkable fright-wig is one of the iconic images of the twentieth century. The sale broke the record for a Warhol painting and the price paid for Eight Elvises is still the maximum for a painting by Warhol if you adjust for inflation. It is the work of art that led to pop art becoming a major art movement in the USA. The non-painterly style and the commercial subject of the painting initially caused offence as it affronted the technique and philosophy of Abstract Expressionism, the then dominant style in the United States. The resulting debates on the merits and ethics of such work made Andy Warhol the leading and most well-known pop artist. In the following weeks, Warhol made this masterpiece which contains fifty images of Marilyn, all based on the same publicity photograph from the film Niagara. The 25 images on the left side of the work are vividly colored while the 25 on the right are in black and white with an effect of fading. Considered an iconic symbol of pop art, Marilyn Diptych was named the third most influential piece of modern art in a survey by The Guardian.

### Chapter 7 : What are the most expensive Andy Warhol Album Covers?

*Warhol has been credited as the "producer" of the album who came up with the idea for having an image of a banana on the cover. The original version was a sticker that could be peeled back; it's.*

### Chapter 8 : The Velvet Underground - Wikipedia

*Sexual yet starting to rot the banana album cover by Andy Warhol It's sad to see one of the great creative partnerships of the 20th century being picked apart in the courts. This week, a judge.*

### Chapter 9 : The Stories Behind 11 Classic Album Covers | Mental Floss

1. *The Velvet Underground & Nico, aka "The Banana Album" () The Velvet Underground & Nico Design by Andy Warhol With apologies to Carmen Miranda and Chiquita, the world's most famous banana is.*