Museums and Art on the Internet

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Andy Warhol, the eternal optimist believed wholeheartedly in the American ideal that every hardworking citizen, given an equal opportunity, earned the inalienable right to become rich and famous.

It is no coincidence that we think of Warhol not only with his self-portrait pulled of the Internet from his very own Museum Internet Page but also for his belief in the American dream. For even if Internet can't make you rich ... it may make you famous.

The internet may be a beautiful, yet confusing place to get lost in but with the art pages and Museum sites so rapidly growing and with the tremendous popularity of these 'art' experiences, I would like to try and add a semblance of order to this chaos.

Through visits to art 'Home Pages' and WWW Museum sites, I will outline some of the issues confronted by the newly self- proclaimed artists, the role of the curator or gallery owner and ultimately, the visitor.

"Machines have less problems, I'd like to be a machine, wouldn't you"?

Andy Warhol

How does the role of the 'machine' define the quality of artisitic experience as the vehicle for delivery; in a way that resembles reproductions from books, as a change of pace from T.V., or as in computer art, as a stage for the original art form.

- If art is something that inspires you, can this sort of artistic experience ever equal that of seeing with one's own eyes the original object?

- Who should be defining art in cyberspace in the future and its' availability to the public?

- What is going to be the contribution of curators and Museums in the future?

Our tour will include visits to Web sites from all over the World, a brief visit to a number of local virtual sites in Israel and a preview of the new 'Home Page' of the Israel Museum.

"In the future, everybody will be world famous for 15 minutes."

Andy Warhol

I believe that the future is already here.