

5-18-2023

Donor Profile: Artful Thinking

Follow this and additional works at: <https://via.library.depaul.edu/depaul-magazine>



Part of the [Art and Materials Conservation Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

(2023) "Donor Profile: Artful Thinking," *DePaul Magazine*: Vol. 1: Iss. 412036, Article 10.
Available at: <https://via.library.depaul.edu/depaul-magazine/vol1/iss412036/10>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Alumni Publications at Digital Commons@DePaul. It has been accepted for inclusion in DePaul Magazine by an authorized editor of Digital Commons@DePaul. For more information, please contact digitalservices@depaul.edu.

Artful Thinking

With Warhol art donation, the Blumbergs further their family's teaching legacy at DePaul

The original Andy Warhol artwork sat tucked away in a box in the back of **Judy Blumberg's (BUS MS '80, MST '84)** closet. Occasionally, she and her family would peer at the art: playfully patterned hand-colored lithographic prints of shoes and seemingly simple sketches with unusual embellishments. The pieces were mostly from the '50s, at the start of Warhol's career, when he was working as a commercial fashion illustrator.

The Warhol artwork came through Judy's husband Avrom Blumberg, a longtime chemistry professor at DePaul University, and his late first wife, who was a childhood friend of Warhol's and sometimes modeled her feet for the artist's shoe advertisements.

Although Avrom was a scientist, it was an exciting foray into the art world for him, since he also loved art. He taught generations of DePaul students from 1963 to 2006, before he died from Lou Gehrig's disease, also called amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, in 2007.

Avrom's love of teaching endured throughout his life. When his family began thinking about what to do with the Warhol artwork, they knew they wanted it to connect with others. So they turned to the DePaul Art Museum (DPAM), donating 15 Warhol pieces to the museum in 2021 and 2022.

At the museum, the artwork is now accessible to students and class groups upon request. It's also available for possible future exhibition at DPAM and can be lent to exhibits around the world.

While many people know Warhol for his larger-than-life pop art Campbell's soup cans, these works show Warhol as an emerging artist, says Laura-Caroline de Lara, DPAM director.

"What you get with Judy Blumberg's generous donation to DPAM are incredibly vibrant watercolors, delicate booklets that were done as collaborations with close friends, and very personal hand-drawn sketches from an artist still learning and honing his techniques," de Lara says. "They are simultaneously stunning and intimate."



Avrom and Judy Blumberg

Avrom's love of DePaul ran deep, which is why DPAM was a good fit. It's also why Judy established an endowed scholarship in 2008 for chemistry students in Avrom's memory.

DePaul's chemistry department was a cherished home, Judy says. "My husband was there for 43 years. The chemistry department was a small department and a very collegial group of people. They could depend on each other."

Avrom often taught night classes to accommodate working students. He appreciated their diverse backgrounds and eagerness to learn.

"He loved his students," says Judy's daughter, Susan Blumberg-Kason, who helped arrange the DPAM donation along with her brother Jonathan. "He always talked about them. He was all about education for everybody. DePaul was doing that when a lot of colleges weren't."

Judy, a CPA, also loved being with students, teaching accounting and taxation in DePaul's School of Accountancy & MIS for seven years.

And now with the endowed scholarship and the Warhol donation, the Blumberg family is paying that passion forward by reaching – and teaching – others.
– *Eve Becker*

See the Warhol Works

The Andy Warhol pieces from the Blumberg collection, as well as Warhol prints and Polaroids that the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts donated to the DePaul Art Museum in 2013, are available to view at the museum by appointment. To see artwork from the Blumberg donation to DPAM online, visit bit.ly/blumberg-warhol.



Shoe fly Baby, ca. 1955
Lithograph with watercolor
Collection of DePaul Art Museum, Gift of Judith K. Blumberg
2021.53