

Fan of Warhol, Bowie leaves gifts, notes at Bethel Park gravesite

By Tory N. Parrish, Saturday, Jan. 16, 2016

Every day for seven years, Madelyn Roehrig has visited artist Andy Warhol's grave to document gifts and notes that fans leave in the late artist's honor.

Those who cannot make the trek to the gravesite in St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Cemetery in Bethel Park can see fans' comings and goings via a live video feed on the site 24 hours a day.

On Saturday, Roehrig incorporated the legacy of another pop culture icon, singer David Bowie, into her visit by including a memorial for the singer, who died of cancer a week ago at 69.

Roehrig placed typed Bowie quotes on pieces of paper in a candy jar with Hershey's kisses on Warhol's tombstone, as well as a quote from Bowie held by a Santa figurine: "Make the best of every moment. We're not evolving. We're not going anywhere."

Seven people had visited the gravesite at various points Saturday afternoon, including Deborah Smith of Bethel Park, a regular visitor who read quotes from Bowie.

"I respect his artistry ... and how he stayed relevant," Smith said.

Roehrig is an Upper St. Clair resident who is documenting the gravesite visits as part of an art project, "Figments: Conversations with Andy." She also plans to write a book about it.

She planned the Bowie memorial because he and Warhol knew each other, and Bowie wrote a song called "Andy Warhol." Bowie also played Warhol in the 1996 film "Basquiat."

In 2013, the Andy Warhol Museum and [EarthCam](#) launched "Figment," a live feed of Warhol's gravesite.

