Q & Andy: Noah Travis Phillips

By Andy Warhol
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Transdisciplinary artist and scholar, **Noah Travis Phillips** is known for their appropriation, collage, and remix strategies with which they explore paradigm-shifting ideas like the Posthuman and Anthropocene via an intimate mythology. Ahead of their exhibition *Extra-dimensional Exquisite Evanescent Euphoric Ecstatic Extinct(ion) / Homunculus Heaven Hell Hope Heathen Heuristics v. hermeneutics* at Elysian Hydraulics, they answered some questions from the writings and archive of Andy Warhol.

ANDY WARHOL: How were you discovered?

NOAH TRAVIS PHILLIPS: I am as yet undiscovered. I just got +1000 followers on social media, lol. I keep working hard. So far so good, you know. Maybe when I'm older. I am still an explosion in the middle of nowhere!

WARHOL: What was your first job?

PHILLIPS: I've worked a lot of jobs. My first real job was teaching Emergent Digital Practices.

WARHOL: Do you go out at night?

PHILLIPS: I like to go on walks at night, sometimes, if that's what you mean. I wish we could go on a walk together right now.

WARHOL: What do you think about love?

PHILLIPS: Love is mysterious and powerful and I think and feel like people should really think about who they love and how. Really love whatever you love.

WARHOL: Why can't it just be magic all the time?

PHILLIPS: I believe in (and have!) the power of belief. Real magic demands a lot of time and energy and focus and discipline and responsibility and right livelihood. That's how you learn the tricks and spells. Good luck.

WARHOL: Do people tell you you're beautiful?

PHILLIPS: Hahaha. They sure did when I was younger. I get complimented in different ways from time to time.

WARHOL: Some movies work and some don't. Can you tell from reading the script?

PHILLIPS: Everything is a text. Life can be like a movie sometimes. Then who's writing the script?

WARHOL: What did you have for breakfast?

PHILLIPS: Vegetables; a pile of stir-fried vegetables, and toast, with a lot of butter, and peach jam, and tea.

WARHOL: Is there anything you regret not doing?

PHILLIPS: Coulda woulda shoulda. I'm always doing my best. I keep trying to be better and grow as an artist, a thinker, and a human. Actually, maybe a handful of times when I was unnecessarily mean to people I love. And I would like to really know another language.

WARHOL: Are you always thinking?

PHILLIPS: In a sense, of course. I really enjoy the practice of sitting meditation, and what it can reveal about "thinking" especially for the individual. Mind is always up to something, but it's not always "thinking", sometimes it is feeling, or imagining, or dreaming, perceiving, or whatever.

WARHOL: I don't want to live forever, do you?

PHILLIPS: I don't know… that's not really an option is it? One of the few things outside the realm of possibility.

WARHOL: Do you dream?

PHILLIPS: Yes, I've been very attentive to my dreams at times and really contemplated them and kept dream journals and tried to really commune with them. I've always had a complex relationship with my dreams, by turns fascinated and skeptical.

WARHOL: Are you a good cook? If so, what's your specialty?

PHILLIPS: Yes. I have a lot of cooking experience. My real specialty is making breakfast for my family every day.

WARHOL: Showers or baths?

MANSON: Baths when I'm in physical and/or emotional pain, or want to lay around for a while, or whatever. And I love hot springs! But showers most of the time because it saves water and can be hot and fast.

WARHOL: Have you been to the White House?

PHILLIPS: Not so far. Honestly, it would really depend on why I had been invited and who invited me, if I would even go or not…

WARHOL: What are you reading right now?

PHILLIPS: Always a lot of things… *Earth*, *Life, and System: Evolution and Ecology on a Gaian Planet*, *Deep(er) Purple(s)*, *Sound of Things to Come*, *Making Worlds: Art and Science Fiction*, *Queer Magic*… and inevitably various weird articles, and some comics, and student homework. I love books and reading and learning.

WARHOL: Do you get your eight hours a night?

PHILLIPS: At least. I go for nine.

WARHOL: When do you get nervous?

PHILLIPS: Now and then… I just take a deep breath and ask myself: "You're not afraid of your own mind, are you?" then tell myself to "Be brave."

WARHOL: What are your beauty secrets?

PHILLIPS: They really are secrets though.

WARHOL: Do you dance at home?

PHILLIPS: Yes. Buck naked, sometimes.