

Alt-100

The Alt-100 List recognizes those icons over whom we argued the longest and hardest. They are grouped in alphabetical order according to their period of greatest acclaim.

These public figures point up the richness and depth of American popular culture, and we hope it provides further fuel for future conversations. Here you will find some artists whose cool cachet lasted only a decade and some who were only cult figures. If we could not find a photograph that captured a person's cool, he or she can be found here. After all, you have to *look* cool sometime to carry off the daily struggle of existence with style.

“American Cool” is not the last word on cool but rather the first step toward a new national conversation on this singular American self-concept. Who's on your cool list? Here are two questions to consider:

- (1) Did this person bring something entirely new into American culture?
- (2) Will this person's work or art stand the test of time and history?

1900–1940

Clara Bow

Bing Crosby

Marcel Duchamp

Clark Gable

Alberta Hunter

Jack London

Lee Miller

Ginger Rogers

Artie Shaw

Gertrude Stein

1940–60

Chet Baker

Tony Bennett

Lord Buckley

Hoagy Carmichael

Neal Cassady

Patsy Cline

Sam Cooke

Katherine Dunham

Billy Eckstine

Ralph Ellison

Dexter Gordon

Gloria Grahame

Dashiell Hammett

Sam “Lightnin’” Hopkins

Lena Horne

Howlin’ Wolf (Chester Burnett)

Louis Jordan

Gene Kelly

Eartha Kitt

Veronica Lake

Roy Orbison

Bettie Page

Sugar Ray Robinson

Sonny Rollins

Dinah Washington

Ted Williams

1960–80

Duane Allman

Warren Beatty

George Carlin

John Cassavetes

César Chávez

Julius “Dr. J.” Erving

Bob Gibson

Jerry Garcia

Dick Gregory

Pam Grier

Halston (Roy Halston Frowick)

Lorraine Hansberry

Isaac Hayes

Abbie Hoffman

Dennis Hopper

Quincy Jones

Janis Joplin

Ken Kesey

Stan Lee

Roy Lichtenstein

Norman Mailer

Dean Martin

Curtis Mayfield

Jim Morrison

Joe Namath

Al Pacino

Arnold Palmer

Richard Pryor

Joey Ramone

Smokey Robinson

Ed Ruscha

Nina Simone

Ronnie Spector

Lily Tomlin

Billy Dee Williams

1980–Present

Laurie Anderson

Maya Angelou

Biggie Smalls (Christopher Wallace)

Jeff Bridges

Chuck Brown

George Clinton

George Clooney

Ani DiFranco

Dr. Dre (Andre Young)

Tina Fey

Kim Gordon

Dave Grohl

Keith Haring

Samuel L. Jackson

Jim Jarmusch

Derek Jeter

Joan Jett

Angelina Jolie

Tom Petty

Queen Latifah (Dana Owens)

Questlove (Ahmir Thompson)

Kelly Slater

Gwen Stefani

Michael Stipe

Uma Thurman

John Waters

Jack White

Serena Williams

Cassandra Wilson