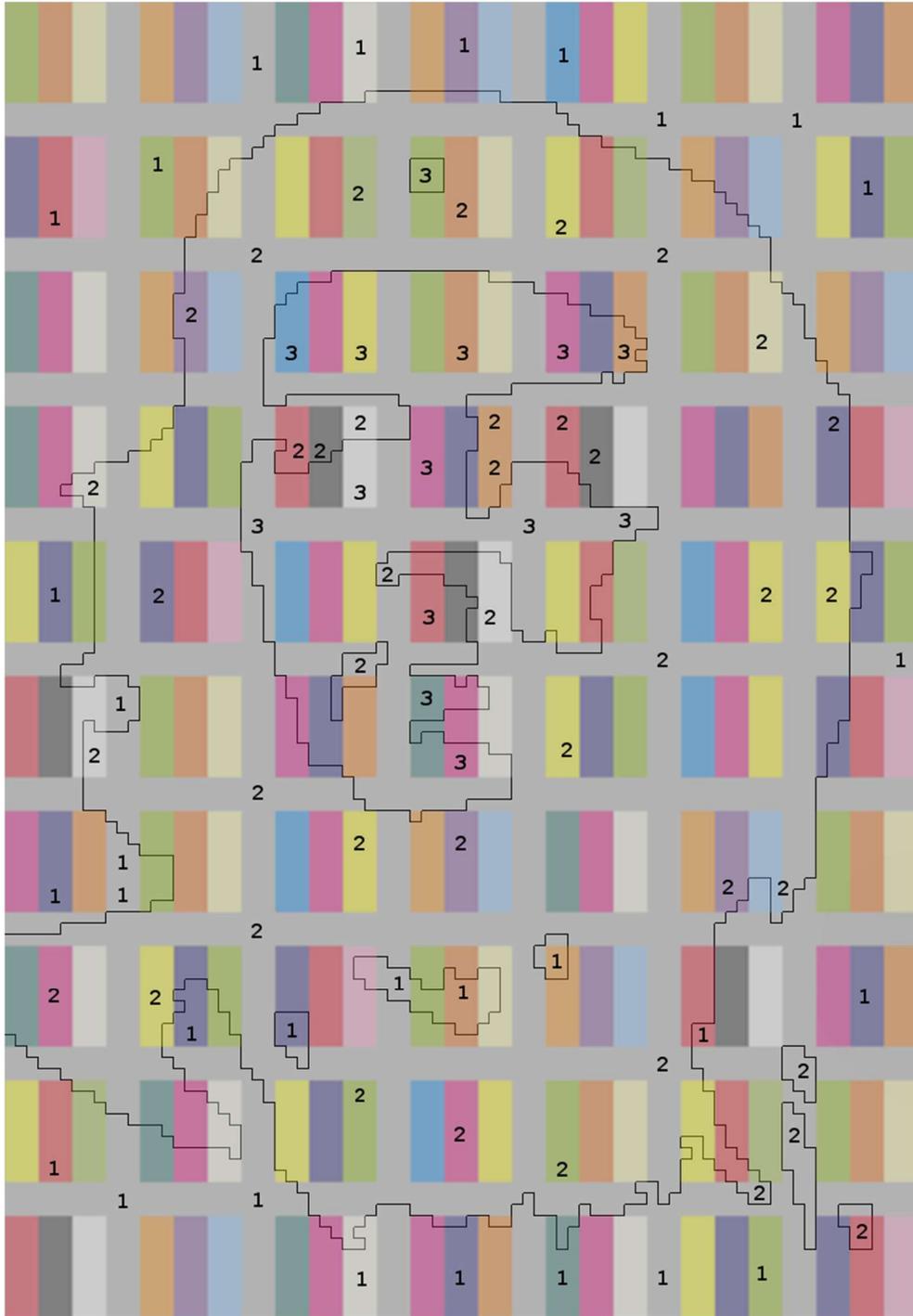


Ain't By Numbers

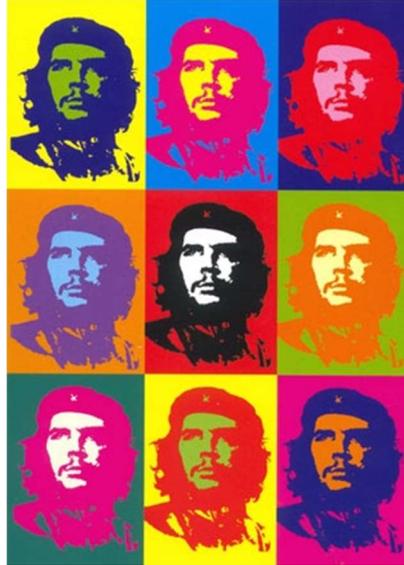
Adam Maresca

Answer: **AVANT GARDE**

There are 27 images with various color swatches and numbers; reassemble them into a single complete image, 9 "slivers" across and 3 "slivers" tall. The color swatches can be used as guides when the paint-by-numbers regions end sharply at a "sliver" border.



Staring at it closely, or actually filling it in with colors of your choice, should reveal a pixelated visage of Che Guevara. While tempting to guess, the mention in the flavor of “forgery” and “Factory” in the flavortext should clue solvers that this puzzle is about Andy Warhol’s Gerard Malanga’s Andy Warhol’s *Che Guevara* from 1968. (There are various versions of the story behind it, but the work is now regarded as a “genuine” Warhol for all intents and purposes.)



Each of the 70 color swatches overlaid on the outline is one of the sets of screen-printed colors from the artwork’s nine sections. Treat each line as a path to trace over it, revealing a letter.

Read the ten paths in vertical order to yield the final answer, **AVANT GARDE**.



Author’s Notes

Adam: This one underwent a lot of mutations, with the main goal being no openly visible alphabetical characters. After being disappointed that all Warhol’s various Marilyn prints were individual works, rediscovering the Warhol/Riddler connection based on the Riddler Factory one-shot comic made this too good to pass up, and so Che it was.

I was absolutely not expecting this one to rack up all the guesses it did; Ernesto “Che” Guevara, Andy Warhol, Gerard Malanga, *Guerrillero Heroico* (the name of the original photograph of Guevara), Alberto Korda (who took said photograph), and Jim Fitzpatrick (who made the two-tone version of the image first but left it free to use) all *tanked* the correct-guess percentage.

I hope in the future to be given a *little* more credit as an author than this, but I suppose I’ll have to earn it, then, won’t I?