

Banksy



Who Is Banksy?

The simple answer is: no one really knows.

Banksy is an anonymous graffiti artist. That means he keeps his identity hidden. He will not do media interviews, he won't release his real name, and he will not allow photos or copies of his artwork to be made and sold.



What Is Graffiti?

Graffiti is writing or drawings scribbled, scratched, or sprayed secretly on a wall or other surface in a public place. It is generally considered to be vandalism. Vandalism is a crime and vandals can be punished.



Vandalism is the deliberate destruction of belongings or property.

Banksy's Beginnings



Banksy is thought to be originally from Bristol, England. He was part of the Bristol underground art scene, and he was inspired by the graffiti artist called 3D.

Banksy first started working as a freehand graffiti artist in 1990 and continued until 1994. He met a photographer called Steve Lazarides, who began selling his art for him. Steve then became Banksy's agent, which means he arranged exhibitions. Banksy's work can be found all over Europe and other parts of the world.

Voicing His Opinion

Banksy uses his art to give his opinion on events that are happening in the world. He is known as a political activist. The graffiti he paints shows what he thinks. The most common themes are his views on greed, poverty, despair, the obsession with celebrities, the government and war.

Graffiti artists have a 'tag', which is like putting a signature on their work.



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Technique

Banksy uses stencils to create his artwork. He draws an outline onto card or acetate sheets and then cuts the shapes out by hand. He then uses spray paint on the stencil to create the graffiti.

Banksy has said that before he used stencils, he was very slow at painting, so he often got caught or didn't finish a piece at all.

Some graffiti artists think it is cheating to use stencils. They prefer to paint freehand.

Mild Mild West, 1997



Mild Mild West was Banksy's first large wall mural. It was painted in Bristol.

Shop Till You Drop - London



Banksy has taken a famous saying and turned it into an amusing piece of art.

What is he saying about how much shopping people do?

Chamber Maid in Hoxton, London



What do you think Banksy is saying about society and wealthy people, through this piece of art?

Paris, France



What do you think Banksy is saying through this piece of art?

Italy



What do you think Banksy is saying through this piece of art?

Flower thrower



What do you think Banksy is saying through this piece of art?

This appeared during Lockdown on Southampton General Hospital



What do you think Banksy is saying through this piece of art?

LO: To create a Banksy-style piece of artwork.

1) In your book write an explanation about what you think Banksy was trying to say in his latest artwork 'NHS Superhero'.

2) Draw your own Banksy style drawing relating to one of these current issues

- ▶ Thanking the NHS and/or other key workers
- ▶ How people are feeling/coping with lockdown
- ▶ The Black Lives Matter movement

Don't forget to share a picture of your work with us

info@broadfield.oldham.sch.uk

What Do You Think?

Some people do not think Banksy's graffiti is "art" but think it is vandalism and shouldn't be encouraged or praised. After all, he is painting these murals on public walls without permission.

Some people think it will make others copy him and start painting on areas around cities and towns where they are not allowed.

Then there are other people who say that Banksy is making everyone aware of problems in the world and that he should be allowed to 'voice his opinion through art'.

What do you think about Banksy's graffiti?

