



Examining Street Art

Expressions of Social Justice

Who is Banksy? And when he did first appear?

We don't exactly know. Banksy is a famous - but anonymous - British graffiti artist. He keeps his identity a secret.

Although a lot of his art is produced in public places, he usually only reveals it's his after it has appeared on his social media. A lot of his art is done in a particular style which people can easily recognise.

Although lots of people have tried to guess who he is, his identity has still not been revealed.

Banksy first got noticed for spray-painting trains and walls in his home city of Bristol during the early 1990s.

Street art and graffiti can be considered criminal damage, so in the beginning it's thought the artist stayed anonymous to keep out of trouble.

In the beginning his pieces were mainly in Bristol, but in the 2000s his artworks started appearing all over the UK and other parts of the world.



What is Banksy's style?

Banksy chose to use stencils to create his pieces, probably because it's a faster way to paint. He was influenced in his early days by a French graffiti artist called Blek le Rat.

Blek le Rat is considered to be the father of stencil graffiti and people sometimes confuse the work of the two artists.

Banksy doesn't only do street art, he's produced drawings, paintings and installation pieces. He even created his own theme park called Dismaland.



What is he trying to say with his art?

Banksy's work is known for delivering political messages. In December 2019, he raised the issue of homelessness with a mural showing two reindeer that appear to be pulling a sleigh.

A 2018 piece in Port Talbot he made a piece showing a boy catching what appears to be snowflakes but is in fact ash from a fire. This is thought to be about the problem of pollution.



**The next slide contains a piece of Banksy art.
Take it all in before you move on to the
questions.**



Questions to Ponder

- Who is the person being depicted? What does he represent?
- How do you interpret the flowers? Did you notice this was the only element with color?
- Ponder the connection to Biblical passages you have read. What comes to mind? Look up Biblical passages about justice – do any of those resonate with this image?
- How does this art feel in touch (or out of touch) with our place in the world right now? Clear your mind and ponder this and make note of any words, images or thoughts that you find important.