BANKSY KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

Biography

-Banksy is a British graffiti-artist and political activist, active since the 1990s.

-Banksy chooses to remain anonymous – he does not let people know his true identity.

-His most famous works include *Balloon Girl* (2002), *Devolved Parliament* (2009) and *Mobile Lovers* (2014).

-Banksy works often appear in high visibility places, such as on buildings or train stations.

-His works are often about war, politics, suffering and society. He uses satire and dark humour to get across his important messages.

-Banksy's work is done using stencilling technique.

-Banksy is thought to be from Bristol, UK, where his first works appeared. Some sources suggest that he was born between 1973 & 1974.

Significant Works

Balloon Girl (2002)		-*Balloon Girl* (also called *Girl with Balloon*) first appeared on Waterloo Bridge, London, in 2002. -It shows a young girl with her hand extended towards a heart shaped balloon, drifting away. -Banksy has since created several different versions of this design, often to support social messages. It is an example of a stencil mural.
Devolved Parliament (2009)		-*Devolved Parliament* is rare for a Banksy work in that it is an oil on canvass painting, rather than a stencilled graffiti artwork. -The painting replaces British politicians with chimpanzees, debating in the House of Commons. -It appears to mock the perceived poor behaviour of British politicians in running the country. -In 2019, it became Banksy's most expensive painting to date, when it sold for £9.9 million.
Mobile Lovers (2014)		-*Mobile Lovers* shows two lovers, who are looking at mobile phones behind the head of the other. -The work appears to be critiquing society's obsession with mobile phones, preventing them from making real connections. It appeared on a wall on a youth club door in Bristol. It was sold, to help keep the youth club open.

Styles and Techniques

Street Art

-Banksy is best known as a street artist.
-Street art is a type of visual art which is made in public locations, for example buildings, bridges and stations.
-Other names for this type of art include 'independent public, post-graffiti, guerilla art.'

-Common forms include spray-paint graffiti and stencil graffiti, for which Banksy is particularly famed.
-Street art is often composed to make a public statement about the society that the artist lives in. Banksy has been particularly outspoken on politics, inequalities, war and social problems within his works.

-Banksy's type of street art is legally considered as vandalism, and the artist can be prosecuted. It is thought that this is why he opted to begin using stencils (for speed, to enable his escape, should he need to!) His stencils are thought to be multilayered and (often) computer generated. Banksy has become so famous that his illegal graffiti is often treasured (and has sold for thousands) by building owners.

-Banksy's street art has also expanded into pop-up art exhibitions, for example the temporary project *'Dismaland.'* This 'bemusement park' was a 'sinister twist on Disneyland.'

How do I produce artwork like Banksy?

Step 1: Paint your cardboard in grey paint, to make it look like a wall (you could add black/ white 'splatters' for effect).

Step 2: Use your paper plate to create your stencil. Draw your shape/s accurately.

Step 3: Carefully cut the stencil shape/s out of the paper plate. Begin by putting your pencil through the plate (with modelling clay behind).

Step 4: Holding the paper plate in place over your cardboard, paint in black through the stencil. Dab with your brush to avoid missing any spots.

Step 5: Remove the paper plate stencil – you should now have a black silhouette of your shape. Just add white/grey for shading and final details.

Things you'll need: Cardboard, paint, paper plate, scissors, pencil, modelling clay.

A child's Banksy-inspired stencil painting.

Banksy Timeline

1973-1974 Banksy is believed to have been born in Bristol.

Early 1990s His graffiti work begins appearing around Bristol, UK.

Late 1990s Banksy moves to London. His work appears around the city.

2002 Banksy's first exhibition in LA.

Early 2000s Banksy becomes a household name for his striking images and underlying social/political messages.

2004 Creates spoof £10 notes with Princess Diana on front.

2006 'Barely Legal' exhibition.

2010 'Exit through the Gift Shop' film released – nominated for Oscar.

2015 Opens *Dismaland* park in Weston-super-Mare.

October 2018 Sold a Balloon Girl painting at auction, which self-shredded shortly after being auctioned.