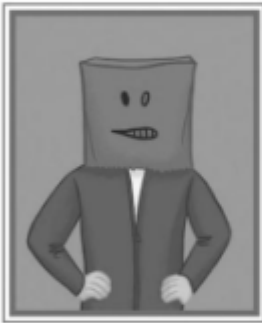




Banksy

(1974–)



"People either love me or they hate me, or they don't really care."

Banksy

Banksy is an English street artist. Few people know his real name or identity because Banksy keeps it secret. This was originally because graffiti is against the law and he didn't want to get into trouble. Banksy is a game changer because he has made street art world famous – and turned it from something illegal to something that is highly valued.

Banksy likes to shock people, and he uses humour to catch their attention. This means they are more likely to pay attention to his messages.



Banksy's art can be seen in:

LONDON – South Bank, Barbican Centre

BRISTOL – Bristol City Museum, walking tour on smartphone app

HULL – Scott Street Bridge

PARIS – Pont Rouelle

Banksy was born in Bristol, England in 1974. As a teenager, he saw the works of a French street artist, Blek le Rat, and decided to become a graffitist too. In his home town, he was part of the DryBreadZ Crew, and adopted the name 'Banksy' to hide his identity and avoid being arrested.

Every time I think I've painted something slightly original, I find out that Blek le Rat has done it as well, only twenty years earlier.

At first, Banksy's art was hand-drawn with a spray can. This changed when he was 18. He was almost caught vandalising public spaces by the police, but managed to hide under a truck. There he saw stencilled letters on the bottom of the fuel tank. Banksy had an idea – he'd adopt a stencil style. It would be faster than by hand, and therefore meant less chance of being caught!

