

TODAY'S ARTIST: BANKSY



BANKSY IS A PSEUDONYMOUS UNITED KINGDOM-BASED GRAFFITI ARTIST, POLITICAL ACTIVIST, FILM DIRECTOR, AND PAINTER

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HIS SATIRICAL STREET ART AND SUBVERSIVE EPIGRAMS COMBINE DARK HUMOUR WITH GRAFFITI EXECUTED IN A DISTINCTIVE STENCILLING TECHNIQUE. SUCH ARTISTIC WORKS OF POLITICAL AND SOCIAL COMMENTARY HAVE BEEN FEATURED ON STREETS, WALLS, AND BRIDGES OF CITIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

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BANKSY "WAS BORN IN 1974 AND RAISED IN BRISTOL, ENGLAND.^[3] THE SON OF A PHOTOCOPIER TECHNICIAN, HE TRAINED AS A BUTCHER, BUT BECAME INVOLVED IN GRAFFITI DURING THE GREAT BRISTOL AEROSOL BOOM OF THE LATE 1980S."

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BANKSY'S FIRST FILM, *EXIT THROUGH THE GIFT SHOP*, BILLED AS "THE WORLD'S FIRST STREET ART DISASTER MOVIE", MADE ITS DEBUT AT THE 2010 SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL.^[9] THE FILM WAS RELEASED IN THE UK ON 5 MARCH 2010.^[10] IN JANUARY 2011, HE WAS NOMINATED FOR THE ACADEMY AWARD FOR BEST DOCUMENTARY FOR THE FILM. IN 2014, HE WAS AWARDED PERSON OF YEAR AT THE 2014 WEBBY AWARDS.¹

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IN AUGUST 2005, BANKSY, ON A TRIP TO THE PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES, CREATED NINE IMAGES ON THE ISRAELI WEST BANK WALL.

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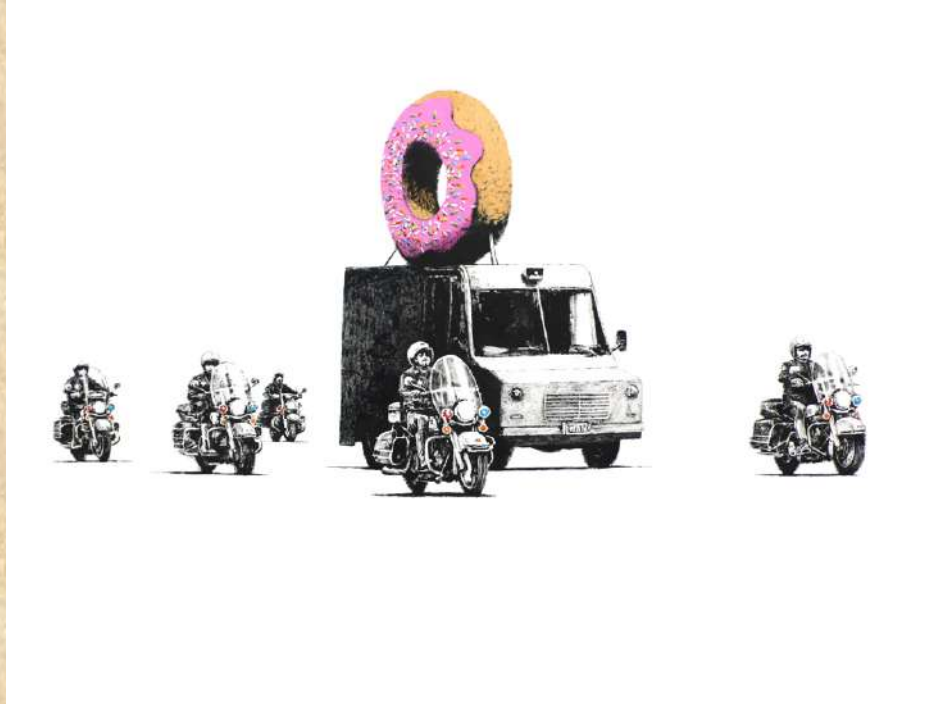
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BANKSY ONCE CHARACTERISED GRAFFITI AS A FORM OF UNDERCLASS "REVENGE", OR GUERILLA WARFARE THAT ALLOWS AN INDIVIDUAL TO SNATCH AWAY POWER, TERRITORY AND GLORY FROM A BIGGER AND BETTER EQUIPPED ENEMY. BANKSY SEES A SOCIAL CLASS COMPONENT TO THIS STRUGGLE, REMARKING "IF YOU DON'T OWN A TRAIN COMPANY THEN YOU GO AND PAINT ON ONE INSTEAD."BANKSY'S WORK HAS ALSO SHOWN A DESIRE TO MOCK CENTRALISED POWER, HOPING THAT HIS WORK WILL SHOW THE PUBLIC THAT ALTHOUGH POWER DOES EXIST AND WORKS AGAINST YOU, THAT POWER IS NOT TERRIBLY EFFICIENT AND IT CAN AND SHOULD BE DECEIVED.

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ON 1 OCTOBER 2013, BANKSY BEGAN A ONE-MONTH "SHOW ON THE STREETS OF NEW YORK [CITY]", FOR WHICH HE OPENED A SEPARATE WEBSITE^[88] AND GRANTED AN INTERVIEW TO [THE VILLAGE VOICE](#) VIA HIS PUBLICIST

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IN APRIL 2006, BANKSY CREATED A SCULPTURE BASED ON A CRUMPLED RED PHONE BOX WITH A PICKAXE IN ITS SIDE, APPARENTLY BLEEDING, AND PLACED IT IN A SIDE STREET IN [SOHO](#), LONDON. IT WAS LATER REMOVED BY [WESTMINSTER COUNCIL](#)."

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ASKED ABOUT HIS TECHNIQUE, BANKSY SAID:

I USE WHATEVER IT TAKES. SOMETIMES THAT JUST MEANS DRAWING A MOUSTACHE ON A GIRL'S FACE ON SOME BILLBOARD, SOMETIMES THAT MEANS SWEATING FOR DAYS OVER AN INTRICATE DRAWING. EFFICIENCY IS THE KEY

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