

DAILY WORK WEEK 20



GIRL WITH BALLOON

Banksy

Stencil & Spray Paint

2002

Vocabulary: commercial art, freehand, installation artwork, elaborate

(c. 1974–)

Banksy is the pseudonym of a "guerrilla" street artist known for his controversial, and often politically themed, stenciled pieces.

Who Is Banksy?

Banksy, a street artist whose identity remains unknown, is believed to have been born in Bristol, England, around 1974. He rose to prominence for his provocative stenciled pieces in the late 1990s. Banksy is the subject of a 2010 documentary, *Exit Through the Gift Shop*, which examines the relationship between **commercial and street art**.

Banksy's Identity

Banksy's identity remains unknown, despite intense speculation. The two names most often suggested are Robert Banks and Robin Gunningham. Pictures that surfaced of a man who was supposedly Banksy pointed toward Gunningham, an artist who was born in Bristol in 1973. Gunningham moved to London around 2000, a timeline that correlates with the progression of Banksy's artwork.

Artwork

Banksy began his career as a graffiti artist in the early 1990s, in Bristol's graffiti gang DryBreadZ Crew. Although his early work was largely **freehand**, Banksy used stencils on occasion. In the late '90s, he began using stencils predominantly. His work became more widely recognized around Bristol and in London, as his signature style developed.

ADVERTISEMENT

What Is Banksy Known for?

Banksy's artwork is characterized by striking images, often combined with slogans. His work often engages political themes, satirically critiquing war, capitalism, hypocrisy and greed. Common subjects include rats, apes, policemen, members of the royal family, and children. In addition to his two-dimensional work, Banksy is known for his **installation artwork**. One of the most celebrated of these pieces, which featured a live elephant painted with a Victorian wallpaper pattern, sparked controversy among animal rights activists.

West Bank

Other pieces have drawn attention for their edgy themes or the boldness of their execution. Banksy's work on the West Bank barrier, between Israel and Palestine, received significant media attention in 2005. He is also known for his use of copyrighted material and subversion of classic images. An example of this is Banksy's version of Monet's famous series of water lilies paintings, adapted by Banksy to include drifting trash and debris.

'The Banksy Effect'

Banksy's worldwide fame has transformed his artwork from acts of vandalism to sought-after high art pieces. Journalist Max Foster has referred to the rising prices of graffiti as street art as "the Banksy effect." Interest in Banksy escalated with the release of the 2010 documentary *Exit Through the Gift Shop*. The film, which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival, was nominated for an Academy Award.

In October 2013, Banksy took to the streets of New York City. There he pledged to create a new piece of art for each day of his residency. As he explained to the *Village Voice*, "The plan is to live here, react to things, see the sights — and paint on them. Some of it will be pretty **elaborate**, and some will just be a scrawl on a toilet wall." During that month, he also sold some of his works on the street for \$60 a piece, well below the market value for his art.



STOP MAKING STUPID PEOPLE FAMOUS

Plastic Jesus

Stencil & Spray Paint

2015?

Vocabulary: compliance, contradiction, aesthetic, ethically

Plastic Jesus is a Los Angeles based street artist that specialises in bold stencil and installation work, inspired by world news events, society, the urban environment, culture and politics.

His critically acclaimed work combines humor, irony, criticism and unique opinion to create art that engages on many levels.

Often questioning the norms in society Plastic Jesus confronts our **compliance of culture and current affairs. The**

artist uses scale and **contradiction** as a means to highlight issues and opinions that often go unquestioned.

The **aesthetic** appeal of his work combined with the engagement produces an addictive mix that challenges our acceptance.

Plastic Jesus is not about revolution, he is not an anarchist but would like to see some changes around the place. His work is more about shining a small light into some of those dark corners of society.

His work has been featured by The BBC, CNN, abc News, Huffington Post, Gizmodo, BuzzFeed, The Sun, The Daily Mirror, LA Times, LA Weekly, The Daily Mail, MSNBC, The Daily Telegraph, Complex art and Design, Time, Us Weekly, USA Today and many more.

The Smithsonian Institute also features art by Plastic Jesus. Collectors include: Miley Cyrus, The Kardashians, Kid Rock, James Corden, Corey Taylor, Harry Styles, Jared Kushner and more.

Prior to his commitment to produce provocative street art Plastic Jesus has worked for over two decades as a News photographer.

Plastic Jesus tries to work as **ethically** as possible and minimise harm to the environment. His street art is only left in place for a limited time and then removed. Any damage to the urban environment is avoided and limited as far as possible. If you find a piece of Plastic Jesus art on your building and you don't want it there please email Plastic Jesus and one of the removal team will be there to remove it and make good.

<http://plasticjesus.com/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oh3NSj8ztZo>



CRACK IS WACK
Keith Haring
Painted Mural
1986

Vocabulary: legacy, performance art, signature style, retrospective

Remembering Keith Haring

On February 16, 1990, renowned artist Keith Haring passed away. Decades later, his life and **legacy** still live on in two iconic murals in New York City parks.

You couldn't hang around NYC's 80s art scene without hearing Keith Haring's name being tossed around with the likes of Andy Warhol, Jean-Michel Basquiat, Grace Jones, and the **performance art** scene at Club 57.

Haring's signature drawings of chalk-like outlines first spilled onto NYC's graffitied subway stations, and by the late 1980s his public art pieces became a monumental voice in tackling social issues evolving around the 80s crack epidemic, sexuality, love, and diversity.

Born in Reading, Pennsylvania on May 4 1958, Haring became interested in art at a young age, drawing cartoons with his father. But it wasn't until Haring enrolled in the School of Visual Arts and moved to NYC in 1978, that his career took off.

Fascinated by the bold graffiti that sprawled over almost every public area in the city, as well as Christo's *Running Fence*, and works by Jean Dubuffet, William Burroughs, Pierre Alechinsky, Brion Gysin, Andy Warhol, and Robert Henri, Haring navigated his way to creating impactful public art.

What started out as rhythmic, chalk drawings on black matte advertising panels on several subway platforms evolved into more than 50 pieces of public art, including two iconic murals that still stand today in New York City parks: The Crack is Wack Playground mural in Harlem and the Carmine Street Pool mural at Tony Dapolito Recreation Center.

By the mid 1980s, crack, a highly potent and dangerous form of smokable cocaine, reached epidemic proportions. On October 3, 1986, Haring painted the famous Crack is Wack mural on a handball court in Harlem, sending a serious anti-drug message to the community which was riddled by drug abuse.

Done in Haring's **signature style** of thick black outlines, bright colors, and intermingling, cartoon-like bodies, the Crack is Wack Mural at East 128th Street and Harlem River Drive is a lasting reminder of Haring's art, and continues through its wit and vibrancy to teach children today about the hazards of crack cocaine.

Over the years, the [Keith Haring Foundation](#) has financed repairs and restoration to the iconic mural. The mural underwent a major repainting in 2007 by Gotham

Scenic, and underwent touch up by Louise Hunnicutt in 2010 and 2012. [Visit the Crack is Wack Playground and mural.](#)

In 1987, Haring painted a large mural at the Carmine Recreation Center's outdoor pool in the West Village.

Measuring 18 feet high by 170 feet long and taking its cue from the hues of the pool's underwater surfacing, the mural depicts bold stylized motifs of fish and children, as well as abstract shapes in black, white, yellow, and blue - images typical of Haring's lively and colorful designs.

The [Keith Haring Foundation](#) has supported the preservation of the Carmine Street Mural on several occasions.

Visitors can take a look at the iconic piece on the pool's wall between the center, now the [Tony Dapolito Recreation Center](#), and [James J Walker Park](#)

In 1986, two of Haring's sculptures were displayed temporarily at [Dag Hammarskjold Plaza](#) in Manhattan. The sculptures (shown above) were also displayed in [Riverside Park](#) from May 1988 to May 1989.

Haring went on to have numerous exhibitions of his work, and was represented by such well-known galleries as Tony Shafrazi and Leo Castelli. Haring art-directed music videos and produced coloring books and t-shirts for children. He opened his Pop Shop in 1986, while continuing to make logos for numerous charities, such as Learning through Art and Doing Art Together, just two of many programs he supported that brought art to schools. He provided funds for numerous children's organizations, supported efforts to oppose apartheid, and created designs and donated funds to advance the cause of AIDS awareness.

Haring continued to create murals, sculptures, drawings, and paintings until he died of AIDS on February 16, 1990, at the age of 31. He left a legacy of art that was popular on a universal level, and had also garnered widespread critical acclaim.

A [foundation](#) in his memory was established, which continues to support the organizations he championed. In 1991-92, Haring's *Figure Balancing on Dog* was

displayed in [Dante Park](#), and in 1997 the [Public Art Fund](#) , in collaboration with the Estate of Keith Haring, organized a multi-site installation of his outdoor sculptures at [Central Park](#)'s Doris Freedman Plaza and along the [Park Avenue Malls](#) . This public exhibition occurred simultaneously with a **retrospective** at the Whitney Museum of American Art.

In 2007, Keith Haring's painted aluminum *Self-Portrait, 1989* sculpture was displayed in the lobby of the Arsenal in Central Park, as part of the **retrospective** exhibition "The Outdoor Gallery: 40 Years of Public Art in New York City Parks." The sculpture is the fourth in a series of seven. The large-scale version was displayed on Park Avenue and 60th Street as part of a multi-site exhibition in 1997.

Thank you to the [Keith Haring Foundation](#) for preserving Keith Haring's NYC Parks legacy.

<https://www.nycgovparks.org/highlights/remembering-keith-haring>

<http://www.haring.com/>