

Focus Artist: Banksy

Theme: Individuality

Skills: Drawing, painting and printing

Key Questions: What statements has Banksy made? What statements do you want to make? How can we use contrast for effect? How can we use bold shapes and outline to create bold images?



Who is Banksy?

The simple answer is: **no one really knows.**

Banksy is an anonymous **graffiti artist**. That means he keeps his identity hidden. It is said that Banksy was born in 1974 and raised in Bristol, England. Banksy uses stencils to create his artwork. He uses his art to give his opinion on events that are happening in the world. He is known as a political activist. The most common themes are his views on greed, poverty, despair, the obsession with celebrities, the government and war.

What do you think?

Some people do not think Banksy's graffiti is "art" but think it is vandalism and shouldn't be encouraged or praised. After all, he is painting these murals on public walls without permission.



Girl With Balloon



I Want Change



An example of Banksy's stencils.

Contrast

Emphasis through contrast is when artists and designers draw attention to part of a composition by making it different from its surroundings.

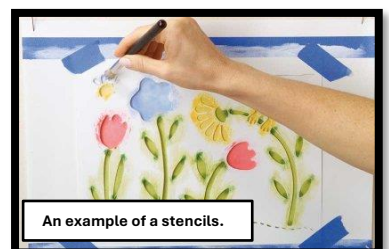
Girl with a Balloon by Banksy (2002) shows how colour can create emphasis. The focal point is the red balloon because it is a warm, intense colour. It stands out against the plain, grey background.

Key Vocabulary

print making	a design, usually a picture or words, is made on a surface and then copied or printed onto another surface
stencil	a piece of card, plastic, metal, etc. into which shapes have been cut, used to draw or paint patterns onto a surface
graffiti	words or drawings, especially humorous or political, on walls, doors, etc. in public places
contrast	an obvious difference between two or more things
bold	strong in colour or shape, and very noticeable to the eye.
expressive	effectively conveying thought or feeling
political	motivated by a person's beliefs or actions concerning politics

Stencils

Stencils are created by cutting out a design from thin plastic or card. Paint is then applied through the stencil onto the surface behind.



An example of a stencils.