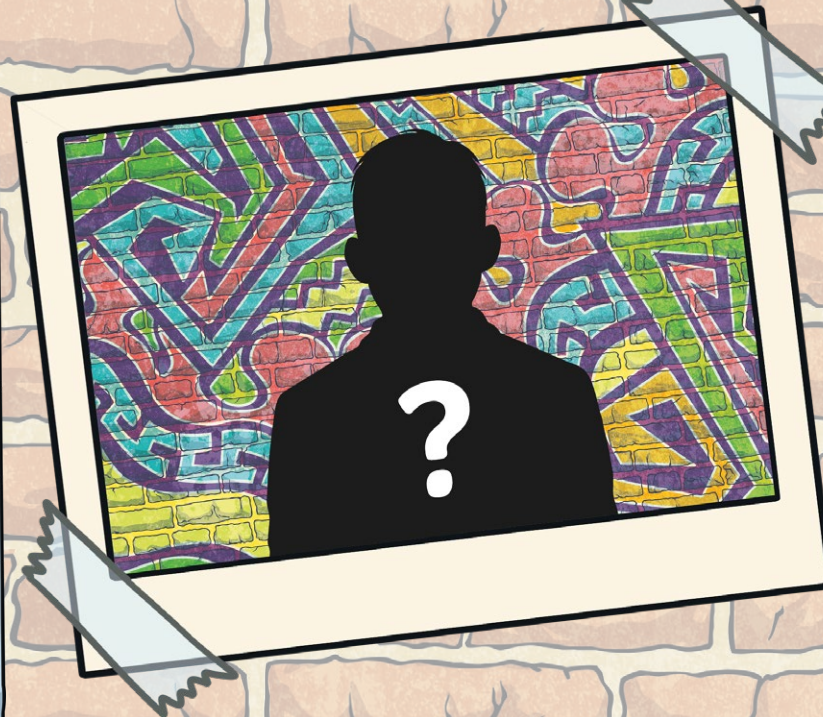


Who Is Banksy?

Banksy is an anonymous graffiti artist. He keeps his identity hidden. He does not do interviews or let anybody know his real name. He often creates his artwork in public places, such as on buildings and at train stations.

Banksy comes from Bristol, England, where he started working as a freehand graffiti artist in the 1990s. During this time, he met a man called Steve Lazarides who sold his artwork for him.



In October 2018, Banksy's artwork called 'Girl with Balloon' was for sale at a famous auction house called Sotheby's, in London. Just as the painting was sold (for just over one million pounds), the painting began to shred itself. People watched in disbelief.



Here is a list of some of his work:

- Game Changer (Southampton, England)
- Rat with 3D Glasses (Utah, USA)
- Falling Shopper (London, England)
- Man Offering a Dog a Bone (Paris, France)
- Sight-Seeing Rats (Paris, France)
- Hammer Boy (New York, USA)
- Umbrella Girl (New Orleans, USA)
- Pillow Fight (Palestine, Western Asia)

Key Words:
graffiti
anonymous
identity
Bristol
English
political
freehand
stencil
message

Freehand graffiti is where an artist does not use any tools such as rulers or tracing equipment.

More recently, he has used stencils to create his work, allowing him to work with more speed.

Banksy's work often has political messages. He voices his opinions about things that are happening in the world, for example:

- greed
- poverty
- despair
- celebrity obsession
- government
- war



Mild Mild West was Banksy's first large wall mural. He painted it in Bristol in 1999.

From the 2000s, Banksy started to create artworks in cities across the world.



Who do you think Banksy is?

