

# Banksy Fact File

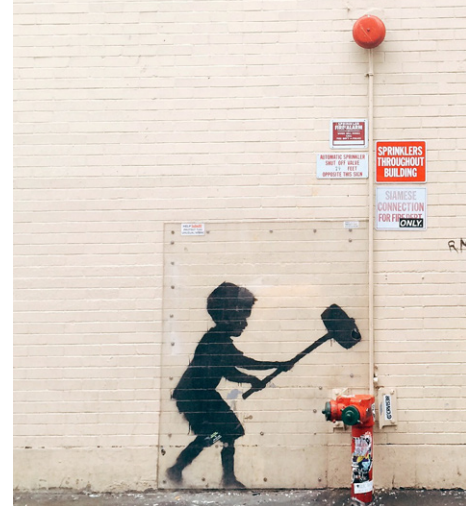
## Banksy the Artist

Banksy is a graffiti artist. He is originally from Bristol. He keeps his identity a secret. He will not do TV interviews, he won't release his real name, and he will not allow photos or copies of his artwork to be made and sold.

Graffiti is writing or doing drawings secretly on a wall or other surface in a public place. It is generally thought of as vandalism. Vandalism is a crime and vandals can be punished.

Banksy was part of the Bristol underground art scene, and he was influenced by the graffiti artist called 3D.

Banksy started working as a freehand graffiti artist in 1990 and continued to do so until 1994. He uses his art to show what he thinks about things that are happening in the world. The most common themes are his views on greed, poverty, despair, the obsession with celebrities, the government and war.



## How he creates the graffiti

In his current work, Banksy uses stencils to create his artwork. He draws an outline onto card or acetate sheets and then cuts the shapes out by hand. He then uses spray paint on the stencil to create the graffiti.

Banksy has said that before he used stencils he was very slow at painting, so he often got caught or didn't finish a piece at all.

## Worries about this type of art

- 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 pictures on public walls without permission.
- Some people think it will make others copy him and start painting on areas around cities and towns where they are not allowed.

There are other people who say that Banksy is making everyone aware of problems in the world and that he should be allowed to 'voice his opinion through art'. What do you think?

What is Banksy's opinion on the paparazzi and celebrity photographing?

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## Banksy the Artist

Banksy is an anonymous graffiti artist. He is originally from Bristol. Being anonymous means he keeps his identity a secret. He will not do TV interviews, he won't release his real name, and he will not allow photos or copies of his artwork to be made and sold.

### What is graffiti?

Graffiti is writing or drawings scribbled, scratched, or sprayed secretly on a wall or other surface in a public place. It is generally considered to be vandalism. Vandalism is a crime and vandals can be punished.

Banksy was part of the Bristol underground art scene, and he was influenced by the graffiti artist called 3D.

Banksy started working as a freehand graffiti artist in 1990 and continued to do so until 1994. He uses his art to give his opinion on things that are happening in the world. The graffiti he paints shows what he thinks. The most common themes are his views on greed, poverty, despair, the obsession with celebrities, the government and war.

Graffiti artists have a 'tag', which is like putting a signature on their work.

### How he creates the graffiti

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### Different opinions

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Then there are other people who say that Banksy is making everyone aware of problems in the world and that he should be allowed to 'voice his opinion through art'. What do you think?

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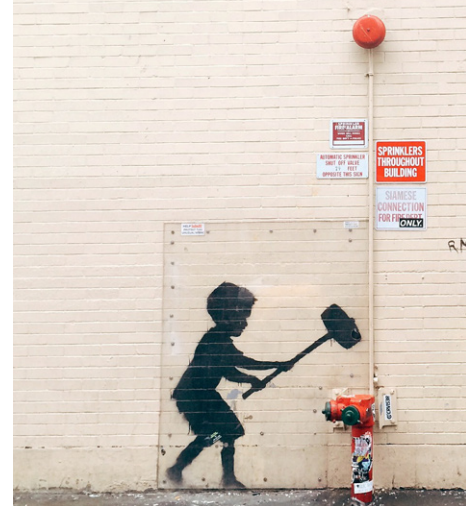
Banksy is an anonymous graffiti artist. He is originally from Bristol. The fact that he is anonymous means he keeps his identity hidden. He will not do media interviews, he won't release his real name, and he will not allow photos or copies of his artwork to be made and sold.

Graffiti is writing or drawings scribbled, scratched, or sprayed secretly on a wall or other surface in a public place. It is generally considered to be vandalism. Vandalism is a crime and vandals can be punished.

Banksy was part of the Bristol underground art scene, and he was inspired by the graffiti artist called 3D.

Banksy started working as a freehand graffiti artist in 1990 and continued to do so until 1994. He met a photographer called Steve Lazarides, who began selling his art for him. Steve then became Banksy's agent, which means he arranges exhibitions.

Banksy uses his art to give his opinion on events that are happening in the world. He is known as a political activist. The graffiti he paints shows what he thinks. The most common themes are his views on greed, poverty, despair, the obsession with celebrities, the government and war.



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