



## Our Class Artist - Banksy

### The mystery artist

**Banksy** is a British street and graffiti artist. He likes to remain anonymous and not let people know his true identity. He often draws in high visibility public places such as on buildings or train stations. His paintings are often about politics, war and other important topics.

He is rarely caught completing the art. The graffiti is done with a stencilling technique. Such works can be seen on streets, walls, and bridges of cities throughout the world.

### Beginnings

Banksy's work started in the Bristol underground scene, which had collaborations between artists and musicians. Banksy is rumoured to have been born in 1974 and raised in Bristol, England. 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". His style is similar to Blek le Rat, who began to work with stencils in 1981 in Paris, and to members of the anarcho-punk band Crass, which did a graffiti stencil campaign on the London Underground system in the late 1970s and early 1980s.



A controversial artist, Banksy has strong views on issues that affect people and uses his art to create thought provoking images.



### For sale?

Banksy displays his art for free on public surfaces such as walls and even going as far as to build physical prop pieces. He does not sell photos of street graffiti directly himself. However, art auctioneers have been known to attempt to sell his street art on location and leave the problem of its removal in the hands of the winning bidder. One of the famous pictures sold at Sotherby's shredded in the room as it was sold. Who knows where Banksy will strike next!

