

ARTIST OF THE MONTH SEPTEMBER 2024

Artist of the month is a competition that runs in school. Each month we look at a different artist and their work, children can then respond to this artist by either creating a picture, taking a photograph, writing a story, doing some research or a different response that inspires them. Mrs Britten our Art and Design subject lead shares the artist of the month via the school art notice board. The artist of the month winner will be announced at the end of each month.

To enter you need to respond to the artist however you choose. Put your entry into the 'Artist of the Month' basket next to the art gallery display or email it to enquiries@williamgilbertend.derbyshire.sch.uk with the title 'Artist of the Month'. Please enter by Friday 27th September 2024.

This month's artist is: **Banksy**



'Balloon Girl (2002)



'A Great British Spraycation' (2014)



'Girl with a Pierced Eardrum' (2014)

Banksy is an anonymous graffiti artist. That means they keep their identity hidden. They will not do media interviews, they won't release their real name, and they will not allow photos or copies of their artwork to be made and sold. Because Banksy does not like people to know their *identity* they make their art in secret, even though it is often in busy places. Their work is often about war, politics and other issues that they think are important.

Banksy's work encourages people to think about things that affect their lives and consider whether they think something in *society* is right or wrong. One of Banksy's well-known pieces is called Sweep it Under the Carpet and was made in 2006 on a wall in London. It shows a maid sweeping dirt under the cover of a brick wall. It's thought that Banksy painted it to show how he feels some countries ignore serious issues elsewhere in the world.

Banksy uses a technique called stencilling to make their art. They use spray paints to create the design on walls, trains, street signs and bridges. Stencils are created by cutting out a design from thin plastic or card. Paint is then applied through the stencil onto the surface behind. Banksy created a stencil beforehand to make spray painting the walls quicker and easier. They were also able to produce several, identical versions of the same image by using this technique.

You may have used stencils such as alphabet stencils before. You could try making your own stencil using scissors and a paintbrush to create your design.

Remember to always have permission to paint on a surface before you do!

Did you know?

- Banksy was inspired by the work of French graffiti artist Blek Le Rat.
- The word graffiti comes from the Greek word 'graphein' which means 'to write'.
- Banksy once painted the words we're bored of fish in the penguin enclosure at London Zoo.
- Although Banksy's identity is unknown, we do know they were born in Bristol in England.
- Even though some graffiti is illegal because it is done without permission, some graffiti is commissioned.

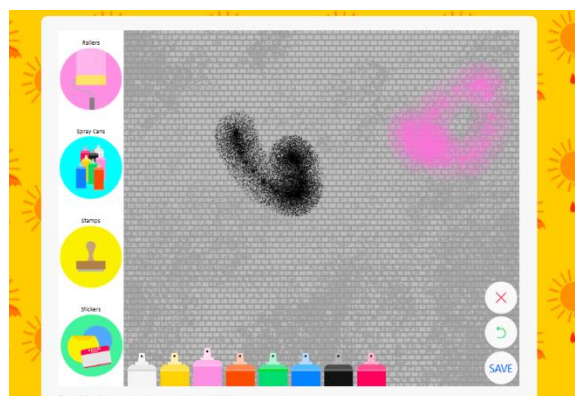
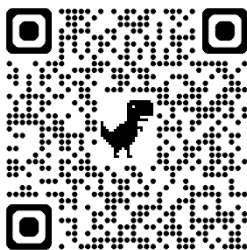
Who is Banksy? Watch the BBC bitesize video.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zd4n3qt#zy8r8p3>

Your turn Why not have a go at creating your own picture, inspired by Banksy. See the links below for inspiration. Could you make your own stencil artwork?

Visit the Tate.org website and have a go at their virtual digital street art game. Follow the link below or scan the QR code.

<https://www.tate.org.uk/kids/games-quizzes/street-art>



With a grown up visit YouTube to watch a video 'Banksy for kids – How to make your own Banksy stencil street art - Art Club special'. Follow the link below or scan the QR code.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tk_bAEsz3aE

