



BANKSY

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Banksy: who is he?

Banksy is a street artist. Banksy uses stencils to create graffiti. The question, “Who is Banksy?” is rather hard to answer, given the fact that *nobody knows* who Banksy is. Some do, these are the people that, for instance, made his website, manage his social accounts etc., but they keep his real identity secret. His unknown identity causes a lot of controversy. Some even say he doesn't exist, and instead Banksy is a style of art that is picked up by people. I find this very unlikely given the fact that he has his own website and Google Plus account. See what's happening? People start to question Banksy and discuss him, because of his gripping artwork and his mysterious identity.

That is where his fame comes from: controversy and discussion.

*In this essay, I am going to **point out** three artworks made by Banksy and **discuss** them.*



Artwork one



Yes, the title says artwork one. I don't know the name of this piece, but that is because *there are no real names to any of Banksy's work!* Having said that, I also want to point out that *I cannot* write about the artists own opinion on his work. Because again: *it is not known who is behind Banksy!* What I can give is *my and other people's* opinion on the matter.

So what is happening in this surrealistic image. You see a young, screaming, naked girl hand in hand with two of the most famous pop-culture characters: Mickey Mouse and Ronald McDonald. The girl is a 9-year old victim of the Vietnamese war. The picture of her running was originally shot by Nick Ut (see the picture on the bottom of this page). The three elements aside are realistic, the girl is a victim of war, and Mickey Mouse and Ronald McDonald however unrealistic, can also be considered realistic because of our continuous contact with them. But combine the three and you suddenly get a surrealistic image. The always happy laugh of Mickey and Ronald all of a sudden becomes a creepy laugh.

Most say that by this work of art, Banksy points out how consumerism blinds people from more urgent occurrences around the world, such as in this case, war. I personally side with this opinion.



Artwork two



This artwork depicts “Mona Lisa” with a headset on, holding a rocket launcher on her right shoulder and supporting it with her left hand, while having that oh so famous expression on her face. Of course this is a surrealistic image, as there is a significant time gap between the time of Mona Lisa and the time of the rocket launcher.

This work of art was very difficult for me to understand, I still hardly do. The mysteriousness of Mona Lisa’s smile combined with the absoluteness of the rocket launcher is amazingly gripping, though I don’t know what to make of it. Some say it’s anti-war related. There just is very little information on this piece of art. And that’s what grips me; the mysteriousness.

I’d also like to point out another piece of art, made by Banksy, that is somewhat related to the artwork above. Judge it yourself.



Artwork three



This piece depicts a rioter with, instead of a stone, firework or a Molotov, a bouquet of flowers in his hand. The bouquet is the only coloured object and symbolizes hope, of course we will never know for sure given the fact that Banksy never describes his work. An interesting point is the location of the painting; it is painted on a wall in the ancient city of Bethlehem in Israel which is constantly in the news for the conflict between the Israeli people and the Palestinian people. I think this painting is supposed to symbolize hope for the two sides.

The painting is realistic, though it sadly is not likely to happen.

Yet, a little hope is never bad.



Sources

Title page (p. 1)

Background image: white wall texture high resolution

Link: <http://loquetuquierasoir.com/white-wall-texture-high-resolutiondeluzions-free-textures-oofe.html>

Girl with balloon

Link: <http://www.christophervidal.com/blog/banksy-girl-with-balloon/>

Banksy signature

Link: <http://kunst.blog.nl/files/2011/06/banksy-tag.png>

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Banksy name + panda

Link: <http://www.kapoww-t-shirts.com/designs/banksy/B082/black2.png>

Artwork one (p. 4)

Artwork one "Napalm"

Link: <http://www.returnofkings.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/banksy-napalm.jpg>

Napalm image by Nick Ut

Link: <http://jamaispasdutoutrien.wordpress.com/2012/10/15/napalm-2004-5-banksy/>

Mickey Mouse Costume

Link: http://www.partytimecostume.net/images/pic_Mickey.png

Ronald McDonald

Link: <http://asweetlife.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/03/ronaldmcdonald.jpg>

Artwork two (p. 5)

Mona Lisa with a rocket launcher

Link: <http://blog.artsome.co/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/5.-Banksy-24.jpg>

Mona Lisa Mooning

Link:

Artwork three (p. 6)

"The flower thrower"

Link: <http://media-cache-ak0.pinimg.com/736x/f6/5a/48/f65a48c34d86f183f83d33120e5e67fe.jpg>

Edited "Flower thrower"

Link: <http://www.lindaradosinska.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/riot-for-web.jpg>

Image used in bottom left corner (pp. 2-7)

Mona Lisa with a rocket launcher

Link: https://img1.etsystatic.com/018/0/7730152/il_340x270.477186371_tbyb.jpg

Websites used for information

Yahoo Answers - Link: <https://answers.yahoo.com/question/index?qid=20100404205624AAaylwN>

Banksy's website - Link: <http://www.banksy.co.uk/>

Wikipedia page on Banksy - Link: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Banksy>

Never Not Nothing blog - Link: <http://jamaispasdutoutrien.wordpress.com/2012/10/15/napalm-2004-5-banksy/>

Banksy's 50 greatest works - Link: <http://www.complex.com/style/2013/11/banksy-greatest-works/napalm>

Stencil Revolution - Link: <http://www.stencilrevolution.com/banksy-art-prints/>

Banksy Wallstickers - Link: <http://www.banksywallstickers.com/product/flower-thrower/>

