

Artist Resources – Banksy (British, b. ca. 1974)

[Banksy website](#) run by [Pest Control](#)

[Banksy official Instagram](#)

Given his sacred anonymous status, reputable interviews with Banksy are rare, appearing at intervals throughout the years as the artist allows filming of his work and submits to conversations following happenings around his public works and private auction dealings. From a [lost 2003 video interview](#) to a phone [call with NPR in 2005](#), to interviews with [The Guardian](#), reporters and scholars attempt to reckon with figures who claim to be the artist. “The worth of the work is not about the money,” a hooded Banksy remarked in [a rare film of the artist at work](#) from 1995. “I don’t paint for anybody else. I don’t paint for critics.”

[2002’s Existentialism](#) in Los Angeles marked the first official exhibition produced by Banksy and his team, followed by London premiers of [Turf War](#) in 2003 and [Crude Oils in 2005](#), in which the artist set live rats free among paintings commenting on environmental distress. Banksy returned to LA in 2006 with [Barely Legal](#), his largest U.S. showing to date, which featured a live, [painted elephant](#).

In 2009, Banksy [took over the Bristol Museum & Art Gallery](#) with a surreal, immersive, and [quintessentially twisted exhibition](#).

2013 saw Banksy establish an [“artist residency” on the streets of New York](#), in which he produced an artwork every day in a different location during the month of October, providing clues for a scavenger hunt of sorts on Instagram.

Beginning with his work on [the Segregation Wall in 2005](#), Banksy has developed close ties to the artistic community in Palestine, culminating with 2017’s immersive and collaborative [The Walled Off Hotel](#), which still functions as genuine [tourist accommodation](#). Filmmaker, Danny Boyle, [produced a documentary](#) about the experiment.

Banksy launched a second commercial enterprise with [a product line](#) through [2019’s Gross Domestic Product](#), a pop-up show-gift shop south of London.

Unauthorized exhibitions of Banksy prints from private collections have increased in recent years, entering international public institutions and galleries in [Britain](#) and [Japan](#) as well as [Spain](#) and [Amsterdam](#) in presentations that celebrate the artist’s enigma.

A suite of official and unofficial documentaries about Banksy, his practice, public reputation and reception have been produced in the last decade, from the 2010 Oscar nominated [Exit Through the Gift Shop](#) and HBO’s 2014 [Banksy Does New York](#), to found footage-based films like 2012’s [DocoBANSKY](#) and 2014’s interview-laden art market commentary [Saving Banksy](#).



Banksy, still from *Exit Through the Gift Shop*, 2010



Banksy (British, b. ca. 1974)
Girl with Balloon (Pink), 2004
 Screenprint; AP variant in pink, edition of 88

Private Collection; L2020:122.7

On view December 23, 2020 – April 11, 2021



Banksy (British, b. ca. 1974)
Girl With Balloon, 2003
 Spraypaint on canvas

Private Collection; L2020:122.5

On view December 23, 2020 – April 11, 2021

Anonymous street artist, activist, and filmmaker Banksy is an early mainstream innovator of stencil graffiti, a technique prized for its speed and graphic efficiency. Little is known about Banksy prior to his early days as a teenage graffiti artist in 1990s' Bristol, England. He refined his craft among fellow artists before relocating to London and establishing himself as a solitary and evasive maverick of playful, poignant, and provocative stencils marking urban territory. **Girl with Balloon** is one of his earliest and most beloved images. It first appeared on London's Waterloo Bridge in 2002, and then in several other locations throughout the city, all of which were eventually painted over or removed. Banksy has since reworked the motif for political statements, including a mural on the barrier in Israel's West Bank, a digital animation in commemoration of the Syria conflict in 2014, and as satirical propaganda for the 2017 general election in the UK.

In a rare public comment, Banksy explained the subtle power and breadth behind his chosen medium of stencil graffiti: "All graffiti is low-level dissent, but stencils have an extra history. They've been used to start revolutions and to stop wars."

Banksy (British, b. ca. 1974)
NOLA (Multi-Color Rain), 2009
Screenprint; AP variant in multi-color,
edition of 66

Private Collection; L2020:122.2

On view December 14, 2020 – April 11, 2021



Banksy (British, b. ca. 1974)
NOLA (Orange Rain), 2008
Screenprint; AP, edition of 66

Private Collection; L2020:122.1

*On view December 14, 2020 –
April 11, 2021*



Banksy (British, b. ca. 1974)
NOLA (Green Rain), 2009
Screenprint; AP variant in green,
edition of 66

Private Collection; L2020:122.6

*On view December 14, 2020 –
April 11, 2021*

“Graffiti is one of the few tools you have if you have almost nothing. And even if you don’t come up with a picture to cure world poverty you can make someone smile,” reflected the enigmatic artist known as Banksy in 2001 as he was catapulting to popular and critical acclaim for his stencil graffiti in London. His NOLA series was created in response to Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Gustave, which ravaged New Orleans in 2005 and 2008. It first appeared in 2008 in the city’s Marigny neighborhood as one of fourteen commemorative stencils created by the artist, most of which have been destroyed. In this image, which takes its title from the city’s affectionate nickname, a girl stands beneath an umbrella with a tentative hand extended to test the ferocity of the downpour around her, which, upon closer examination, is revealed to issue from the umbrella itself. As Banksy reworked the image in print, he added a characteristic pop of color with a neon deluge, accentuating a poignant comment on false or unreliable systems that vow protection from a storm.



Banksy (British, b. ca. 1974)
Stop and Search, 2007
Screenprint; edition of 500

Private Collection; L2020:122.9

On view December 14, 2020 – April 11, 2021



Banksy (British, b. ca. 1974)
Police Kids, 2009
Screenprint; edition of 500

Private Collection; L2020:122.4

On view December 14, 2020 – April 11, 2021



Banksy (British, b. ca. 1974)
No Ball Games, 2009
Screenprint; AP, edition of 250

Private Collection; L2020:122.3

On view December 14, 2020 – April 11, 2021



Banksy (British, b. ca. 1974)
Bomb Love (Bomb Hugger), 2003
Screenprint; edition of 600

Private Collection; L2020:122.8

On view January 4 – April 11, 2021