

BANKSY

'Banksy' is the name of a graffiti artist from Britain. Nobody knows his real name and few people have seen him. He has become famous for his street art, which has appeared in London and in other cities around the world. He has to stay unknown because graffiti is illegal. Nobody has caught him yet.

His images are very striking and often funny, and their message is usually anti-war, anti-capitalism and pro-freedom. He has claimed responsibility for a number of famous stunts over the past few years. For example, in 2001 he climbed into the penguin area at London Zoo and wrote 'We're bored of fish' in two-metre high letters on the wall. In May 2005, he made a primitive cave painting, showing a human hunting animals with a shopping trolley. He hung it secretly on the wall at the British Museum. ¹ In August of the same year, he painted nine images on the Palestinian side of the Israeli West Bank wall, including a picture of children digging a hole through the wall.

Nowadays, Banksy does some paid work for charities such as Greenpeace. He refuses to work for big businesses or do advertising. He has also started painting pictures. He has done a series of paintings based on famous works of art, such as Monet's *Water-Lily Pond*, except with rubbish floating in the water and a shopping trolley sticking out. ²

Pavement Picasso

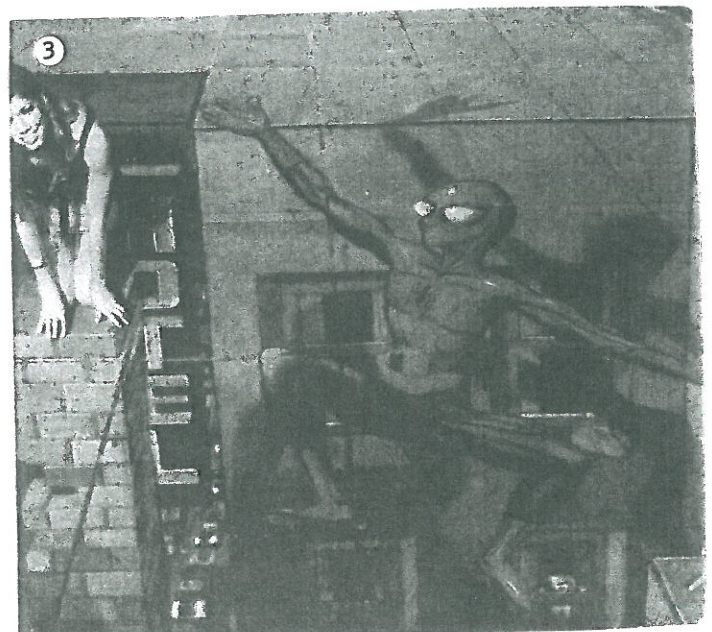
'Pavement Picasso' is another name for Julian Beaver, a chalk artist from Britain. He has been creating chalk drawings on the pavement for over ten years now. He has worked in cities all over the world, from Brussels to New York.

He works in chalk, so his art, which takes about three days to complete, can easily be destroyed by a shower of rain. The most important thing for him is to get a photo at the end before that happens.

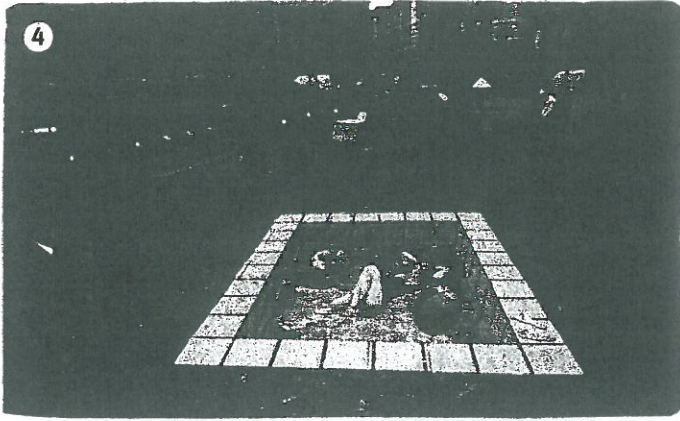
He first started pavement drawing with copies of famous paintings like the *Mona Lisa* in the streets of Europe. Then he painted portraits of famous people; for example, when Princess Diana died, he did a portrait of her on a London pavement. ³

But he is most famous for his amazing 3D images, which he started doing a few years ago. He can do a painting on the pavement which looks like a gigantic bottle of Coke standing in the road when you look at it from a certain angle. ⁴ Some of his most elaborate 3D images show someone diving into a swimming pool, or being rescued from a building by Spiderman!

Nowadays, Beaver is often paid by companies to advertise their products, but he still works on the pavement. He says, 'My art is for anybody, it's for people who wouldn't go into an art gallery. It's art for the people.'



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V. Reading

- I. Read the text quickly. Decide which two of the pictures (1-4) are by Banksy, and which two are by Pavement Picasso.
- 1 _____
 2 _____
 3 _____
 4 _____

II. Match the sentences with gaps 1-4 in the text. There is one sentence that you do not need.

- a He sells them in a small gallery in London, but you'll never see him there.
- b He earns money by charging people to see his pictures.
- c He usually puts himself in the painting when he takes a photo of his work.
- d The Museum has since allowed it to stay there.
- e He also painted Bill Clinton on a New York sidewalk when he became President of the United States.

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____

III. Decide if the sentences are true or false for each artist.

	Banksy	Pavement Picasso
1 He's British.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 He works outside.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 People know his real name.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 Some of his work is illegal.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5 He does advertisements.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6 He sells his work.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7 His work is political.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8 His work disappears if it rains.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9 He has done work based on famous works of art.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

IV. Find words in the text that mean:

Banksy:

- 1. against the law _____
- 2. very interesting and unusual _____
- 3. belonging to a very simple society _____
- 4. rejects _____
- 5. waste _____

Pavement Picasso

- 6. incredible _____
- 7. very big _____
- 8. very detailed and complicated _____

V. Choose ONE text and write a summary of it in about 50 words: