

Death threats over new Banksy painting

19th April, 2014



A new painting by the "guerilla artist" Banksy is currently the focus of a heated argument in the city of Bristol, England. The painting appeared overnight on a building. The

leader of a nearby youth club, Dennis Stinchcombe, couldn't believe his luck when he saw it and discovered it was a Banksy that could be worth up to \$150,000. He prised it off the wall using a crowbar and stored it in the youth club. However, the city mayor said Mr Stinchcombe had no right to take the painting as it was on the wall of a city-owned building. The mayor wants the painting put back. Stinchcombe said it would be vandalised and hopes to auction it to raise money for the youth club. He has since received death threats from angry Banksy fans.

The painting has been called "Mobile Lovers". It depicts a man and woman embracing while checking out their mobile phones over one another's shoulder. Art by Banksy is much sought after the world over. The mysterious artist, who is only known by the pseudonym Banksy, has become famous for paintings left on walls and buildings around the world. Many have been removed by building owners and caused similar spats. Wikipedia says Banksy's work combines, "dark humour with graffiti executed in a distinctive stenciling technique." Banksy's work is heavy on political and social commentary. The city mayor said it was "against the spirit of Banksy and street art" to remove it from where the artist put it.

Sources: BBC / The Guardian / Metro.co.uk

Writing

Graffiti is real art and should be put in art galleries and museums. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

painting / argument / youth club / \$150,000 / vandalized / auction / death treats / embracing / mobile phone / sought after / dark humour / social commentary / artist

True / False

- The article described Banksy as a "gorilla artist". T / F
- The Banksy painting had been on the building for over a week. T / F
- A mayor said it was wrong to remove the painting from the wall. T / F
- The person who took it thinks it might have been vandalised. T / F
- The painting is called "Love of Mobiles". T / F
- Banksy is also known by the name Jo Chameleon. T / F
- Banksy produces paintings on buildings all over the world. T / F
- The mayor said street art should remain where the artist made it. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. heated | a. pulled |
| 2. appeared | b. collect |
| 3. prised | c. strived for |
| 4. put back | d. shows |
| 5. raise | e. passionate |
| 6. depicts | f. merges |
| 7. sought after | g. profuse with |
| 8. combines | h. turned up |
| 9. heavy on | i. opinion |
| 10. commentary | j. returned |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you think when you see a couple on a date not talking because they are busy on their mobile?
- What do you think of the fact that no one knows who Banksy really is?
- Is Banksy more famous because he/she is a mystery?
- What do you think of graffiti as an art form?
- Should all paintings focus on social commentary and say something?
- What kind of art do you like and why?
- Should street art stay where it was done/painted?
- What questions would you like to ask Banksy?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. guerilla | a. his luck |
| 2. a heated | b. threats |
| 3. couldn't believe | c. social commentary |
| 4. prised it | d. artist |
| 5. death | e. the world over |
| 6. It depicts a man and woman | f. argument |
| 7. much sought after | g. of Banksy |
| 8. Banksy's work combines dark | h. embracing |
| 9. heavy on political and | i. off the wall |
| 10. against the spirit | j. humour with graffiti |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about street art?
- What do you think of Banksy's picture "Mobile Lovers"?
- What do you know about Banksy and his/her paintings?
- What is a "guerilla artist"? What do you think of this concept?
- If an artist puts a painting on a wall, can anyone take it?
- Who does the Banksy painting belong to?
- Should the youth club auction the painting?
- Why do people issue death threats over things like this?

Spelling

- A new painting by the "lulirega artist" Banksy
- The painting aeapeprd overnight on a building
- doeacidvsr it was a Banksy
- He peirsd it off the wall
- Stinchcombe said it would be svndelaiad
- He has since evcireed death threats
- It depicts a man and woman nemcargib
- much ustohg after the world over
- The ssrmiyetuo artist
- dark humour with tfrfiaig
- a nievtsdtici stenciling technique
- political and social mmrtyoecna

Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. h	3. a	4. j	5. b
6. d	7. c	8. f	9. g	10. i

Role Play

Role A – Art gallery

You think an art gallery is the best place for art. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): the Internet, the side of a bus or someone's home.

Role B – The Internet

You think the Internet is the best place for art. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): an art gallery, the side of a bus or someone's home.

Role C – The side of a bus

You think the side of a bus is the best place for art. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): the Internet, an art gallery or someone's home.

Role D – Someone's home

You think someone's home is the best place for art. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): the Internet, the side of a bus or an art gallery.

Speaking – Venue

Rank these with your partner. Put the best place for art at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- on a city wall
- in an art gallery
- on the Internet
- on the side of a bus
- on soda cans
- in books
- in homes
- in schools

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	F	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.