



STREET ART EXHIBITION

SPOTLIGHT ON THE ARTWORKS OF STUDENTS



The students from 1G04 and 1G05 recently worked on a unit dedicated to street art. They had to reflect upon **how street art redefines art and to what extent street art is a tool for social change and political commentary**. During a lesson, the students were invited to reflect upon an extract from Banksy's book. Here is the text :

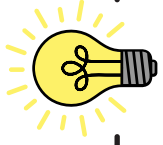
Imagine a city where graffiti wasn't illegal, a city where everybody could draw whatever they liked. Where every street was awash with a million colours and little phrases. Where standing at a bus stop was never boring. A city that felt like a party where everyone was invited, not just the estate agents and barons of big business. [...]

The people who run our cities don't understand graffiti because they think nothing has the right to exist unless it makes a profit. The people who truly deface our neighborhoods are the companies that scrawl giant slogans across buildings and buses trying to make us feel inadequate unless we buy their stuff. Any advertisement in public space that gives you no choice whether to see it or not belongs to you, it's yours to take, rearrange and re-use.

Banksy, *Wall and Piece*, Century, 2006.



In this passage, Banksy clearly **confronts his utopian world and our current dystopia**. On a voluntary basis, students could submit their artwork, **inspired from Banksy's text**. They either had to **draw what the text inspired them, or to express their own utopia**. Let's hope you'll enjoy the exhibition !



NOTA BENE

L'exposition est en plusieurs étapes : une partie des oeuvres est exposée dans le hall du lycée, l'autre partie se situe au niveau du CDI et dans le couloir du premier étage. N'hésitez pas à aller y jeter un coup d'oeil !



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ATTENTION

Les élèves ont passé beaucoup de temps pour créer ces productions artistiques. Merci de respecter le travail de vos camarades et de ne pas dégrader les panneaux et les oeuvres exposées. Tout abus sera sévèrement sanctionné.



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UTOPIAS INSPIRED FROM BANKSY'S TEXT

Before even starting my essay, I wanted to take a look at Banksy's book in order to understand why he wrote that. So I understood that he was talking about rats. Therefore, I noted this quote "If you are dirty, insignificant and unloved then rats are the ultimate role model".

Thus I thought about a world, a country, a city, or whatever, in which **the only means of expression was art**. No matter how talented you were, in order to interact with the political world, you had to either paint, sing or draw. This is a **complete new way to express the political world** because now each culture can express itself thanks to their culture and their own art.

In the real world, the most eloquent people are the ones with the most power, but in this new world, people would be split between the artists with the most impactful novels, graffitis, carvings, etc. This is actually a great idea because nowadays a huge majority of the art is linked to the historical, social or economic context of their people. The only obstacle to this new form of culture are the politicians themselves who don't really **consider the artists as really important political activists**.

So in this new world, **where a song and a painting would have the same value as speech, the political landscape would be completely redefined**. And, such as the art that would be provided by this new regime, **it's up to the observer to decide whether this idea is a utopia or a dystopia**.

Louis Labbé Reinhardt (1G05)





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UTOPIAS INSPIRED FROM BANKSY'S TEXT

In this drawing a little girl, who is me (there is no resemblance but that's okay) stands in front of a golden mirror. However, what she sees is not just her reflection : it's her ideal, her utopia, the world as she wishes it to be.

A world where kindness is given, where everyone can be freely themselves, without fear or judgement. The mirror reflects a globe at the centre surrounded by a rainbow of vibrant colours, symbolising the support and acceptance of the LGBT+ community. Each shade carries words of hope, **essential values that should define our reality : respect, equality and tolerance.** On an outstretched hand, a powerful message : “In a world where you can be anything”. And if we had this choice, why not choose to be kind ? This drawing conveys **a deep desire for humanity, a world free of injustice, where everyone would have their place and where diversity would no longer be a barrier but a strength.** It invites us to look beyond the present, and like this child, to dream of a better future. And perhaps, by believing strongly enough, **we too could begin to build this world.**

Lina Rhabib (1G07)



This drawing of mine was inspired by some of Banksy's sayings in his book *Wall and Piece*, in which he claims that advertisements are ruining the cities in spite of graffiti. He then imagine a utopian world where colours and freedom of painting are a thing. It is opposed to the dystopian world that he depicts as ruled by "big barons" and billboards whose only goal is to make profit.

I tried to represent the author's feelings with this drawing. On the left side, we can see Banksy's utopia : there are colours and tags everywhere, even on subway trains, a lot of people are present and **everybody can express how they feel by tagging all throughout the city**. I wrote some quotes in bright colours as well as **a disco ball to make it seem like "a party where everyone was invited"**. There are colours in every corner of the city.

Nevertheless, on the right side, there isa the dystopian-like city. There are a lot of big greyish billboards with ads on them. There are some texts highlighting the importance of the consumption society, and I also drew some eyes with dollar signs in them to **symbolise the constant greed of big firms**.

Inès Garèche (1G05)



In this drawing the scene is divided into two parts that **illustrate two opposing visions go the city and society**, in line with Banksy's ideas.

On the left, a child is painting colourful graffitis on a wall. The landscape is alive with blue skies and **a tree symbolising creative freedom, joy and openness to all**. On the right, an adult woman in a grey, polluted city, indifferent tot her surroundings because she's on her phone.

This visual opposition underlines Banksy's critique of consumerist society and omnipresent advertising. He defends a free art form, accessible to all, like graffiti, against a culture of advertising that, in his view, degrades the urban landscape and serves only to make a profit. **The drawing shows two contrasting worlds : one creative and inclusive, the other driven by money.**

Clara Saadoun (1G05)

This artwork represents **the contrast between a consumerist society and the possibility of a rebellion through art**. The grey city, filled with touring buildings covered with advertisement, symbolises a world where money and consumption lead to success and happiness. Slogans like "Luxury is success" ; "Buy now, think later" and "Happiness comes in a Shopping Bag" highlight **the absurdity of a system that reduces human worth to financial value**.

At the centre, the black silhouette of an artist defies this consumerist world by painting a peace symbol. This act of creation stands in contrast to the passive consumption promoted by the advertisements. A surveillance camera watches from above, reminding us that **even acts of artistic resistance are controlled**. Like Banksy, this piece questions the world we live in and suggests that art can be a form of defiance, pushing people to reflect on the values imposed by society.

Louisa Hulot (1G05)

For this drawing, I wanted to represent this sentence from Banksy “**Imagine a city where graffiti wasn’t illegal, a city where everybody could draw whatever they liked**” by putting colours and graffiti everywhere.

In addition, Banksy wrote “Where standing at a bus stop was never boring”, so I draw a person waiting for the bus who imagines the bus overturning to trick the eye.

Finally I wanted to try to **represent several works by famous street artists** :

- From Banksy : Girl with a Balloon, Hung Lover
- From Roa : The Strange Pose of an Alligator plays with the architecture of an Atlanta Building
- From Thomas Vuille : MChat
- From Jef Aérosol : Chut (Chuuuut!)
- And also Keith Haring’s style

But there are also **lesser known artists** such as Kenzie (The Crack with the Spring), Sweo, Nikita, Kalouf and many more !

Louis Aubert (1G05)

This drawing illustrates three monkeys on top of each other. It is a **satirical critique of an unjust system**. I wanted to show through art the financial and political system, where **money circulates between elites in a circle of corruption**. The expression of the monkeys suggests indifference to the injustice in this world, while their posture evokes a pyramid of power, where those at the bottom suffer while those at the top enrich themselves and where each level relies on the exploitation of the lower level.

Nour Asri (1G05)

Raphaël-Gloria Nsom Bikomo (1G04)

Nico Rozenkranc (1G04)

Julia Behar (1G04)

Ela Zerouki & Ethel Cohen (1G04)

Ambre Dericq-Leroy (1G04)

Thomas Gaye & Nikita Duroselle (1G04)

Benjamin Belorgey (1G04)

Jules Aubert (1G04)

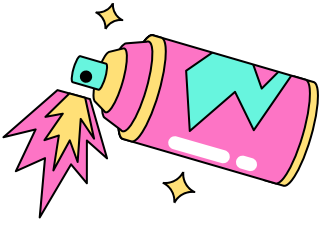
Angie Balasteguin (1G04)



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LET'S VOTE !

What artwork did you like most ? Let us know !



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Ela Zerouki & Ethel Cohen (1G04)

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