

An Exploration of Artwork by Shepard Fairey

By Paula Briggs

This resource explores aspects of Fairey's work, as shared with teenagers aged 12 and 13.

In particular the resource takes inspiration from Fairey's methods of production and use of imagery to make work which might be defined as propaganda art. [You can see the practical studio session which followed our exploration here](#) and [our resulting outcomes here](#).

***Frank Shepard Fairey** (born February 15, 1970) is an American contemporary street artist, graphic designer, activist, illustrator and founder of [OBEY Clothing](#) who emerged from the skateboarding scene. He first became known for his "[Andre the Giant Has a Posse](#)" (...OBEY...) sticker campaign while attending the [Rhode Island School of Design](#) (RISD).*

#MAKEAMERICASMARTAGAIN



Shephard Fairey

Fairey became widely known during the 2008 U.S. presidential election for his [Barack Obama "Hope" poster](#). The [Institute of](#)

[Contemporary Art, Boston](#) has described him as one of the best known and most influential street artists.^[4] [Wikipedia](#)

Videos Sharing Fairey's Creative Practice

Teenagers were shown the following videos in which Fairey shares aspects of his creative process.

After watching the videos, the group discussed the various stages/actions of Fairey's printmaking process:

- Making a printable surface: collaging papers with history and painting over them
- Creating stencils for use with screen printing or spray paint
- Layering of imagery
- Sanding
- Varnishing

We also discussed his use of symbols or icons and visually strong graphics.

Using the images below as starting points for further discussion, we also briefly talked about:

- What is propaganda art?
- What kinds of visual devices might it rely upon?
- How does Fairey use and limit colour?
- How does he use text within his imagery?



We The People by Shepard Fairey



We The People (detail) by Shepard Fairey



◊ WE THE PEOPLE ◊

DEFEND DIGNITY

We the People by Shepard Fairey



The Black Hills by Shepard Fairey

[See how the teenagers went on to define their own "message to the world" here.](#)

<https://obeygiant.com/>

This is a sample of a resource created by UK Charity AccessArt. We have over 1500 resources to help develop and inspire your creative thinking, practice and teaching.

AccessArt welcomes artists, educators, teachers and parents both in the UK and overseas.

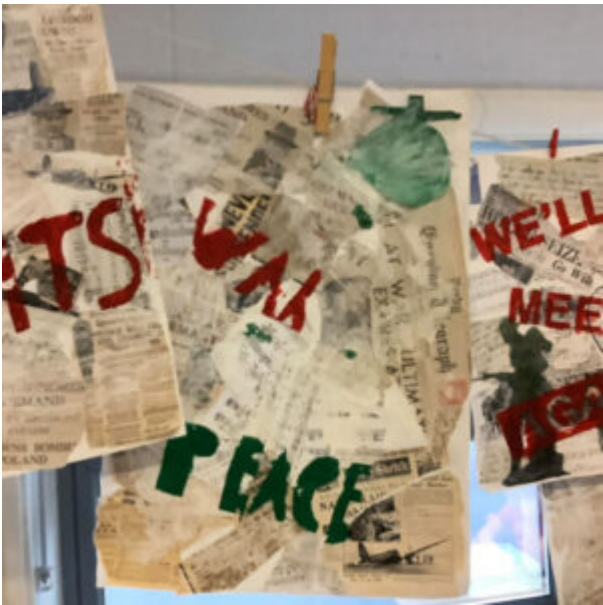
We believe everyone has the right to be creative and by working together and sharing ideas we can enable everyone to reach their creative potential.

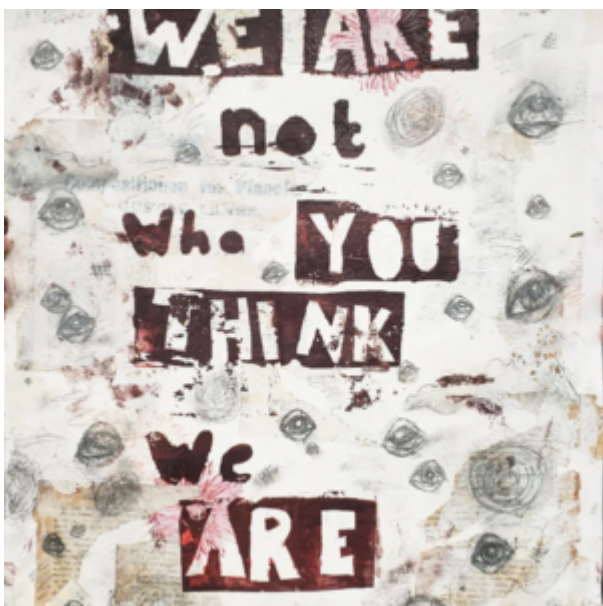
Screen Printing with Screen Mesh: Screen Printing Hack

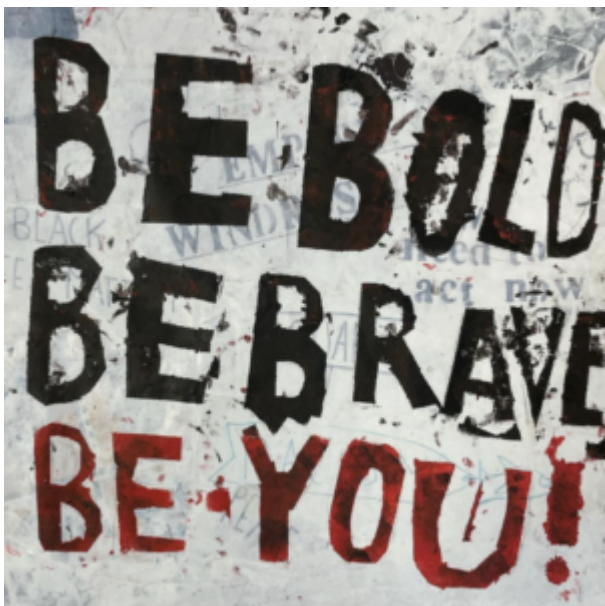
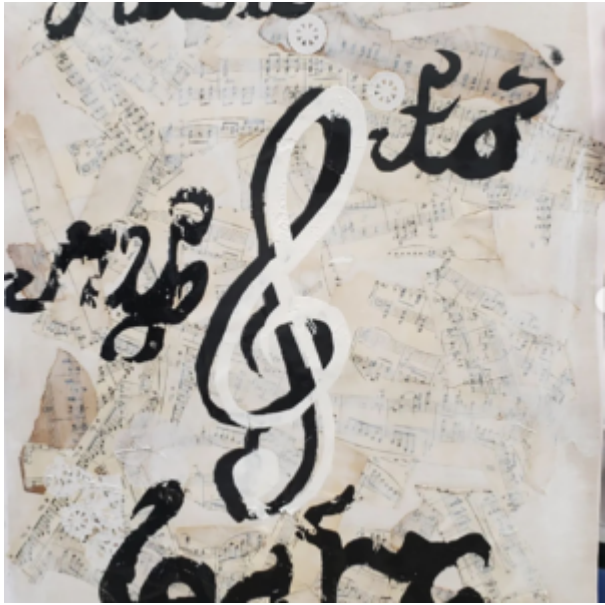
Teenagers Make Propaganda Art Inspired by Shepard Fairey

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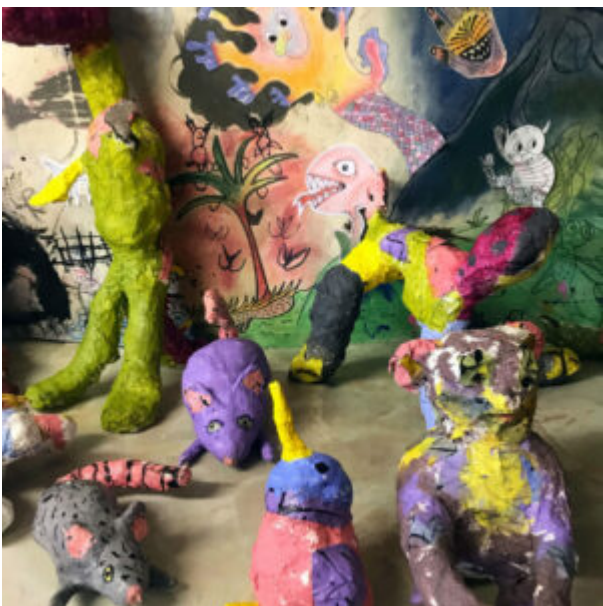


Talking Points: Shepard Fairey



Making Sculptural “Wild Things” (Session 2 & 3)

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Working with Ink

In this one hour session, led by artist Melissa Pierce Murray, students explore techniques and properties of Quink and Black India Inks, and how to build up a drawing using the medium.

Making an Ink and Wax Village with Pupils in Mansfield

Wax Resist Autumn Leaves by Rosie James

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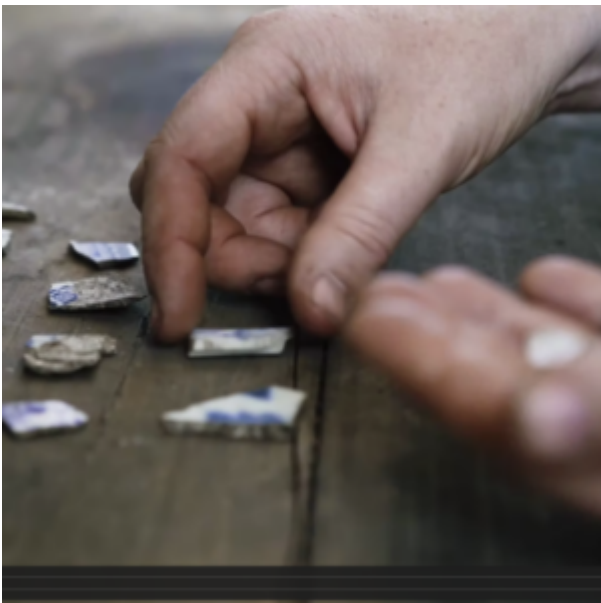
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Wave Bowls

In this session children make 'wave bowls' with Paula Briggs – a session where the pieces literally 'come together'.

Ink & Foamboard Architecture

Inspired by "Amphis" by Folke Köbberling and Martin Kaltwasser at Wysing Arts Centre, this post shares how the children went on to make architectural models based upon their exploration with Paula Briggs.

Graphic Inky Still Life!

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Using Sketchbooks to Take

Ownership of Ideas

Drawing Into Space with Melissa Pierce Murray

In this session, artist Melissa Pierce Murray invited students to create three-dimensional drawings from tape, string and paper, using the entire room as our canvas.

Inky Objects with Melissa Pierce Murray

In this workshop I introduced the idea of thinking of the piece of paper as an object to shape, rather than a picture plane to fill.

Teenagers Paint a Canvas with Scolaquip

**Landscape Painting: Tone in
the Landscape**

**Teenagers Write A Letter, A
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**What is a Canvas? Exploration
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Our River – Year Five Pupils Build a Communal Drawing in Four Steps