STREET ART is art, specifically visual art, developed in public spaces — that is, "in the streets" — though the term usually refers to unsanctioned art, as opposed to government sponsored initiatives. The term can include traditional graffiti artwork, sculpture, stencil graffiti, sticker art, wheat pasting and street poster art, video projection, art intervention, guerrilla art, and street installations. Typically, the term street art or the more specific post-graffiti is used to distinguish contemporary public-space artwork from territorial graffiti, vandalism, and corporate art.

Expressions for Giving Opinions used in speaking and writing:

1. In my opinion,
2. If you ask me,
3. In my view,
4. Do you want to know what I think?
5. I'd say…
6. What I think is that…
7. For me,
8. I'll tell you what I think,
9. The way I see it,
10. I personally think that…
11. As far as I'm concerned,
12. To be honest, (usually followed by a negative statement)



graffiti (n.)

1851, for ancient wall inscriptions found in the ruins of Pompeii, from Italian graffiti, plural of graffito "a scribbling," a diminutive formation from graffio "a scratch or scribble," from graffiare "to scribble," ultimately from Greek graphein "to scratch, draw, write" (see -graphy). Sense extended 1877 to recently made crude drawings and scribbling.

ACTIVITY 1 – *Public opinion*

Using the above expressions, discuss the following questions with your partner:

1. In your opinion, what does street art represent in society today?
2. What types of street art do you like/dislike?
3. What is your opinion about graffiti and do you consider it an art form?
4. Do you think that street artists are considered to be professional artists?
5. Have you ever made your own street art or do you know any street artists?



ACTIVITY 2 – *Describing artwork*

Let's look at some examples of street art as a group and give our opinions on the different works using the same expressions. http://www.boredpanda.com/creative-street-art/

Here are some words we can use to describe the street art:

Amazing	Controversial	Lifelike	Stirring	Ugly
Amusing	Clever	Poignant	Startling	Urban
Beautiful	Crass	Political	Stunning	Well-designed
Breathtaking	Gaudy	Realistic	Touching	Well drawn

ACTIVITY 3 – Two amazing street artists: A Frenchman and an Englishman

JR (born 22/2/83) is the name of a photographer and artist whose identity is unconfirmed. Calling himself a "photograffeur", he **flyposts** large black-and-white photographic images in public locations in a way that is similar to the appropriation of walls and buildings by graffiti artists. He began on the streets of Paris and says that the street is "the largest art gallery in the world." JR's work "often challenges widely held preconceptions and the reductive images **propagated** by advertising and the media."



JR's work combines art and action and deals with commitment, freedom, identity and limits. He has been introduced by Fabrice Bousteau as: "the one we already call the Cartier-Bresson of the 21st century". In October 2010, JR won the TED Prize for 2011. "The TED Prize is awarded annually to an exceptional individual who receives $100,000 and, much more importantly, 'One Wish to Change the World.'

For more info on JR: http://www.guardian.co.uk/artanddesign/2010/mar/07/street-art-jr-photography
Let's take a look at some of JR's work: http://www.jr-art.net/

Bansky is a pseudonymous England-based graffiti artist, political activist, film director, and painter. Born in 1974 and raised in Bristol, England, his satirical street art and subversive epigrams combine dark humour with graffiti done in a distinctive stencilling technique. Such artistic works of political and social commentary have been featured on streets, walls, and bridges of cities throughout the world.

Banksy's work was made up of the Bristol underground scene which involved collaborations between artists and musicians. The son of a photocopier technician, he trained as a butcher but became involved in graffiti during the great Bristol aerosol boom of the late 1980s.



Known for his contempt for the government in labelling graffiti as vandalism, Banksy displays his art on public surfaces such as walls, even going as far as to build physical prop pieces. Banksy does not sell photos of street graffiti directly himself; however, art auctioneers have been known to attempt to sell his street art on location and leave the problem of its removal in the hands of the winning bidder.

Banksy's first film, Exit Through the Gift Shop, billed as "the world's first street art disaster movie," made its debut at the 2010 Sundance Film Festival. The film was released in the UK on 5 March 2010. In January 2011, he was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Documentary for the film.

Let's take a look at some of Banksy's work - http://www.banksy.co.uk/outdoors/index1.html

ACTIVITY 4 – Questions about the artists

1. Whose style do you prefer, and why?
2. Which of JR's projects or pieces of art did you like the most?
3. In your opinion, which project would have made the most impact?
4. Which of Banksy's works of art did you prefer?
5. Which one do you think caused the most controversy?

ACTIVITY 5 – The Conditional – Hypothetical situations

Here are some examples of the conditional used to talk about hypothetical situations:

- **If I had** time, **I would learn** more about street art.
- **If I were** a street artist, **I would** definitely **be** a sculptor.
- **If I had** the means, **I might buy** one of JR's artworks at an auction.
- **If I were** creative, **I could use** my talents to help those in need.
- **If I found** myself in the middle of the most dangerous favela, **I may well be** very scared!



ACTIVITY 6 – Hypothetically speaking…

What would you do in the following situations? Use the above formulations to help you.

1. What would you do if you came across someone in the street who was …
    a. Defacing a brand new building with random graffiti?
    b. Spray-painting a beautiful picture on the wall?
    c. Tagging something racist on a wall?
2. What would you do if you uncovered JR's secret identity?
3. What would you ask JR or Banksy if you met one of them?
4. If you had some 'urban' art on the outside of your house or in your garden, what would it be?
5. If you were a street artist, what would be the focus of your work (i.e. simply aesthetic, political, funny, etc.) and what city would you choose as your canvas?

ACTIVITY 7 – Graffiti and hip hop

Graffiti is a fundamental part of hip hop culture. Hip hop is characterized by four distinct elements, all of which represent the different manifestations of the culture: rap music, turntablism or "DJing", breakdancing and graffiti art. Originating as a specific street subculture within African-American communities during the 1970s in The Bronx in New York City, hip hop later spread its influence to Latin American communities.



Now let's listen to a famous hip hop classic and 'try' to rap along with the lyrics!