

## Alias: Jameson

### Task 2

## Shredding of Girl with Balloon

Street artist Banksy, the artist whose name is only known by this pseudonym, is famous for creating some quite popular yet controversial images. For those reading this unfamiliar with his work – he creates satirical street art (graffiti), submissive epigrams, and combines dark- and political humor.

In October 2018, one of the most popular- and recreated works of Banksy was about to be auctioned off. Girl with Balloon. The piece went for £1.02M to a lady participating as a buyer at the auction at Sotheby. To the audiences' consternation, the piece was shredded down through the frame as it was lifted off the wall. Scandalous.

### Art will eat itself

After the incident, Banksy himself posted a video to his Instagram, showing the shredder in the making and how the piece of art was designed to fit in it. We're yet to find out how he managed to "activate" the shredding procedure, but it has later on been said that "*Banksy didn't destroy an artwork in the auction, he created one,*" and a journalist called it the first artwork in history to have been created live during an auction. Today, the piece formerly known as "Girl with Balloon" has been given a new name; Love is in the bin. The newly titled piece will be hung for public viewing in the auction house's galleries, and has gained a new bold value, where it's estimated worth is now £2M.



The stunt, which set social media alight, has quickly become part of art history and to explain his rationale for destroying his own creation, he quoted Picasso: "The urge to destroy is also a creative urge".

Has Banksy, an artist known for his modern graffiti art (or to some; vandalism) given an old piece new life by evidently making it performance art? Regardless of what category you place it in, the purpose of the whole charade is discussed to be a message from Banksy, not to auction off his work.

### A purpose

It could of course also be a stunt for publicity, given he was able to predict the possibility of the cash value of "Girl with balloon" increasing. However, I believe in the theory that the goal wasn't to stop auctioneers from selling his art - the goal was to expose the superficiality of selling his work while selling the work. That's why Banksy at his best is so good. He can comment on the art world from within it or from the outside of it. He simply has his cake and he eats it. He would like people to stop selling his art and respect his demands as an artist.

<https://news.artnet.com/art-world/shredded-banksy-stuttgart-1446946>