

# **"FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS - CANCELLED"**

## **BY BANKSY**



This work of art is one of Banksy's most popular. What catches our eye is the word "cancelled" in red that covers the sentence "follow your dreams". This was created in May 2010 in Boston, Massachusetts. It's basically saying that it's not worth it anymore to chase our dreams, because they eventually never come true. I assume that Banksy wanted to say, throughout a quite negative message, that the events happening in the world are becoming more and more frequent these days, and that if we once had dreams, we shouldn't anymore because it doesn't matter. The world as it is now, all the violence, racism and discrimination doesn't allow us to dream, follow them, and have a purpose that will make us happy, because we're not leaving in such great conditions. There are a lot of problems in the world, in politics with the election of Trump, extreme violence, terrorist attacks, sexism and injustice in several domains. It leads to a world that is starting to become harsh and difficult to live in and in which being able to dream freely becomes a chance.

I think Banksy doesn't feel like people are lucky enough nowadays. That's why he's saying our dreams are "cancelled".

I think this graffiti denounces, by a simple phrase, a deeper meaning which would probably be the real issues of the world. A major example that I believe happens a lot lately is immigration. Usually, migrants leave or escape their country, whether it is because of their situation, or maybe to find a better life. This is where the idea of dreaming occurs. People that are in bad conditions such as migrants must believe in something. Hope helps them survive. BUT, Banksy tells us, then, that it's cancelled. This is relatable to migrants because it's very hard to make it or even be socially accepted in another country. When people from a foreign country are about to arrive, reality resurfaces and dreams are forgotten.

Let's not forget that Graffiti is a part of the ART OF PROTEST. It was originally coming off the 60's. It was first seen in Philadelphia, then in New York. It has always been and still is a way to protest and express yourself. Damaging the city is showing your ignorance and anger.

## **"NO BALL GAMES" BY BANKSY**



This is another piece of art made by Banksy. It first appeared in 2006 in Los Angeles. I think this artwork stays in a way, in the same spirit as the one before. It's about this whole point of restrictions and prohibitions, mainly I guess here towards children. Indeed "follow your dreams – cancelled" is pretty much aimed at everyone but I think kids are the most concerned. Youngsters are naive, usually happy and dream of big things and a bright future, which is sometimes quite surreal. We can see that instead of a ball being thrown, it's a sign "no ball games". It reminds us, as well as the other artwork, that freedom, liberty to be yourself, dreaming and even here having fun like two innocent children is forbidden. Anything that brings joy is replaced or restricted. Rights are still reconsidered and as simple as dreaming and playing is, it could be suppressed at any moment.