



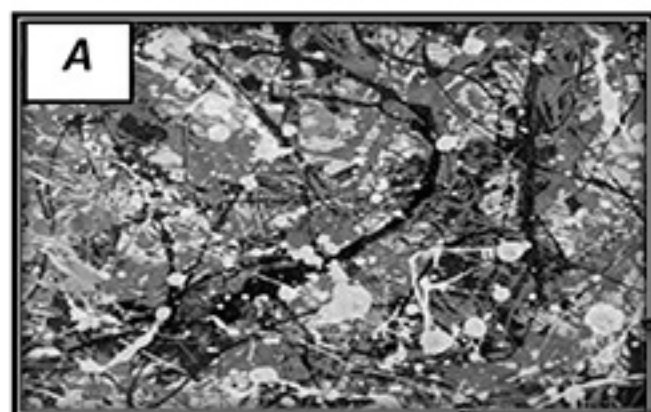
INSPIRE YOUR HEART WITH ART DAY



1. Discussion: Talk to your partner, ask and answer these questions:

- What is art? Give examples.
- Is graffiti art or vandalism? Why?
- Can children's drawings be called art?
- Is it easy to make a living on art? Why (not)?
- Look at the **five** works of art. What do you think they show?

2. SCANNING: Quickly read the text and complete the questions with the name of the artist and the price.



By _____
Price _____



By _____
Price _____



By _____
Price _____



By _____
Price _____



By _____
Price _____

Art and Money

1. ____ In 2006 a Mexican businessman paid \$140 million for *No 5 1948*, by American artist Jackson Pollock. It was the most expensive painting ever sold. But is any work of art worth such an incredible price? Pollock created his abstract **swirls of colour** by **dripping** paint onto the **canvas**, often dancing as he did it and for many in the art world, he was a genius. Not everyone agrees though; one critic has compared his paintings to wallpaper!

2. ____ At least Jackson Pollock was **appreciated** during his lifetime. Not all great artists have been so lucky. Dutch artist Vincent Van Gogh only sold one painting in his entire career and his brother had to support him financially throughout his life. He died of poverty at the age of 37, unknown to the world. Yet a hundred years later, almost any work by Van Gogh is worth millions. His *Portrait of Dr Gachet* sold for \$82.3m in 1990.

3. ____ Other artists are more fortunate in their lifetime: Picasso and Dali were multimillionaires when they died. The **controversial** British artist Damien Hirst is perhaps the most successful living artist of all: in 2008, a sale of his work **raised** \$198 million. However, he doesn't usually make the works himself – that is done by assistants. As a conceptual artist, he believes it is the artist's original idea that makes something into a work of art. Typical Hirst pieces include a dead shark, which sold in 2004 for \$12 million. However, Hirst **claims** that he "always ignores money".

4. ____ For some people, this is not art at all. There was great controversy when *My Bed*, a work by conceptual artist Tracey Emin, was displayed in one of London's top art galleries. Many visitors were horrified by the unmade bed, complete with dirty sheets and underwear, and one lady even tried to tidy it up! However, the artist had the last laugh – after the exhibition, the bed sold for £200,000.

5. ____ Even graffiti makes money these days. Take the mysterious graffiti artist, "Banksy", whose "street art", with its strong political and social messages, appears on walls and buildings all over the world. No one knows who Banksy actually is, but his work now sells for hundreds of thousands of dollars, and celebrity collectors include Angelina Jolie and Christina Aguilera. However, not everyone is impressed. After all graffiti is against the law!

3. ZNO task: READING

Read the text and **match** choices (A–H) to (1–5). There are three choices you do not need to use.

- It's the creative idea that counts.
- An unknown artist creates works that are in demand.
- Successful work, despite mixed reactions.
- In the past, artists had to suffer from poverty.
- The richest artist of our times.
- The controversy about the value of some works of art.
- Fame after death.
- Not everyone appreciates street art.

4. Look up the words in bold in a dictionary. In your notebook, write example sentences with them.