

DAVID HOCKNEY



CHILDHOOD AND EARLY LIFE

Hockney was the fourth child born to Kenneth and Laura Hockney in Bradford on July 9th, 1937. His father was known as a Conscientious Objector during the Second World War, which means he refused to fight as he didn't believe in violent war.

As a young man, David Hockney attended Wellington Primary School and Bradford Grammar School. He then moved to the Bradford College of Art in 1953 where he was first introduced to painting with oils. After completing his course at the Bradford College of Art, Hockney moved to the Royal College of Art located in London in 1959. It was during his time that David met the renowned American artist R.B Kitaj, who influenced him greatly. The young artist even exhibited his work at this prestigious institution, along with the creations of other artists like Peter Blake. This display of creative work, called 'Young Contemporaries', introduced admirers of art to a new style of painting called British Pop Art.

CAREER

David first shot to fame in 1961 through the work titled 'We Two Boys Together Clinging'. He then relocated to Los Angeles in 1963, owing to his love for America and an undying obsession towards Hollywood. Hockney started teaching at the University of Iowa in 1964, after being invited by the institution to give lessons in art. The artist's love for Los Angeles made him relocate to the city during the year 1966. The swimming pools in the city caught his fancy, and inspired the artist to create pieces of art like 'A Bigger Splash' and 'Portrait of an Artist'.

Moving to the 1980s and 90s, Hockney moved away from painting and decided to create collages using polaroid prints. He was also amongst the first few people to popularise the use of a software called 'Quantel Paintbox' for painting. By 2005, David started to revisit Yorkshire, and created some landscape paintings from areas around Yorkshire such as Garrowby Hill and Sledmere. He now has a home and studio in Bridlington, Yorkshire, but he also spends half his time in his Californian homes.





INSPIRATION AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Much of his work is considered Modern Art or Pop Art. He was inspired particularly by Pablo Picasso and Henry Matisse. Hockney often used oils and acrylics for their vivid colours, but he now likes to use his iPad and digital apps. In a 2011 poll of more than 1,000 British artists, he was voted the most influential British artist of all time. He continues to paint and exhibit, and advocates for funding for the arts. David was awarded the first ever Annual Award of Achievement by the Archives of American Art, in 1993. He was awarded an honorary membership to the American Academy of Arts & Sciences, in the year 1997. An exhibition of Hockney's paintings was organised at The National Portrait Gallery, London in 2006, as a mark of tribute to the artist's contribution to the field of fine art.

FIND OUT MORE...

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NvZbYn_1WUE

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GmrMhOb-fws>

EXAMPLE QUESTIONS

1. Where was Hockney born?
2. Who was he inspired by?
3. What year did David attend the Royal College of Art?
4. What device does he like to use now to create his art?
5. What year did he move to Los Angeles?