

BANKSY'S SEASON'S GREETINGS

by Mailys BRET, Tle LLCE, June 3rd, 2023



This photo features one of anonymous street artist Banksy's graffiti entitled *Season's Greetings*. You can find it in Port Talbot, in Wales. It was created just before Christmas 2018.

This graffiti was painted on a wall. On the left, we can see a big bin which is burning. There is a lot of black smoke. On the other side of the wall, on the right, there is a child dressed with warm clothes with a sledge right next to him. He is trying to catch supposed snowflakes with his tongue.

What does this graffiti mean? Nothing is certain, but the majority of art critics interpret this painting as a denunciation of our lifestyles. In fact, Banksy may be alerting human beings to the consequences of pollution through his painting. We can see that the supposed snowflakes are actually ashes. Banksy painted this on this wall because Port Talbot is unfortunately famous as the most polluted city in the UK. So, the choice of the place isn't insignificant at all. After some research, I discovered that a giant steel plant was polluting the city because of the dust that the factory was emitting. Many citizens are sick because of this. Banksy decided to highlight the danger of pollution. We may understand this graffiti as a warning. Indeed, pollution is everywhere, even in the corner of the street. Finally, this painting is in black and white but two elements are coloured: the fire and the child's tongue. Maybe Banksy wanted to shine a light on the causes and the consequences of pollution. Adults' actions have an impact on human beings and particularly on children. Their future is compromised.

I chose this graffiti because it marked my visit. When I arrived in front of the graffiti, I saw the bin and only the bin. Because the painting is in a corner, I couldn't see the little boy. It's only when I moved that I saw him and understood the meaning of this graffiti. We discover the painting little by little, making such a surprise effect!