

Correction document 1 « Banksy's graffiti »

This document is a photo/photograph of a graffiti made by Banksy on a wall in London in 2011. It shows a sentence painted in big red letters and saying « If graffiti could change anything, it would be illegal ». In the bottom right corner, there is also a rat, standing on its back legs next to a red paw print.

The artist may have chosen the red colour to give a violent tone to his message or maybe to express suffering. Moreover, his graffiti is ironical because graffiti IS illegal and so he probably means something like « As graffiti CAN change things, it IS illegal » He probably aims at denouncing the banning of graffiti, so his message is both ironical and satirical.

We can also wonder why he has drawn a rat. It may represent Banksy himself : first, because the rat seems to be signing the graffiti. Secondly, because we know Banksy has to hide himself to make his graffiti since it is forbidden. So usually he goes out at night just like rats do.

The rat may also represent lower social classes. As he is writing a graffiti (which is forbidden), he may be challenging powerful people from upper classes, the ones who make laws preventing artists from expressing themselves, the ones who are probably afraid of losing their power.