



JEAN-MICHEL BASQUIAT

American Artist
(1960-1988)

Jean-Michel Basquiat was an American artist of Haitian and Puerto Rican descent, born in Brooklyn in 1960. He achieved fame in the 1970s and 1980s. His work began as **graffiti** and moved into **gallery hung paintings** that are some of the most expensive ever sold in America.

His painting style is considered to be a part of **neo-expressionism**. He challenged the way the human figure was shown in art, and often addressed political and social ideas. He believed he could be a great artist, and persisted until he was taken seriously by well-known museums—which he was!

Questions Basquiat's work encourages us to consider:

Does art need to be "pretty" or beautiful all of the time? Why or why not?

What do Basquiat's paintings make you feel or think of?

What do you think Basquiat was trying to say when he painted crowns?
