

# David Hockney

*“The world is very, very, beautiful if you look at it, but most people don’t look very much. They scan the ground in front of them so they can walk, but they don’t really look at things incredibly well with an intensity; I do.”*

— David Hockney



Bradford born British artist David Hockney has explored many different art forms throughout his career including drawing, portraiture, print making, photography, short films, computer illustration, iPad & iPhone drawings, landscapes, and theater design. Hockney has also created art via fax machines, published 93 books relating to art, and received Britain's highest civil honor in the form of the **Order of Merit** for his achieved distinction in the world of art.

Although his work has a breadth and depth that could rival Picasso, Hockney is probably most well-known for his 1960s Pop Art paintings of swimming pools in Los Angeles. [Portrait of an Artist \(Pool with Two Figures\) 1972](#) sold for 90 million dollars in 2018, which now places him as the second most expensive LIVING ARTIST, just behind Jeff Koons, who took the title from Hockney a year later with [Rabbit](#).

*“I have to paint. I’ve always wanted to make pictures from when I was tiny. That’s my job I think, making pictures.”*



Let's take a brief look at the mediums that Hockney has explored over the years.

*“I generally only paint people I know, I’m not a flatterer really.”*

— David Hockney

## Portraiture

Hockney has produced over 300 self-portraits and has painted hundreds of portraits of family, friends, and colleagues. He is also recognized for his huge scale 'double portraits' in which a couple is featured in a domestic location. From 1968 to 1975, Hockney worked on a series of these. The subjects were movers and shakers of the artistic world— i.e., art collectors, curators, fashion designers, playwrights, artists...etc. When asked why he created double portraits, Hockney replied: "Because they're twice as interesting to look at."



## Photography

*“Photography is all right if you don't mind looking at the world from the point of view of a paralysed Cyclops.”*

David Hockney with a Pentax camera.

In the early 1980s, Hockney began to produce [photocollages](#) he called "joiners." He would use varying numbers of photos of a single subject and arrange them to make a composite image. Hockney argued that the conventional photographs lacked 'time and therefore life' and thus were limited in what they could portray. He challenged this with his practice of patchworking photographs together to create an integrated image. These could provide a stronger sense of life and would 'make it more vivid' for the viewer. The years Hockney has spent dedicated to experimenting with photography has also led to the creation of [photographic drawings](#) and [composites of polaroid photos](#).



## iPhone & iPad Art

*“Drawing was going out of style... I'm amazed that it's the telephone that can bring back drawing.”*

Hockney has always been interested in all kinds of drawing technology and started drawing on his iPhone as soon as they were first released in 2010. "I bought Brushes (app) pretty much straight away and started drawing on it. I liked it."

"You're drawing on a sheet of glass really."

"I think it's a terrific medium really. Everything's at your fingertips. There's no cleaning up!"

Hockney draws a pictures of flowers on his phone every day and sends it out to friends: "so they get fresh flowers every morning."

During COVID lockdown, Hockney created artworks on his iPad that capture spring in Normandy where he currently lives. The exhibition: [David Hockney: Arrival of Spring, Normandy](#) comprises 116 works that will be on display at the Royal Academy of Arts in London from March to August next year. This is not the first time the Royal Academy has displayed Hockney's iPad paintings, in 2012 they exhibited earlier digital artworks in [David Hockney: A Bigger Picture](#), which also included his Yorkshire landscapes.

## Landscapes

*“You can't get bored of nature, can you? You have endless subjects in nature and van Gogh knew that.”*

Hockney returned to live in Yorkshire in 1997 to be closer to a dear friend who was battling cancer. While residing there, he created a series of landscapes. "I'm painting landscapes in Yorkshire because you can't photograph them. The camera can't get the beauty of them. It just can't get the space." Many of the landscapes Hockney painted during this time were made from multiple canvases joined together.

His series of Yorkshire landscapes have been compared to the work of van Gogh, whom Hockney has always been inspired by. Both van Gogh and Hockney admit to an adoration of spring when nature bursts with fresh new shapes and color. Their respective love for nature comes through in their paintings.

# Antony Gormley

**Antony Gormley** (British, b.1950) is a sculptor best known for large-scale installations that explore the human body in space. Born in London, Gormley studied at Trinity College, Cambridge, before traveling to India and Sri Lanka for several years. After his travels, Gormley came back to London to study sculpture at Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design and the Slade School of Art. Gormley's early work, titled *Field* (1991), consisted of 35,000 small terracotta figures made by a Texca family of brick makers in Cholula, Mexico. Gormley has made several variations of the work, including *Field of the British Isles* (1993), for which he won the Turner Prize the following year.

He has made metal casts of his own body for several projects, including *Another Place* (1997), which spreads 100 cast-iron figures across a two-mile stretch of Crosby Beach in England. For *Event Horizon*, Gormley set casts of his body, 27 made of fiberglass and four made of iron, on the rooftops of buildings in London (2007) and New York (2010); in 2010, he set 100 cast-iron figures of his body throughout the Austrian Alps. Gormley's work has been exhibited at the Tate Gallery in London, the British Museum, and The Museum of Modern Art in New York. He was made an Officer of the British Empire in 1997, and currently lives and works in London.



## Another Place

These iron casts of Gormley's own body are placed at Crosby Beach in [north-western England](#). There are exactly 100 of them and they all face out towards the horizon. The installation stretches over three kilometres of the shore and as far as one kilometre out to sea. Depending on the tide, the figures are more or less visible. At times water reaches up to their necks. This piece is another example of the artist's dialogue with landscape and time. The figures were cast with their lungs inflated, which make them look tense but relaxed at the same time.



## Angel of the North

Built in 1998, the Angel of the North is a majestic, giant figure of an angel placed in Gateshead, near the A1. Being the longest numbered road in the UK, the A1 connects London with [Edinburgh](#). Dominating the skyline, this 20-metre tall sculpture with a 54-metre wide wingspan is seen by approximately 90,000 drivers each day, plus 150,000 visitors who come to experience being in the presence of the Angel. The 200-tonnes of corten steel is placed in the north-east part of the [UK](#) to celebrate and commemorate the coal mine workers who for 300 years worked in mines underneath the surface of the region in which the sculpture stands.



# Antony Gormley

Here are some facts about Antony Gormley:

- Antony Gormley was born on 30th August 1950 in [London](#), England.
- His mother was German, his father was Irish and he had six siblings.
- He grew up in Dewsbury Moor in West Yorkshire.
- Antony Gormley went to Ampleforth College, a boarding school, and then he went to Trinity College in Cambridge to study archaeology, anthropology and history of art.
- In the early 1970s Antony Gormley travelled to India and Sri Lanka to learn about Buddhism.
- From 1977 to 1979 he went to the Slade School of Fine Art and completed a course in sculpture.
- His first solo exhibition was in 1981 at Whitechapel Art Gallery.
- Most of his sculpture work is based around the form of the human body.
- Many of his sculptures begin with him taking a cast of his own body.
- His work called *Asian Field* featured 180,000 clay figures.
- *Event Horizon* was made up of 31 life-size casts of his body and placed on top of buildings in the South Bank, London, and Madison Square, New York.
- He won the Turner Prize in 1994 for his work *Field for the British Isles*. This work features 35,000 terracotta figures.
- His most famous work is the [Angel of the North](#), a steel sculpture (measuring 20 metres tall), located in Gateshead.
- His other works include: *Exposure* (located in Lelystad, Netherlands), *Habitat* (located in Anchorage, Alaska), *Horizon Field* (located in the Austrian Alps), *Quantum Cloud* (Greenwich, London) and *Planets* (located in the British Library, London).

