

# An Exploration of Artwork by Shepard Fairey

By Paula Briggs

This resource explores aspects of Fairey's work, as shared with teenagers aged 12 and 13.

In particular the resource takes inspiration from Fairey's methods of production and use of imagery to make work which might be defined as propaganda art. [You can see the practical studio session which followed our exploration here](#) and [our resulting outcomes here](#).

***Frank Shepard Fairey** (born February 15, 1970) is an American contemporary street artist, graphic designer, activist, illustrator and founder of [OBEY Clothing](#) who emerged from the skateboarding scene. He first became known for his "[Andre the Giant Has a Posse](#)" (...OBEY...) sticker campaign while attending the [Rhode Island School of Design](#) (RISD).*

#MAKEAMERICASMARTAGAIN



Shephard Fairey

Fairey became widely known during the 2008 U.S. presidential election for his [Barack Obama "Hope" poster](#). The [Institute of](#)

*[Contemporary Art, Boston](#) has described him as one of the best known and most influential street artists.<sup>[4]</sup> [Wikipedia](#)*

## **Videos Sharing Fairey's Creative Practice**

Teenagers were shown the following videos in which Fairey shares aspects of his creative process.

After watching the videos, the group discussed the various stages/actions of Fairey's printmaking process:

- Making a printable surface: collaging papers with history and painting over them
- Creating stencils for use with screen printing or spray paint
- Layering of imagery
- Sanding
- Varnishing

We also discussed his use of symbols or icons and visually strong graphics.

Using the images below as starting points for further discussion, we also briefly talked about:

- What is propaganda art?
- What kinds of visual devices might it rely upon?
- How does Fairey use and limit colour?
- How does he use text within his imagery?



We The People by Shepard Fairey



We The People (detail) by Shepard Fairey



◊ WE THE PEOPLE ◊

DEFEND DIGNITY

We the People by Shepard Fairey

# THE BLACK HILLS



The Black Hills by Shepard Fairey

[See how the teenagers went on to define their own "message to the world" here.](#)

<https://obeygiant.com/>

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This is a sample of a resource created by UK Charity AccessArt. We have over 1500 resources to help develop and inspire your creative thinking, practice and teaching.

AccessArt welcomes artists, educators, teachers and parents both in the UK and overseas.

We believe everyone has the right to be creative and by working together and sharing ideas we can enable everyone to reach their creative potential.

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**Screen Printing with Screen Mesh: Screen Printing Hack**

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# Find Your Message (To The World)

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Pathway: Print & Activism



[This is featured in the 'Print & Activism' pathway](#)

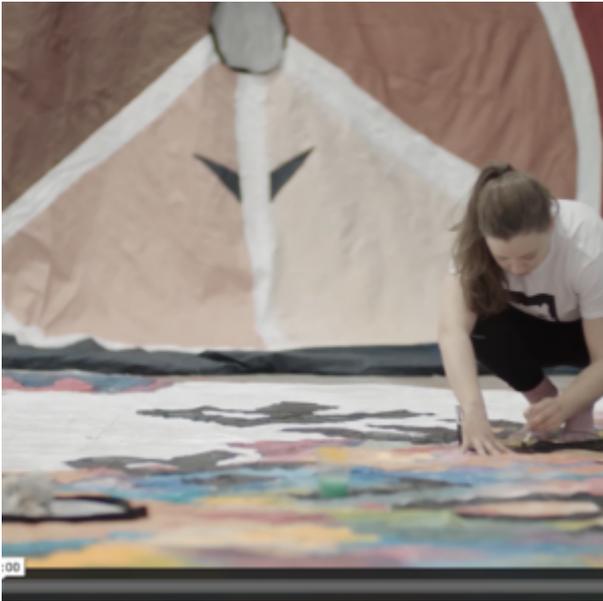
Talking Points: Luba Lukova



**Talking Points: Faith Ringgold**



**Talking Points: Kate DeCiccio**



## Talking Points: Shepard Fairey



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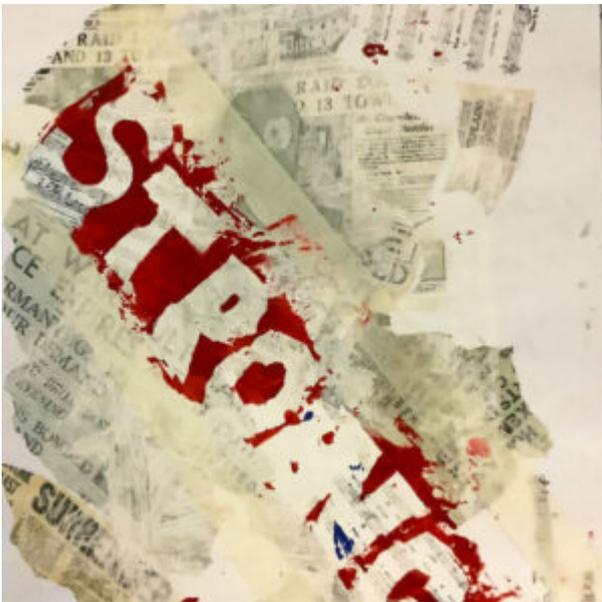
**Shepard Fairey, Propaganda  
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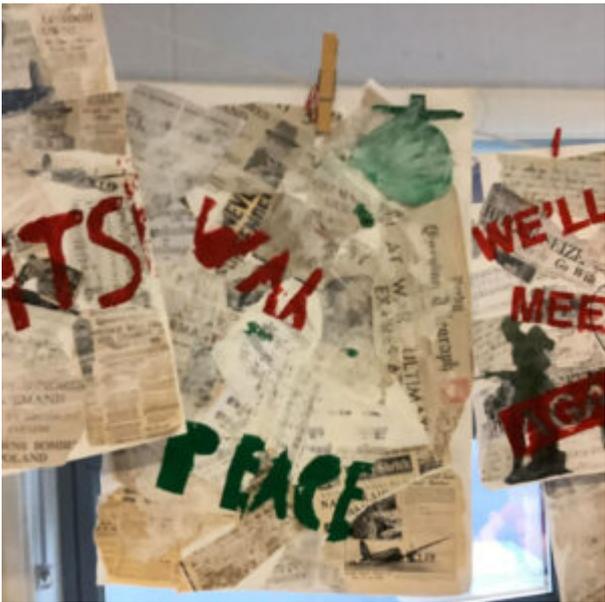
# Teenagers! Collection Page

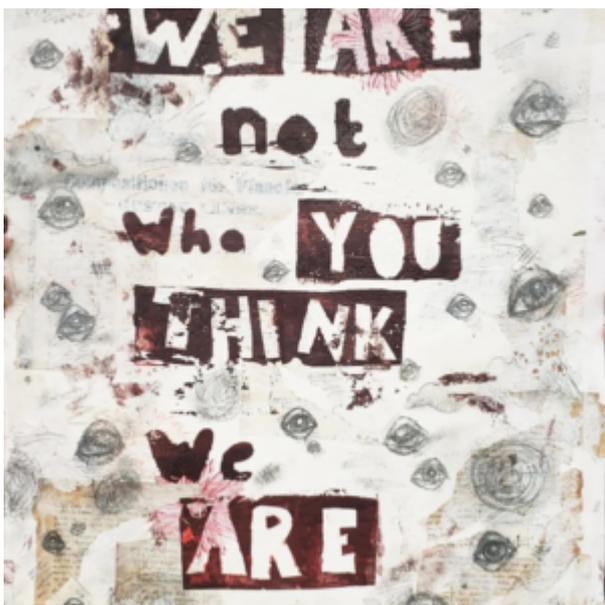
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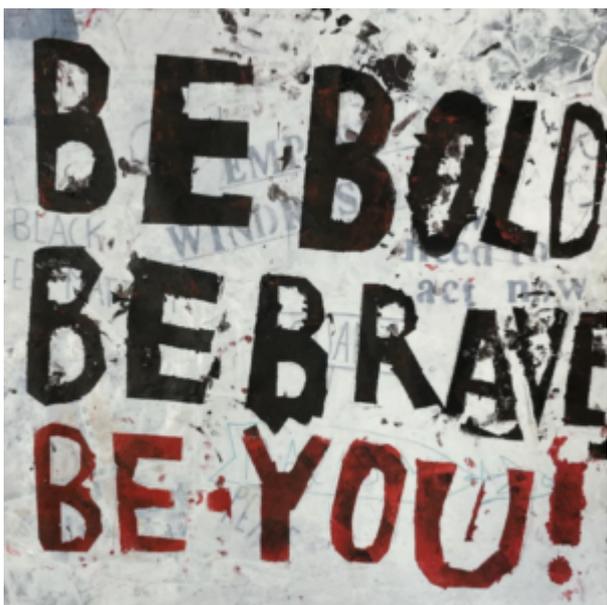
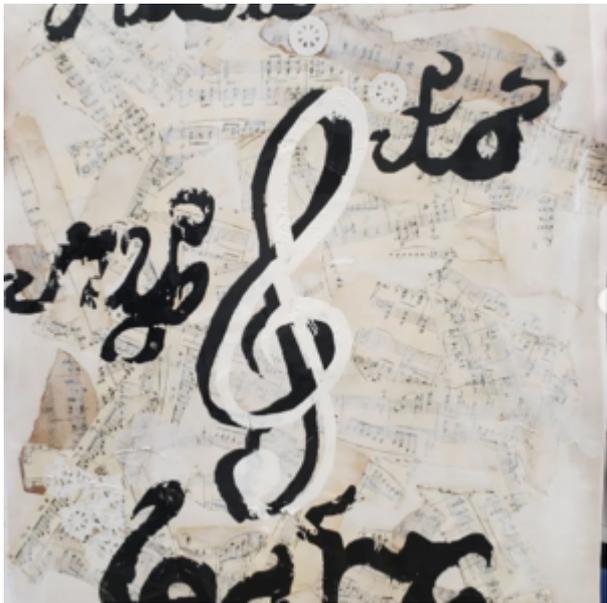
## Teenagers Make Propaganda Art Inspired by Shepard Fairey

See This Resource Used In Schools...

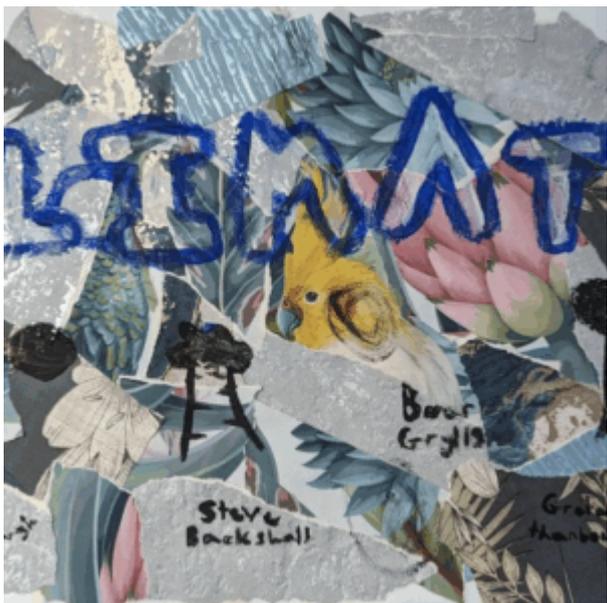
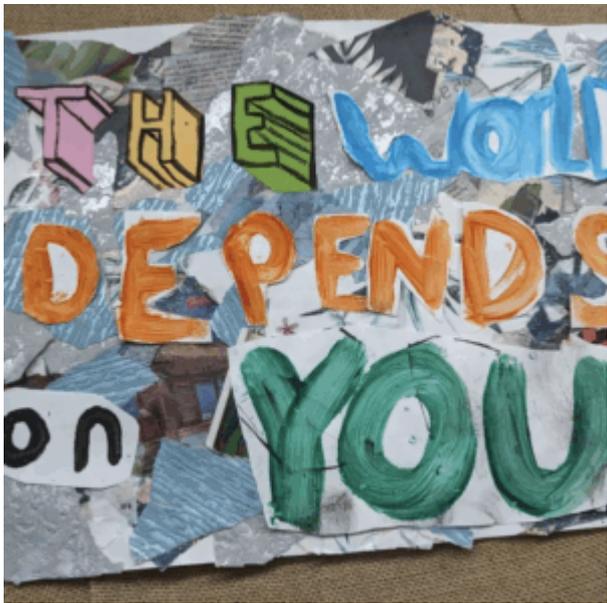
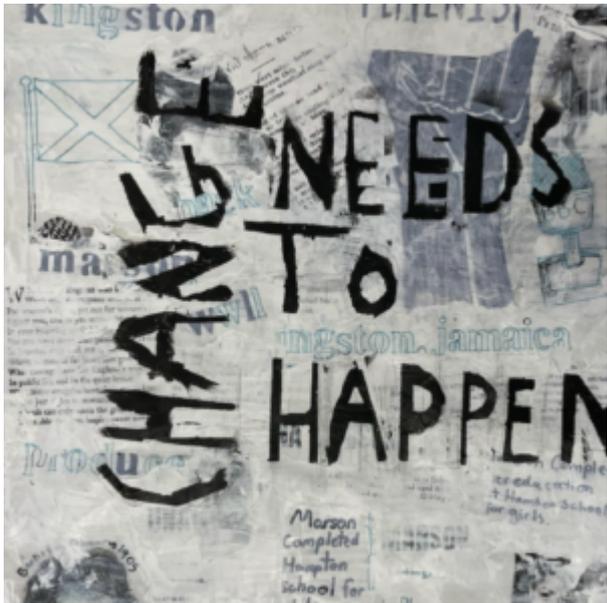














**You May Also Like...**

**Pathway: Print & Activism**



[This is featured in the 'Print & Activism' pathway](#)

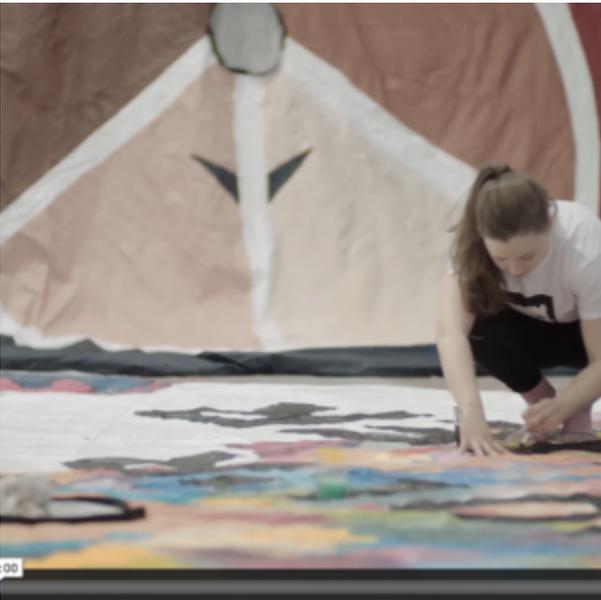
**Talking Points: Luba Lukova**



**Talking Points: Faith Ringgold**



**Talking Points: Kate DeCiccio**



**Talking Points: Shepard Fairey**



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## **Screen Prints Inspired by Shepard Fairey**

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## **#BeACreativeProducer Workshop with Primary-Aged Children**

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## **Dancing Bones**

Inspired by real anatomical drawings of human, ape, cat, lion, horse and dog skeletons, teenagers build 'life size' and 'oversize' collages of 'dancing skeletons' – This workshop was

led by artist Melissa Pierce Murray

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## **Exploring Primary Colours and Progressing from Powder Paint to Gouache and Acrylic**

This resource is based on methods shared, during an AccessArt InSET session, for primary school teachers at New Hall School, Chelmsford, to ultimately enable their pupils to develop colour skills. Teachers explored using their intuition and experience to mix primary colours, creating coloured swatches, that matched the colours of spring flowers, whilst comparing painting mediums. By Sheila Ceccarelli

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## **The AccessArt Village and How a Small Idea can be Big**

Sheila Ceccarelli from AccessArt leads year nine students from Frances Bardsley Academy for Girls on a collective drawing and collage experience exploring the #AccessArtVillage in BRG Brentwood Road Gallery. Students absorb this stunning collection of sewn houses and inspired by thread and stitches, make their own creative responses.

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# **Working with Ink**

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In this one hour session, led by artist Melissa Pierce Murray, students explore techniques and properties of Quink and Black India Inks, and how to build up a drawing using the medium.

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# **Installing Artwork in “To Scale” Gallery**

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# **Composite Still Life Studies in Candlelight**

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# **Sketchbooks Made with Screenprinted Papers**

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# **Animated Walk Cycle**

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# **Using Sketchbooks to Take Ownership of Ideas**

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# **Be Inspired to Inspire**

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# **Landscape Painting: Expressive Mark Making**

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# **Inky Objects with Melissa Pierce Murray**

In this workshop I introduced the idea of thinking of the piece of paper as an object to shape, rather than a picture plane to fill.

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# Landscape Painting: Plein Air Painting