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Jean-Michel Basquiat: The Street Artist Who Became a Star



Jean-Michel Basquiat was a famous artist known for his bold and colorful paintings. His art combined graffiti, words, symbols, and powerful images to tell stories about culture, race, and society. Even though he had a short life, his artwork continues to inspire people around the world.

Basquiat was born on December 22, 1960, in Brooklyn, New York. His father was from Haiti, and his mother was from Puerto Rico. As a

child, he was very creative and loved to draw. His mother often took him to museums, which helped him learn about art from a young age.

When he was seven years old, Basquiat was hit by a car and had to stay in the hospital for a long time. While recovering, his mother gave him a book called Gray's Anatomy, which was full of drawings of the human body. This book inspired him, and later in life, he included skulls, bones, and crowns in his artwork.

As a teenager, Basquiat and his friend began making graffiti art on buildings in New York City. They signed their work with the name SAMO, which stood for "Same Old". Their graffiti messages were short but powerful, often making people think about important issues.

By the 1980s, Basquiat started painting on canvas instead of walls. His art became popular, and he worked with famous artists like Andy Warhol. His paintings mixed symbols, words, and bright colors, often showing African American culture and history. His famous works include "Untitled (Skull)" and "Boy and Dog in a Johnnypump".

Even though Basquiat became rich and famous, he faced many challenges. He struggled with stress and health problems. Sadly, he passed away on August 12, 1988, at the young age of 27.

Today, Basquiat's paintings are displayed in museums around the world. His art continues to inspire young artists, showing them that creativity has no limits. His unique style and powerful messages made him one of the most important artists of his time.