

# DAMIEN HIRST

## KING OF CONTROVERSIAL ART



- Damien Steven Hirst was born on June 7, 1965, in Bristol, England.
- He grew up in Leeds and moved to London to study at Goldsmiths, University of London, where he completed a BA in Arts.

- Hirst gained prominence in the late 1980s and early 1990s as one of the leading figures of the movement.
- His breakthrough came in 1988 when he curated the now-famous exhibition "Freeze," featuring works by his fellow students at Goldsmiths.
- Hirst's art often explores themes of mortality, the fragility of life, and the relationship between art and commerce.

- Hirst is known for using a wide range of materials in his art, including animals, pharmaceuticals, diamonds, and precious metals.
- His work often reflects on the transient nature of life, the allure of consumerism, and the tension between the spiritual and the material.

*"I cannot understand why people believe in medicine and do not believe in art without questioning either" -Damien Hirst-*

- **"The Physical Impossibility of Death in the Mind of Someone Living" (1991):** This iconic work features a tiger shark preserved in formaldehyde challenging traditional notions of art and mortality.
- **"For the Love of God" (2007):** This platinum cast of a human skull covered in became one of the most expensive artworks ever created.
- **"Hirst's Pharmacy" (1992):** An installation that replicates a pharmacy, filled with pharmaceutical products, exploring the theme of life and death.

- Hirst's art has been met with both critical acclaim and controversy. Some critics praise his conceptual approach, while others criticize what they perceive as a commercial and sensationalistic aspect to his work.
- The sale of his works, often at exorbitant prices, has contributed to the perception of Hirst as a commercial force in the art world.

- Damien Hirst remains a prominent and influential figure in contemporary art. His impact on the art scene and his ability to generate controversy around the nature of art and its value continue to be significant.



LIVEWORKSHEETS