

Describe a piece of street art



This piece of street art is a mural by the famous anonymous British graffiti artist called Banksy. It's called "Slave Labour" and was created in May 2012, on the wall of a shop situated in London called Poundland, a shop that sells most items at the single price of £1.

The mural was made with a stencil, and then was spray-painted. It is black and white and represents a little boy kneeling on the pavement, working at a sewing machine. The only colourful element of this installation is the garland of flags he's making, which is an actual real garland that's been added.

The effect produced is the contrast between the little boy (who is working barefoot and wearing torn shorts, so we can ascertain he must be quite poor) and the flags that are made of plastic, and which were probably mass-produced for the Western world.

We can suppose that the goal of this mural is to condemn mass consumption and child labour. Banksy here accuses the Western society (represented by the Union Jack) of enslaving children from poorer countries (probably African or Asian countries) to produce cheap mass-produced items.

I like this piece because it makes me think about the ways of the world. In my point of view, the use of colours is quite effective and I think that - even though Banksy might be considered as provocative, and even criminal (remember, tagging public property is forbidden !) - his pieces in general are really appealing to the public, as they usually combine wit, dark humour, a political message, and sometimes hope - as in the piece "Girl with Balloon". My favourite piece from this stencil artist is the one that reads "If graffiti changed anything, it would be illegal" - to me, it is cheeky and provocative, but witty and brilliant.