# Dan Kitchener’s Tokyo-inspired mural transforms Big Beach Café into a vibrant cultural landmark



Street artist Dan Kitchener has recently unveiled a vibrant mural at the Big Beach Café in Hove, which is renowned for its proximity to the seaside and its unique community spirit. The mural, rich in electric colours and dynamic forms, draws inspiration from the bustling streets of Tokyo, encapsulating Kitchener's adoration for the city he has visited on seven occasions. His work is a modern interpretation of a fluorescent cityscape adorned with the familiar sights of Japan, such as colourful umbrellas, the radiant glow of neon lights, and an iconic Japanese taxi. Kitchener remarked, “In a relatively small space on the side of the café, I wanted to take the viewer into the streets of a night in Tokyo, the energy and bustle, and the beauty and lights and colours.”

The mural adds a permanent artistic feature to the café, which has emerged as a cultural hotspot under its famous owner, DJ Fatboy Slim, whose real name is Norman Cook. Recognised not only for his contributions to music but also for his passion for public art, Cook described Kitchener as a "gifted and internationally established street artist" and highlighted their personal friendship, stating, “I think you will agree it beautifies the place.” This connection between art and community is not new to Cook, who opened the café in 2013 with a vision of creating a space that served high-quality, reasonably priced food while fostering a relaxed and inclusive atmosphere. The café features an appealing menu that includes gourmet burgers and locally sourced dishes, aiming to promote a community-centered dining experience.

The mural's unveiling coincided with a resurgence of public art initiatives in various locales, reflecting a growing appreciation for street art as a legitimate form of cultural expression. Unlike traditional fine art confined to galleries, Kitchener's work invites passersby to engage with creativity in their daily lives. Cook has been a prominent advocate for public art, previously showcasing his commitment through fundraising events, including a significant gathering in 2022 that raised over £1,300 for the Motor Neurone Disease Association. Such community-focused activities highlight the café's role not just as a dining establishment but as a hub for social engagement and artistic collaboration.

Despite its recent artistic advancements, the café is also navigating challenges. In October 2024, it faced scrutiny after receiving a one-star hygiene rating, prompting management to take immediate actions to rectify the issues, which included addressing pest problems. Cook has expressed his deep commitment to maintaining high standards, ensuring the safety and satisfaction of patrons.

The importance of such cultural contributions cannot be overstated. They bring vibrancy to the local area and foster community ties while offering artists like Dan Kitchener a broader audience for their work. Kitchener’s mural stands not only as a testament to his artistic prowess but also as an emblem of Hove's evolving identity, where public art thrives alongside commitment to community and quality. Through this collaborative effort, the Big Beach Café continues to breathe life into the artistic landscape of Hove, celebrating both local and international influences.

### Reference Map

1. [[1]](https://www.theargus.co.uk/news/25179038.mural-painted-outside-fatboy-slims-big-beach-cafe-hove/?ref=rss)
2. [[2]](https://www.theargus.co.uk/news/25179038.mural-painted-outside-fatboy-slims-big-beach-cafe-hove/?ref=rss)
3. [[3]](https://www.theguardian.com/travel/2013/aug/16/fatboy-slim-big-beach-cafe-brighton-hove)
4. [[4]](https://www.theargus.co.uk/news/20286328.fatboy-slim-hosts-fundraiser-motor-neurone-disease-big-beach-cafe-hove/)
5. [[6]](https://themusic.com.au/news/fatboy-slim-beachside-cafe-taking-one-star-hygiene-rating-very-seriously/Fd2rCQgLCg0/25-10-24)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.theargus.co.uk/news/25179038.mural-painted-outside-fatboy-slims-big-beach-cafe-hove/?ref=rss> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.theargus.co.uk/news/25179038.mural-painted-outside-fatboy-slims-big-beach-cafe-hove/?ref=rss> - Street artist Dan Kitchener painted a modern, fluorescent cityscape reminiscent of Tokyo on the Big Beach Cafe in Hove. The mural features iconic Japanese elements like umbrellas, rain, neon lights, and a Japanese taxi. Kitchener, who has visited Japan seven times, aimed to capture the energy and beauty of Tokyo's streets. The mural is a permanent addition to the cafe's exterior. DJ Fatboy Slim, owner of the cafe, praised Kitchener's work and expressed his appreciation for public art.
3. <https://www.theguardian.com/travel/2013/aug/16/fatboy-slim-big-beach-cafe-brighton-hove> - In August 2013, DJ Fatboy Slim, also known as Norman Cook, opened the Big Beach Cafe at Hove Lagoon. The cafe offers a mix of classic and gourmet burgers, ice-cream, and other dishes, using local suppliers. The interior is light and airy, with an open kitchen and stylish curved wooden counter. Cook emphasized the importance of reasonably priced food and a relaxed atmosphere, aiming to provide a community-focused dining experience.
4. <https://www.theargus.co.uk/news/20286328.fatboy-slim-hosts-fundraiser-motor-neurone-disease-big-beach-cafe-hove/> - In 2022, DJ Fatboy Slim hosted a fundraising event at his Big Beach Cafe in Hove to support the local branch of the Motor Neurone Disease (MND) Association. The event featured performances by Choir and Ko, with over £1,330 raised for the charity. Fatboy Slim's children, Nelly and Woody, also participated, with Nelly assisting in selling raffle tickets and Woody entertaining the crowd. The funds raised aimed to support individuals living with MND and their families in East Sussex.
5. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Big_Beach_Boutique_II> - Big Beach Boutique II was a free concert held on 13 July 2002 by DJ Fatboy Slim on Brighton beach, England. The event attracted around 250,000 attendees, significantly surpassing expectations. The concert led to over 170 injuries and six arrests, with two fatalities reported in the hours following the event. The cleanup operation was extensive, costing over £300,000 and involving the collection of 160 tonnes of rubbish. The event became a case study for event management and influenced future large-scale gatherings in the UK.
6. <https://themusic.com.au/news/fatboy-slim-beachside-cafe-taking-one-star-hygiene-rating-very-seriously/Fd2rCQgLCg0/25-10-24> - In October 2024, Fatboy Slim's Big Beach Cafe in Hove received a one-star hygiene rating due to issues like the presence of mice and improper food storage temperatures. The cafe's management took the rating seriously and implemented measures to address the problems, including hiring specialists to resolve the pest issue. The cafe temporarily closed for a day to ensure long-term improvements. Fatboy Slim, who purchased the cafe in 2013, expressed his commitment to maintaining high standards and ensuring the safety of patrons.
7. <https://www.brightonandhovenews.org/2015/02/13/fatboy-slim-warned-about-dead-body-buried-by-his-big-beach-cafe/> - In February 2015, author Peter James informed DJ Fatboy Slim about a fictional plot in his upcoming novel, 'You Are Dead,' involving a dead body buried near the Big Beach Cafe. James shared this with Cook while promoting his book, leading to a humorous exchange where Cook joked about being the prime suspect. The novel was set to be released on May 21, 2015, and featured a storyline connected to the cafe's location.