# Anonymous artist transforms Burnley motorway stanchions into cheerful Minions art



An anonymous artist has garnered widespread acclaim after transforming motorway stanchions into whimsical renditions of Disney's "Minions" under a bridge over the Leeds Liverpool Canal, near Rosegrove, Burnley, Lancashire. This creative endeavour has been hailed by locals, with onlooker Nicola Leverton calling the artist an "absolute legend" after sharing photographs on Facebook. The bright yellow figures, inspired by characters from the popular "Despicable Me" films, have brought smiles to many who have passed by, prompting some to note that the artwork is "better than seeing concrete" and sparking a wave of enthusiastic responses online.

The identity of the artist remains a mystery, and inquiries have been made with Lancashire County Council and Highways England to determine if they have any insight into the artwork. While many residents have celebrated this unexpected splash of creativity, some officials have previously taken action against similar artistic expressions. For example, in Luton, an initiative by the group #Uninvitedarts that involved painting bollards to resemble Minions was met with controversy when the local council painted over the works. They have since expressed a desire to work collaboratively with artists to foster a legitimate avenue for artistic expression within the community.

Despite the municipal response in Luton, the Burnley artwork has been viewed in a different light. Many have praised it as a welcome departure from the monotony of urban infrastructure. With a growing trend of unofficial street art capturing public imagination, the response to the stanchion paintings indicates a community longing for colour and creativity amidst the concrete sprawl. The installation has reignited discussions about the role of art in public spaces and whether such spontaneous creations should be embraced as a part of local culture.

Interestingly, in a neighbouring town, the artistic landscape is evolving as well. A 20-foot mural honouring local radio DJ Jordan North has recently been unveiled on the side of a pub, showcasing the potential for public art to enhance community identity. However, the fate of temporary artworks remains uncertain, as seen with past incidents where murals and other street artworks, designed to uplift, have been removed. This presents a tension between the desire for vibrant public spaces and regulatory frameworks that govern artistic expression.

The contrasting reactions to street art across different towns illustrate the complexities surrounding public art initiatives. A farmer from Angus, for instance, has taken to adorning straw bales with painted Disney characters, embracing a more playful approach to rural life. Her creations, intended to resonate with the local community, draw visitors and celebrate artistic flair in a more traditional setting.

As Burnley enjoys the unexpected joy brought by the minion-themed stanchions, the discourse on public art continues to evolve, reflecting diverse community opinions on what constitutes acceptable and valuable artistic expression within shared spaces. This latest artistic intervention not only fuels local pride but also highlights the ongoing conversation about the relationship between art, identity, and urban life.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cn4gjygg91vo), [[2]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cn4gjygg91vo)
* Paragraph 2 – [[3]](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-beds-bucks-herts-41203759), [[4]](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-beds-bucks-herts-41240014)
* Paragraph 3 – [[5]](https://www.lancashiretelegraph.co.uk/news/8882769.could-graffiti-in-burnley-be-a-banksy/), [[6]](https://www.lancashiretelegraph.co.uk/news/24238290.20ft-mural-jordan-north-painted-burnley-pub/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[7]](https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/angus-mearns/2529683/angus-farmer-brings-colour-to-harvest-season-with-cartoon-straw-bale-creations/)

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cn4gjygg91vo> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cn4gjygg91vo> - An unknown artist painted motorway stanchions under a bridge over the Leeds Liverpool Canal near Rosegrove, Burnley, to resemble Minions from the 'Despicable Me' films. The artwork received widespread praise from locals, with one observer describing the artist as an 'absolute legend'. The identity of the artist remains a mystery, and the BBC has approached Lancashire County Council and Highways England for comment.
3. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-beds-bucks-herts-41203759> - In Luton, bollards were painted to look like Minions from the 'Despicable Me' films by the group #Uninvitedarts. The artwork was described as 'brilliant' on social media. However, Luton Borough Council painted over the bollards, urging people not to engage in 'illegal graffiti'. The council expressed a desire to collaborate with artists to display Luton's vibrant art scene appropriately.
4. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-beds-bucks-herts-41240014> - After Luton Borough Council painted over Minion-themed bollards, the artwork reappeared overnight in Cumberland Street, Luton. The anonymous group #Uninvitedarts claimed responsibility, expressing criticism over the town's cultural offerings and the council's actions. The council urged the group to engage in dialogue to encourage appropriate street art expressions in the town.
5. <https://www.lancashiretelegraph.co.uk/news/8882769.could-graffiti-in-burnley-be-a-banksy/> - A piece of graffiti depicting a masked rat chipping away at a hole with a hammer and chisel was discovered on a telephone exchange box in Accrington Road, Burnley. Local resident Nick Hartshorne-Evans speculated it could be the work of the elusive artist Banksy. Experts were divided on its authenticity, and Banksy's spokeswoman declined to confirm or deny his involvement.
6. <https://www.lancashiretelegraph.co.uk/news/24238290.20ft-mural-jordan-north-painted-burnley-pub/> - A 20-foot mural of Burnley radio DJ Jordan North was painted on the side of the General Williams Inn on Manchester Road to celebrate his first day hosting the Capital Breakfast show. Three artists from Global Street Art spent 70 hours creating the mural using emulsion and spray paint. The pub group announced the mural would remain for three weeks before being painted over.
7. <https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/angus-mearns/2529683/angus-farmer-brings-colour-to-harvest-season-with-cartoon-straw-bale-creations/> - Fleur Baxter, an Angus farmer, decorated straw bales with classic Disney characters, including Mickey Mouse and Goofy, to brighten her fields during the harvest season. This annual tradition, started in 2014, aims to bring joy to passers-by. The painted bales have attracted numerous visitors and have been praised for their creativity and community spirit.