

Jeff Koons “Puppy”

By: Sally Ruan

Who is Jeff Koons

Jeff Koons is one of America's most popular contemporary artists. He is known for his oversized objects and sculptures like Balloon Dog and Puppy. Jeff Koons often exhibited everyday objects like vacuums. Jeff Koons has received many awards and honors for his cultural achievements.



About Puppy

Puppy was created by Jeff Koons in 1992 and was built in 1995 at Sydney Museum as Project 10 for celebrating 25 years of Kaldor of Public Art Projects. It is currently located at the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao in Spain. Puppy is covered in living plants/flowers and is more than 40 feet tall. The structure is composed of steel and wood skeleton that supports 17,000 flowering plants. The shape changes based on the growth of the flowers.



Jeff Koons designed the Puppy sculpture to create optimism, and to instill, in his own words, “confidence and security”.

Iconography

Puppy is a iconography of flowers and puppies. It was created as a symbol of love and happiness. Puppy is made out of flowers to spread optimism, confidence, and security with the vibrancy and the happiness it brings. Jeff Koons combined the most loving visual image and symbol (flowers and puppy) to draw emotions from his viewers. Puppy changes colors each season to keep up with the changes.



Iconography

A terrier was chosen because Jeff Koons believed it would be non-threatening regardless of the big size. In an article it was stated that, “Its size—seemingly out-of-control (it is both literally and figuratively still growing) but carefully constructed and tightly contained—can be read as an analogue of contemporary culture.” Puppy is a topiary sculpture that can still grow. Similar to a real dog, Puppy eats and grows from sunlight and water. “Jeff Koons has combined references like topiary and dog breeding with those of the masses Chia Pets to create this.” Using this creative way to create this sculpture, Jeff Koons has created his own unique art iconography.

Audience Reactions

“That’s so cool, it even has a face mask.”

“I wish I can see it in person, it looks like it smells nice.”

“A puppy made out of flowers? How does even that work.”

“Thats cute, I love flowers and puppies.”

“Thats cool, never seen a giant puppy in covered in flowers”

“It colorful and reminds me of summer and I love the summer”



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