

# David Hockney

By Anna Johnston

# Who is David Hockney?

David Hockney is an artist and a photographer that painted a variety of pictures throughout his lifetime, from swimming pools to forest paths. He was born in Bradford, England on July 9, 1937. Hockney graduated from the Royal College of art. He is now 78 years old, and yet is still painting to this day. Hockney is best known for his famous “Swimming Pool Collection”, where he moved to L.A. and, obviously, painted many swimming pools. He is considered the most influential artist of the 20th century to come out of Britain.



# Type of Art

David Hockney is known for his photo collages and paintings of Los Angeles swimming pools. His painting style was mainly Realism, a type of art that expresses scenes and items as realistically as possible. He has been called a “pop artist” or “contemporary artist”, which is a type of art that reflects relevant topics in today’s society, but Hockney says that he rejects those titles, as they aren’t designed to be that way.



# Most Expensive Works

David Hockney's most expensive artwork was an early portrait of actor Nick Wilder, which sold for a whopping \$2,869,500. It was sold at a Christopher Burge auction, which made a total of £42.1 million.



# What did he use?

When David Hockney was younger, he used acrylic paints to make his artwork. He has also painted separate canvases and put them together to make a large picture, used in his collection, *A Bigger Picture*. Hockney, however, has all but forgotten his photography. Now, with advancing technology, he has used home made prints, fax machines, laser printers, and photocopiers for his photos. He takes portraits, still lifes, candid, and makes many collages, for which he is also famous for.



# Why I Chose This Artist

I chose David Hockney as my artist because I really enjoyed looking at his paintings and found them very relaxing, especially his nature paintings. I thought it was interesting that he is still alive and wanted to know if he was still painting today (which he is). Out of all the artists on the list, I admired his work the most because of his choice on color, which was different, but not unrealistic.



# Famous Painting I Chose

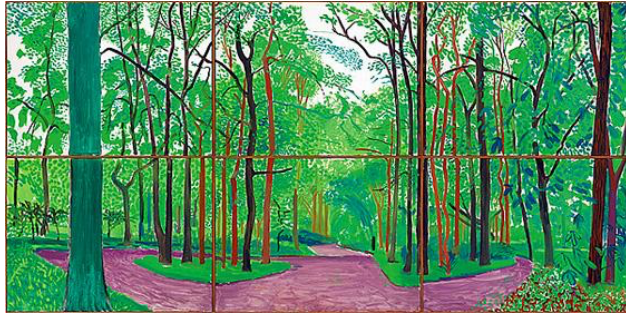
I based my project design off of the painting “Path Through a Wheat Field”. It portrays a path in a field on a sunny day. My ceiling tile shares this setting, as it is also in a field. I also used many of his wildlife paintings as a reference to the color choices. “Woldgate Woods” and “Woldgate Woods, III” have trees that are not brown, but red, blue, green, and yellow, based off of the amount of lighting. I chose to make the trees orange because it is a close color to brown and the trees are located in a sunny field with plenty of lighting.



Path Through Wheat Field



Fallen Logs on Woldgate



Woldgate Woods



Woldgate Woods III



# Most Important Aspects

The most important aspects of my painting are perspective and keeping the balance of space. In most of David Hockney's nature paintings, there is a horizon point that leads from a path in the woods. Instead of making a traditional path, I chose to do a creek to give my painting a different image but with similar viewpoint. I also tried to balance space in my tile so to not make it too busy or too plain.



# Elements of Art I Used

I think that the most important elements of my project were the color and line. As stated earlier, I made my trees orange because in Hockney's paintings, he uses different colors to represent amounts of light. My tile displayed an open field with plenty of sunlight, hence the orange tree trunks and vibrant green vegetation. Hockney's style does not include much intricacy in shadowing and design, except for the trees on which there are subtle lines. Everything else is usually a solid color, and I designed my painting to look this way.



# Purpose of my Painting

The purpose of my painting was to display an ecosystem with various wildlife, plants, and a creek. I wanted to show the calmness and richness of nature that I found in Hockney's paintings. The creatures I put in my painting include deer, foxes, birds, fish, and butterflies. I tried to keep Hockney's elements while giving them a science element, since it would be placed in a science classroom.





“Art has to move you and design does not, unless it’s a good design for a bus.” - David Hockney