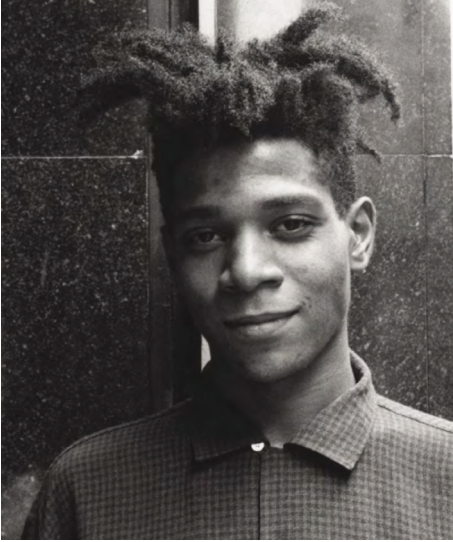


JEAN- MICHEL BASQUIAT: KING PLEASURE[©]

Family
Guide



Cabeza, 1982

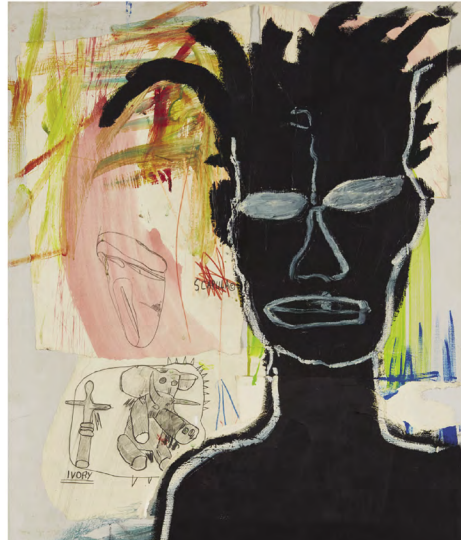


Jean-Michel outside Akira Ikeda Gallery, Tokyo, Japan, November 9, 1985.

Photo: Yoshitaka Uchida, © Ikeda Gallery, Japan

Who is Jean-Michel Basquiat?

Born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, Jean-Michel Basquiat was the son of a Haitian-born father and a Brooklyn-born mother of Puerto Rican descent. As a child, he loved to draw and look at art. He grew up to become one of the world's most famous artists.



Untitled, 1984

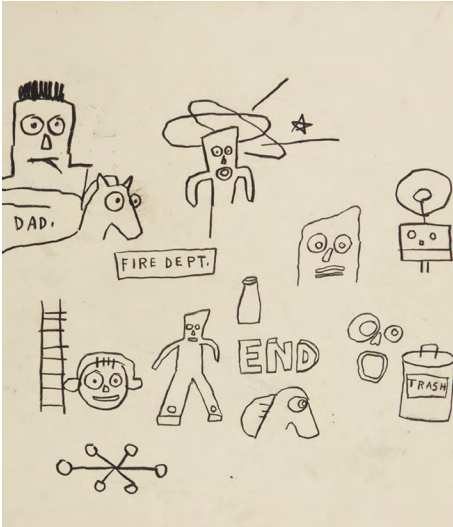
In the first gallery, find:

- A self-portrait is a painting of the artist, made by the artist.
- Look closely at this self-portrait by Jean-Michel Basquiat.
- Now look at this photo of Jean-Michel Basquiat. How are the photo and the painting similar? How are they different?

Look around this gallery. What clues can you find about Jean-Michel Basquiat? Draw or write three things you find.

In the next gallery, find:

These drawings show some of Jean-Michel Basquiat's favorite things when he was a child.



Untitled (Gumby), n.d.

Jean-Michel Basquiat loved watching cartoons, and he liked to draw with the TV on to get ideas.

- What do you notice about the different characters in this drawing? What story do you imagine is happening?
- This drawing is of one of Basquiat's favorite childhood cartoons, *Gumby*.
Who is your favorite cartoon character?



Untitled, n.d.

This is a drawing of a person and their cart.

- Look closely at the cart.
- What do you notice about it?
- What do you notice about the person?

This person is selling piraguas from his cart on the street. A piragua is shaved ice, shaped like a cone and covered with fruit-flavored syrup. You can find piraguas in Puerto Rico, where Jean-Michel Basquiat lived for two years as a teenager, and in NYC where he grew up.

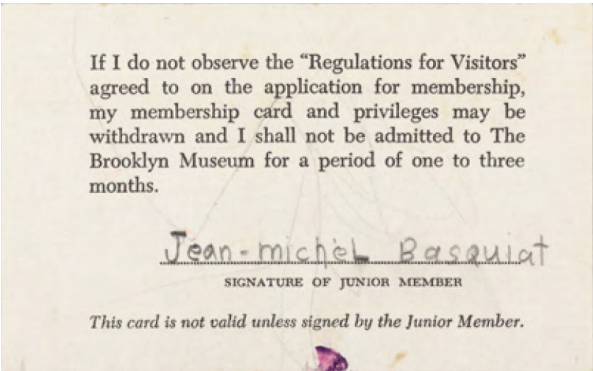
- Jean-Michel Basquiat loved to eat piraguas on hot summer days.
What is your favorite summer treat?

In the next gallery, find:



*Brooklyn Museum
Junior Membership card*

Jean-Michel Basquiat's mother loved to take him to museums where they looked at art together. Basquiat said, "...my mother gave me all the primary things. The art came from her."



Walk through the room that looks just like Jean-Michel's childhood home.

In the next gallery, find:



Untitled, 1983–84

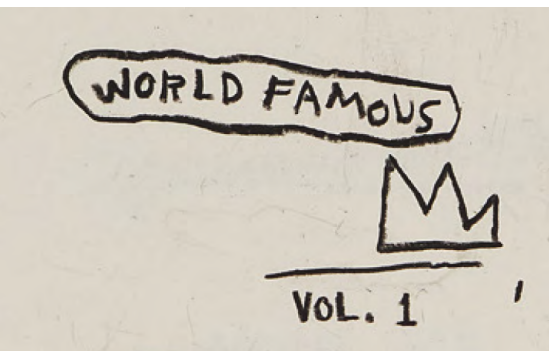
- What's the first thing you notice about this painting?

Jean-Michel Basquiat started this artwork by drawing on paper, photocopying his drawings, and creating a collage of the pieces by arranging and gluing them onto the canvas. Then he painted and drew on top of the collage with oil sticks and acrylic paint.

- What drawings do you see repeated?
- What do you notice about this head? How would you describe the colors and lines that he used to create it?
- Notice where he covered the collage with paint. Where do you see the collage peeking through the paint?

Jean-Michel Basquiat's Favorite Things

As you walk through the rest of the exhibition, look for the things that Basquiat included in his artwork over and over. When you find them, draw what you see on the back of this page.



Untitled (World Famous Vol. 1 Thesis), n.d.

▲ Writing

Jean-Michel Basquiat loved to read, and he liked to play with words. He purposely used incorrect spellings and crossed-out and repeated words and phrases. He said, "I cross out words so you will see them more; the fact that they are obscured makes you want to read them more."

The Human Body ►

When Jean-Michel Basquiat was 7-years old, he was in an accident. While he was recovering, his mother gave him a copy of *Gray's Anatomy*, a medical textbook with images of the human body. *Gray's Anatomy* inspired Basquiat's drawings of people, which often show both the inside and outside of bodies.



Untitled (Cowboy and Indian), 1982

▲ Crowns

For Jean-Michel Basquiat, crowns represented many things, such as power, strength, and respect.

According to his sister Jeanine, he used crowns in his paintings to honor the kings and queens that made up his personal world history, including Black musicians and athletes.



Untitled, n.d.



Untitled, 1985

▲ Cars, trucks and airplanes

As a child, Jean-Michel Basquiat traveled to Puerto Rico, where his family was from. When he grew up, he traveled all over the world. Some of his favorite places were Abidjan, the capital of Côte d'Ivoire in Africa, and Maui in Hawaii.



Untitled, 1985

▲ Music

What do you hear? You are listening to one of Jean-Michel Basquiat's favorite songs.

Music was very important to him. He loved many different styles of music, from the jazz records his father played in his childhood home, to hip-hop, reggae, rock, ska, punk, and disco. Jean-Michel Basquiat listened to music while he painted and often included images of musicians, instruments, and song lyrics in his work.

**We hope you had fun looking at the art of Jean-Michel Basquiat!
What was your favorite part of the exhibition?**

**JEAN-
MICHEL
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KING
PLEASURE®**



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Written by Nicola Giardina, Residency Program Director,
with support from Julie Applebaum, Senior Director,
Studio in a School NYC
Alison Scott-Williams, President, Studio in a School NYC