

# Keith Haring

Studio Art



# Art for the People

“I was on the subway when I saw my first empty black panels. I knew I had to draw on them so I ran up to buy chalk. I started drawing and felt incredible.”

- Keith Haring





During the 1980s, the New York subways were covered with graffiti. No one seemed able to control it.



# Basquiat



New drawings appeared week after week. If anyone saw Haring working on something he would hand them a button with one of his symbols on it.





His symbols were simple and universal. Everyone could understand them. Some symbols he created were; babies, dogs barking, hearts, halos, dancing figures,...etc. They could be read in a number of ways. They can be seen as sincere, or as an ironic comment on modern society. They can be cruel and tragic as well as playful or tragic.

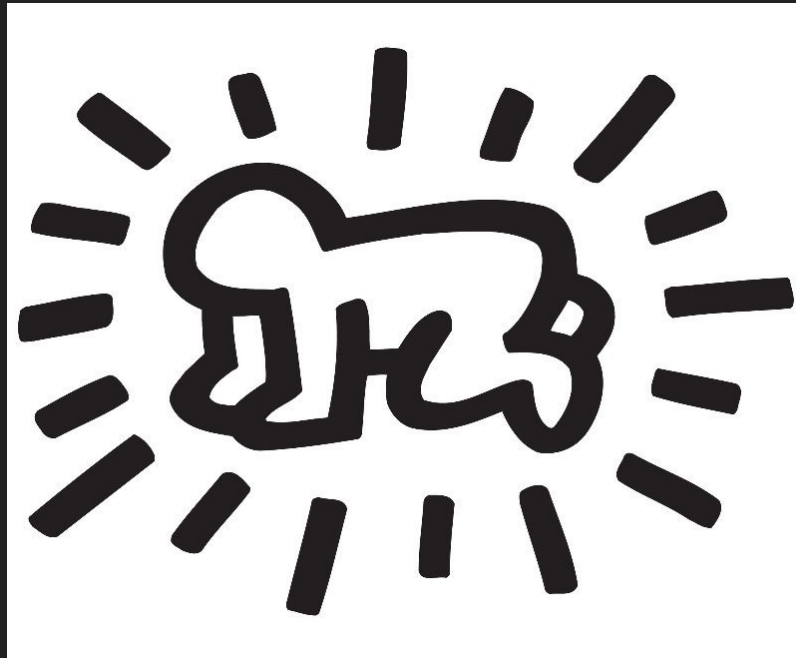
# His Own Language

These symbols became a language used to express many different things. Each object stands for a quality or an idea.

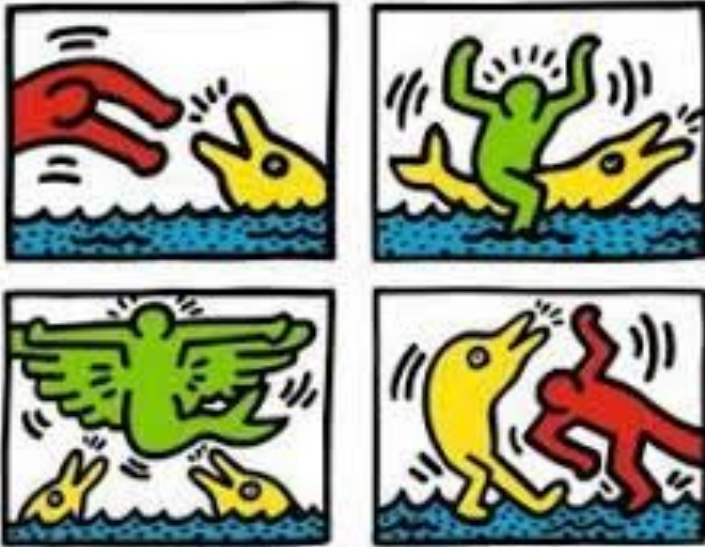


Lines radiating from figures mean the figure has been empowered.

The “radiant” baby, a symbol of threatened childhood, has the power to protect itself.



Dolphins are a symbol of peace and love; pyramids mean eternity.



Holes in the figures symbolize their souls.



Three eyes in a smiling face symbolize stand for greed and joy.



Computers, robots and tvs symbolize technology.



“I knew there had to be a whole other reason for making art besides looking for success in the art world.”-Keith Haring



# Art for Social Cause

Keith Haring's artwork deals with universal themes such as love, war, birth and death. He used these ideas in his artwork to discuss social causes such as anti-war, anti-drugs, anti-smoking, and literacy.

One of his most famous murals was painted on an abandoned handball court next to a New York highway. He quickly became aware of the crack epidemic when one of his assistants became addicted.



