

## A Surge of Power, Marc Quinn (2020)

I have chosen this statue, named 'A surge of power' because it is very recent and current in the world's eye. It is a beautifully made resin sculpture of a BLM protester named Jen Reid that stood atop this plinth in Bristol where once stood the statue of known slave trader Edward Colston. Colston's statue was torn down during a BLM or Black lives matter protest that took place on the streets of Bristol, England on 7th June 2020. This statue was erected on the 15th July on Colston's old plinth, however it was removed before 24 hours had even passed. There has been split opinion on the efficacy of the statue, which was questioned due to the artist Marc Quinn's history and his ability to jump on any bandwagon that is current in order to piggyback the trends and fame, most notably a questionable sculpture of Kate Moss in a yoga pose.

I however, choose to look at it for what it represents on a base level. I think the statue captures the spirit of the BLM movement that inspired it, tremendously. The photograph that Marc Quinn undoubtedly used for his inspiration, depicts Jen Reid amongst the rabble of the protest with her hand thrust into the air in such a way that she shows no signs of relenting. It is a symbol of not being scared to stand up and be counted, when the time is right.



## Art Attack/Boy at Ramallah, Banksy (2005)

This piece, often referred to as Graffiti was 'put up', a term often used by these artists, in August of 2005 to show his sympathies to people of Palestine. The wall itself has been the height of controversy in the West Bank of Israel since its erection in June 2002, which the Palestinians refer to as a barrier of segregation and apartheid. Israel remain confident that it is an effective terrorism deterrent. Banksy has tried to highlight the innocence of the people of Palestine here, by showing that there are blue skies beyond the wall. The small child that appears to have been working on the destruction of the wall through force or by painting a hole. It is one of four paintings along the wall that are meant to show that the wall is nothing more than the worlds largest open air prison. When viewing these pieces I recognise the importance of the art and the meaning behind it, but wether or not its Banksy's place to impose this art upon the wall is another story. This of course is difficult to answer, as their identity has yet to be revealed, therefor we do not know why they decided to get involved and why they side with the Palestinians point of view. I personally am a fan of Banksy and would even tend to agree with his take on this particular conflict. I think these works of art as well as so many others of theirs, is a fun and inoffensive, yet hard hitting message, that shows the insanity of the world we live in and the justifications we give for abhorrent acts like caging in an entire country.

