

# David Hockney (1937 - )

British painter, draughtsman, printmaker, photographer, and designer. After a brilliant prize-winning career as a student at the Royal College of Art, Hockney had achieved international success by the time he was in his mid-20s, and has since consolidated his position as by far the best-known British artist of his generation. His phenomenal success has been based not only on the flair, wit, and versatility of his work, but also on his colourful personality, which has made him a recognizable figure even to people not particularly interested in art: a film about him entitled *A Bigger Splash* (1974) enjoyed considerable popularity in the commercial cinema.

He has spent much of his time in the USA, and the Californian swimming pool has been one of his favourite themes (*A Bigger Splash*, 1967). Hockney is a brilliant draughtsman and has been as outstanding as a graphic artist as a painter.

In the 1980s he experimented much with photography, producing, for example, photographic collages and -- since 1986 -- prints created on photocopiers. Hockney is a perceptive commentator on art and in 1976 published a book on his own work, *David Hockney by David Hockney*.



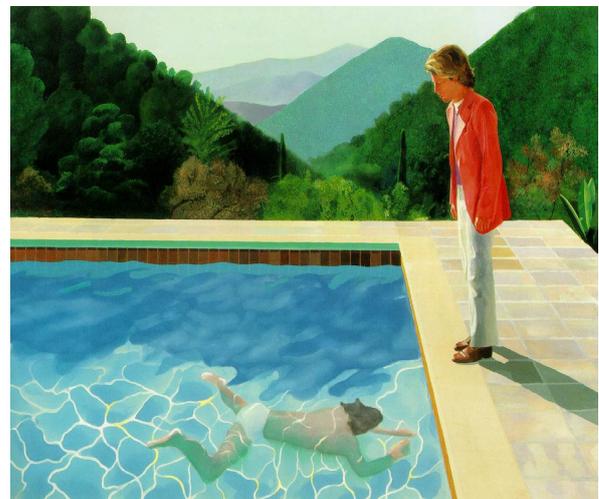
Mr and Mrs Clark and Percy  
1970, Acrylic on Canvas (304x213cm)

His early paintings, often almost jokey in mood, gained him a reputation of leading [Pop artist](#), although he himself rejected the label.

In the late 1960s he turned to a weightier, more traditionally representational manner, in which he has painted some striking portraits (*Mr and Mrs Clark and Percy*, Tate, London, 1970-01).



A Bigger Splash  
1967, Acrylic on canvas, (242x243cm)



Portrait of an Artist (Pool with Two Figures)  
1971 Acrylic on canvas, 214 x 304cm



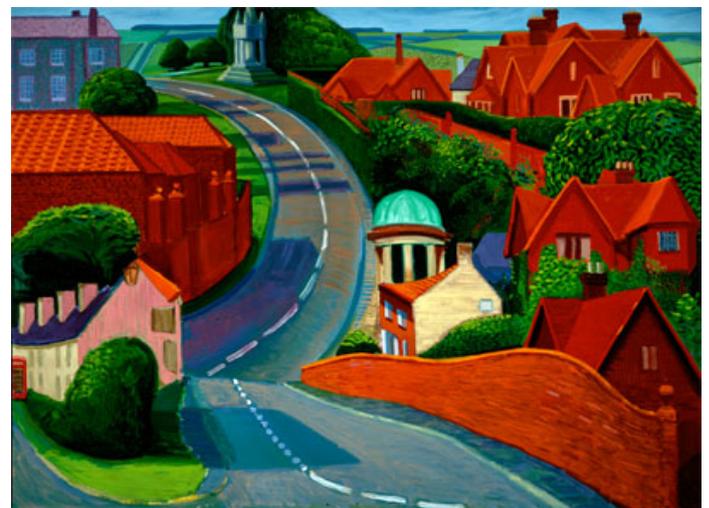
*My Parents, 1977.*  
Acrylic on Canvas.

Hockney's portraits, self-portraits, still life paintings, and quiet scenes of friends are characterized by economy of technique, preoccupation with light, bright colours, and a frank, mundane realism derived from Pop Art and photography.

Picasso was one of Hockney's role models in his demonstration of creative freedom and original thinking. "Style is something you can use, and you can be like a magpie, just taking what you want. The idea of the rigid style seemed to me then something you needn't concern yourself with, it would trap you."



David Hockney. *Portrait of the Artist's Mother, 1977.* Acrylic on Canvas.



*The Road to York through Sledmere, 1997* oil on canvas, 48x60 in