



*Defensive Orange / Offensive orange* by Jean-Michel Basquiat

More on Basquiat (please click):

<https://www.artsy.net/article/artsy-editorial-artist-jean-michel-basquiat>



**Jean-Michel Basquiat**

1960-1988

Jean-Michel Basquiat is an African-American artist from the 1980s best known for expressive paintings with personal iconography rooted in graffiti and Abstract Expressionism. As Wikipedia describes, his work dwells on “dichotomies such as wealth versus poverty, integration versus segregation, and inner versus outer experience.” He also tackled police brutality and racism in his paintings, which make it seem as relevant today as it was in 1982.

Even as Basquiat’s career flourished and he socialized with other famous artists yet at the height of his career, he struggled to even hail a cab.

Questions:

- Describe the similarities and differences of the two figures.
- How does Basquiat’s use of color and paint style add to the image’s tension?
- What is above the figure’s head on the left and what do you think it means in the painting?