



Defensive Orange | Offensive orange by Jean-Michel Basquiat

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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. Basquait's work dwells on dichotomies such as wealth versus poverty, integration versus segregation, and inner versus outer experiences. Basquiat tackled police brutality and racism in his paintings in 1982, which seems as relevant today with the Black Lives matter movement.

Even as Basquiat became a renown artists who socialized with other famous artists, he struggled to even hail a cab.

Questions:

- Describe the similarities and differences of the two figures in Basquiat's painting (left).
- How does Basquit'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?