



ART

Mr Brightside

By Liat Clark



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We always suspected Killers front man Brandon Flowers looked to *GQ* for his style advice and cultural education, but it was not until 2008 that our suspicions were confirmed. After spotting Paul Normansell's pop art portrait of Kate Moss in the magazine Flowers enlisted the painter to give the same stylistic treatment to the Killers' third album, *Day & Age*.

The finished product won Normansell *Rolling Stone's* best album cover award in 2008 and hoards of new commissions in the process. His distinctive style of high-gloss mosaic images on aluminium has attracted commissions for pieces on Jimi Hendrix and Michael Jackson, but his series on Kate Moss remains the most recognisable. This week, fans have the opportunity to own a piece of his now infamous archive when 150 limited-edition prints from his Killers collection go on sale today - including individual portraits of the band as well as the album artwork. To celebrate, we spoke to the British artist about his next obsession, being likened to Mark Ronson and why he finds Kate Moss so endlessly appealing (as if we had to ask)...

GQ: How was it working with the Killers?

PN: My work has always been based on or inspired by music, so being approached by the Killers was the ideal opportunity for me.

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perform live recently and he was fantastic. I especially like the song "Welcome To Fabulous Las Vegas".

Why is Kate's image still so powerful?

There's something about Kate Moss that I'm instinctively drawn to. Kate's unique and individual styling and attitude makes her a very versatile character - she can look so different from image to image. Kate is seen as being at the cutting edge of fashion, so it's no surprise she is such an appealing muse. It's hard to put my finger on exactly what makes me so fascinated with Kate, but that just adds to why I think she's such a great person to paint.

How has your process changed?

My method began back at university when I created abstract patterns using dots. I then wanted to create imagery within the abstract pieces, which eventually led to me focusing on creating portraits made up of dots. Then someone called me the "new London Lichtenstein", so I started to perfect my unique technique. My way of working is literally back-breaking though, because I have to paint bending over all the time. My osteopath is now billing me weekly.

What are you working on next?

It would be easy for me to say that I'd love to work with one of my favourite bands such as Radiohead, Kings of Leon, Daft Punk or Sigur Ros, but I think it's important that my art reflects their music and style. One particular band approached me recently, which would be an interesting project, but I don't want to say who in case I jinx it. They were very complimentary of my work and even described me as "the Mark Ronson of the art world".

Who do you think could be your next muse?

I've started to create a series of Agyness Deyn portraits, so I think she has become my new obsession. Agyness has such an edgy look. She's really fun to paint.

Prints range from £495 - £2995 and are available at thekillersart.com

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