



# BBC WORLD SERVICE LEARNING ENGLISH

Art: Damien Hirst  
艺术：英国当代艺术家赫斯特

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### Recession, What Recession? 衰退，什么衰退？

Read the text below and do the activity that follows.

阅读下面的短文，然后完成练习：

While many of the headlines this week have been about the **turmoil** in the financial markets, one British artist has been **bucking the trend** by turning a **healthy profit**.

In fact, Damien Hirst, a **conceptual artist** best-known for **pickling** sharks in **formaldehyde**, has broken records by taking an astonishing £111m (1,355m yuan) during a two-day auction of his work in London this week.

In total 223 of his creations were **up for grabs** in the groundbreaking sale at British auction house Sotheby's. Normally artists sell their work via galleries, but by **cutting out the middleman**, Hirst will happily pocket the difference.

Art expert Charles Dupplin said, "It's another **landmark** and an astounding day for the art market in a year that has seen many long-standing records demolished, despite the **gloomy world economy**."

Hirst's work has received mixed reactions from the press in the past but it has consistently sold for high prices. Last year his **diamond-encrusted skull** was valued at £50m (612m yuan), making it the costliest single work of art ever.

The most expensive item at this year's auction was The Golden Calf: a real calf in a tank of formaldehyde with **18-carat hooves**, horns and a gold disc on its head, which sold for £9.2m (112m yuan).

But while art collectors from around the world have been **scrambling** to pick up an original Damien Hirst piece in London this week, not everyone is so enamoured with his work.

A spokesperson for the Stuckist movement, which favours **figurative** over conceptual art, said, "It's obvious the art world has gone **stark raving bonkers**."

Indeed, people frequently **question the boundaries** of what is and what isn't art. In a world where modern art has become increasingly conceptual, perhaps the most useful definition we can turn to is that of the late American artist Andy Warhol, who said, "Art is what you can get away with."

However you define art, Hirst should be **laughing all the way to the bank**.

## Glossary 词汇表

<b>turmoil</b> – 骚动， 混乱	<b>bucking the trend</b> – 反市场潮流
<b>turning a healthy profit</b> – 数目可观的盈利	<b>conceptual artist</b> – 概念派艺术家
<b>pickling</b> – 浸泡（在...里）	<b>formaldehyde</b> - 甲醛
<b>auction</b> – 拍卖	<b>up for grabs</b> – 出售； 可得的
<b>cutting out the middleman</b> – 避开中间商， 直接交易	<b>pocket the difference</b> – 赚差价
<b>gloomy world economy</b> – 低迷不振的世界经济	<b>diamond-encrusted skull</b> – 镶嵌满钻石的骷髅
<b>18-carat hooves</b> – 18k黄金牛蹄	<b>scrambling</b> – 抢着
<b>enamoured</b> – 喜爱， 沉迷于	<b>figurative (art)</b> - 具象（艺术）
<b>stark raving bonkers</b> – 完全疯了	<b>question the boundaries</b> – 对两事务间的界限提出疑问
<b>"art is what you can get away with"</b> – 只要有认同者你的作品就是艺术	<b>laughing all the way to the bank</b> – 轻轻松松赚大钱

### 1. Reading Quiz 阅读测验

Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.  
以下句子哪句是真？哪句是假？请圈出正确答案。

1. The global financial markets performed well this week. True / False
2. Selling art through an auction house is the way artists normally sell their work. True / False
3. Damien Hirst will make more money by using an auction house than by selling through a gallery. True / False
4. The Stuckist movement thinks the art world has gone mad. True / False
5. Andy Warhol has a very wide definition of what art can be. True / False

## 2. Choose the phrase 选词组天空

Fill in the gaps in the sentences using phrases from the table below.

从下列词表中选词组天空。

bucking the trend	turning a healthy profit
up for grabs	cutting out the middleman
pocketing the difference	stark raving bonkers

1. I bought a TV from one person for £50 and sold it to another for £70, that's what I call \_\_\_\_\_!
2. If you sell a product you make directly to your customers, you can make money by \_\_\_\_\_.
3. My friend is not normal, in fact he's \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Stock traders make money by \_\_\_\_\_ between the price they buy and sell shares for.
5. Most house prices in the UK are falling, but some areas are \_\_\_\_\_ and increasing in value.
6. When David Beckham was injured and couldn't play football, there was a place in the English team \_\_\_\_\_.

### **3. Jumbled Sentences** 打乱词序的句子

**Rearrange the words in the sentences below to make correct sentences.**

请将下列句子中的单词重新排列，组成一个正确的句子。

1. Financial has been turmoil, markets have been strong but in the art market.

2. he Damien doesn't make conceptual artist, Hirst is a figurative art.

3. Damien Hirst was able to cut out the house by auction selling through an middleman.

4. pickling Damien in animals formaldehyde involve Many of Hirst's works.

5. One art person who has gone figurative said the art world prefers "stark raving bonkers".

6. Sotheby's during the two-day at Hirst raised a total auction of £111m Damien.

#### 4. Wordsearch 单词搜索

Try to find the words associated with Damien Hirst's art in the puzzle below.

There are ten words to find. Words can be written horizontally (g), vertically (i) or diagonally (m)

请在下面的字谜游戏中，找出与赫斯特的艺术有关的英语单词来。

共有10个单词，其组成方式可能以水平的 (g) 垂直的 (i) 或对角的 (m) 形式出现。

a	l	l	e	m	a	n	g	s	e	i	f
j	h	a	p	p	e	y	l	k	i	p	o
r	a	i	n	y	w	e	a	u	t	i	r
t	h	a	n	d	t	o	p	l	k	c	m
x	o	t	u	r	m	o	i	l	b	k	a
g	o	i	r	a	f	a	t	h	e	l	l
m	v	o	s	t	w	o	r	n	d	i	d
e	e	r	f	u	l	a	n	k	l	n	e
t	s	c	r	a	m	b	l	i	n	g	h
c	o	n	c	e	p	t	u	a	l	t	y
t	a	u	c	t	i	o	n	e	e	r	d
w	o	f	i	g	u	r	a	t	i	v	e

turmoil	formaldehyde	auction	landmark
scrambling	conceptual	figurative	
pickling	skull	hooves	

## Answers 答案

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- The Stuckist movement thinks the art world has gone mad. **True**
- Andy Warhol has a very wide definition of what art can be. **True**

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Rearrange the words in the sentences below to make correct sentences.

请将下列句子中的单词重新排列, 组成一个正确的句子。

- Financial markets have been in turmoil, but the art market has been strong.
- Damien Hirst is a conceptual artist, he doesn't make figurative art.
- Damien Hirst was able to cut out the middleman by selling through an auction house.
- Many of Damien Hirst's works involve pickling animals in formaldehyde.
- One person who prefers figurative art said the art world has gone "stark raving bonkers".
- Damien Hirst raised a total of £111m during the two-day auction at Sotheby's.

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	l						s			f	
		a					k		p	o	
			n				u		i	r	
	h			d			l		c	m	
	o	t	u	r	m	o	i	l		k	a
	o				a				l	l	
	v						r			i	d
	e						k		n	e	
	s	c	r	a	m	b	l	i	n	g	h
c	o	n	c	e	p	t	u	a	l		y
	a	u	c	t	i	o	n				d
		f	i	g	u	r	a	t	i	v	e