Murals of 'inspirational' black women appear across London

FIONA SIMPSON Sunday 27 August 2017 08:36 11 comments

Like Click to follow The Evening Standard

Dreph: You Are Enough

Inspiring murals: Dreph has painted images of black women across London

ES News Email
Enter your email address
or register with your social account
Already have an account? Log in

A former north London secondary school teacher has painted amazing images of "inspirational" black women across the capital in a bid to highlight the importance of female empowerment.

Dreph, whose real name is Neequaye Dsane, has adorned parts of east and south London with paintings of nine "ordinary women who do extraordinary things".

The murals, all part of a project entitled You Are Enough, began popping up in January just weeks after the 43-year-old returned from his native Ghana.

ADVERTISING

He told the Standard that his trip reminded him of the importance of his heritage and highlighted the "inspirational" women in his life including his partner, friends and the mother of his nine-year-old son.

Inspirational woman: A image of Mimi, Dreph's partner's friend, in east London (Dreph)

Dreph said: "The subjects are friends or family, an homage to extraordinary black women impacting lives in the community.

"The series celebrates black women and each portrait is a depiction of the subjects' resolve, humanity, loyalty, Intelligence, beauty, and strength.

"I am utilising street art and social media to acknowledge and shine a light on the inspiring women in my life, who are not given the visibility they deserve."

The first image in the series appeared in Star Yard, off Brick Lane in east London and was later replaced by the sixth image in the project.

Mentor: An image of Myvanwy Evans who works as a youth mentor (Dreph)

Fashion and furniture designer Nana Yaa Sakyibea, known as Mary, was Dreph's muse for the first image.

He said of his subject: "She wants people to feel at home in her clothes and thrives on seeing people's self-esteem shoot from 10 to 100, based on what they are wearing."

Psychotherapist: Layla Hasseln is a psychotherapist specialising in supporting survivors of sexual abuse (Dreph)

The artist describes another subject Holly, a survivor of domestic violence, as "warm spirited" with "wisdom more than her 24 years" and hails Tracy, the mother of his son, for her work with girls who have suffered sexual abuse.

Dreph, who quit a career in teaching last year to "follow his dream", worked in education across the capital for 20 years.

Final image: Dreph painted friend Shaney in Shoreditch to complete his project (Dreph)

He added that all of the women in the series have "made a difference" - a message he attempted to pass on to secondary school art pupils.

The painter said: "When I was teaching I would ask them, "what do you want to be?" and it really struck me when the answer was "famous".

"We live in a culture where people are famous for being famous not for doing something, not for changing anything."

Dreph's tenth mural was completed on Sunday and will depict friend Shaney who he met while travelling in Morocco.

The artist said: "Having spent the majority of her career as a Legal Secretary in a Magic Circle Law firm, although comfortable she was not content.

READ MORE
- Bridging the gap between street art and luxury property in Dalston
- Brick Lane street art fair triples in size as value of work skyrockets
- Dalston street art takes aim at Theresa May over fox hunting pledge

"She felt as though she was going through the motions and says that 'at some point we all have to work out what makes us happy'. So she followed her instincts, ignored the naysayers and after months of meticulous planning and rigorous saving, she finally quit her job to travel the world.

"I admire her outlook and courage for walking away from many of life's luxuries and breaking societal norms."

Shaney's painting can be seen in Hanbury Street, Shoreditch.

More about: Street Art

MOST POPULAR
Meghan Markle's wedding dress revealed
FA Cup Final LIVE | Chelsea vs Man United
Meghan Markle marries Prince Harry in a beautiful Givenchy gown
Harry and Meghan drive off for intimate reception in classic Jaguar
Yanny vs Laurel: What do you hear? The mysterious audio clip is dividing the internet

PROMOTED STORIES
Incredibly Brilliant Way To Check If You Had PPI
Claim Edward
Unbelievably Adorable Pictures Of The Royal Couple
Grazia
My Wife and I Tried HelloFresh: Here's What Happened
Liberty Pre-Filled Pods
There Are 7 Types of English Surnames — Which One Is Yours?
Ancestry
Banks Don't Want You To Know About This Brilliant PPI Check
Money Tips Today
Sponsored Links by Taboola
ADVERTISEMENT
New Tucson GoI Edition. Packed with extras & great offers
Promoted By Hyundai

POPULAR VIDEOS
Pellegrini is in Hebei China Fortune paving way for West Ham move
Harry and Meghan drive off for intimate reception in classic Jaguar
Watch Meghan Markle's best reactions throughout the royal wedding

SPONSORED FEATURES
Help stop money laundering: act on your suspicions
Why Caroline, Or Change is a must-see musical
Affordable luxury, elegant shopping and back-to-nature adventure: discover it all on Florida's Paradise Coast
Set sail around beautiful Croatia