

When Football Becomes Art



1) Discussion

- a) Who are the most iconic players from your country?
 - b) Does your city have any paintings of footballers on buildings or walls?
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2) Vocabulary

a) Match the vocabulary to the definition.

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| 1) Mural (noun) | a) Continuing indefinitely or consistently without interruption, referring to something that persists or recurs continuously or regularly without an end. |
| 2) To Manifest (verb) | b) To show or display something clearly or to make something evident or visible, often in a way that is noticeable. |
| 3) Mesmerising (adjective) | c) A large artwork or painting created directly on a wall or surface, often intended to convey a specific message or represent a particular theme. |
| 4) To depict (verb) | d) Having the ability to withstand the test of time or persist for a long duration, indicating something lasting or remaining significant over an extended period. |
| 5) Enduring (adjective) | e) To represent or exemplify a particular quality, idea, or characteristic, often by possessing or demonstrating that attribute. |
| 6) To Embody (verb) | f) To represent or illustrate something through a visual or artistic medium, such as painting, drawing, or description, often in a detailed or vivid manner. |
| 7) Perpetual (adjective) | g) Captivating or fascinating in a way that holds one's attention or creates a feeling of enchantment or fascination. |



b) Complete the sentences with the vocabulary (1-7) from exercise 2a.

- 1) The _____ dedicated to the legendary footballer stands tall as a tribute to his remarkable career and impact on the sport.
- 2) The team's determination and passion _____ in their remarkable comeback during the match, showcasing their true spirit.
- 3) The artist skillfully captured the essence of the match in a _____ mural that adorns the stadium walls, depicting every crucial moment with vivid detail.
- 4) His _____ love for the game and unparalleled skill on the field make him a true icon of football, admired by fans across generations.
- 5) The team's _____ legacy in the league is a testament to their consistency and excellence over several decades.
- 6) The mural artist aimed to _____ the sheer excitement and thrill of a last-minute winning goal, ensuring the artwork resonated with passionate football fans.
- 7) In the world of football, the coach sought to _____ the values of teamwork and sportsmanship, making them integral to the team's ethos.



3) Quick Read - Read the article quickly and answer the question.

- a) What role do football murals play in immortalising the legacies of iconic players and fostering community connections worldwide?
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When Football Becomes Art

Football transcends the boundaries of the pitch, manifesting its passion and glory on walls across the world through vibrant and emotive murals that immortalise the sport's icons. From the bustling streets of Liverpool to the sun-soaked alleys of Sao Paulo, these artworks stand as tributes to the legends who have etched their names into football's history books.

Francesco Totti in Vicolo Savelli, Rome:

In the heart of Rome, the iconic Vicolo Savelli hosts a mesmerising mural dedicated to AS Roma's legendary captain, Francesco Totti. Painted by Roman street artist Harry Greb, this mural vividly captures Totti's passionate spirit and unwavering loyalty to his beloved club. With vibrant colours and intricate details, the artwork pays homage to Totti's illustrious career, embodying his connection to the city and its footballing culture.

Trent Alexander-Arnold in Liverpool:

Adorning the streets of Liverpool, a larger-than-life mural celebrating Trent Alexander-Arnold showcases the local hero in all his glory. Created by local artists and commissioned by LFC TV, the mural depicts the Liverpool right-back in action, delivering one of his trademark pinpoint crosses. Positioned amidst the city's fervent football atmosphere, the artwork encapsulates the admiration for the local lad turned Anfield star.

Lev Yashin in Kaliningrad, Russia:

In Kaliningrad, a striking mural pays homage to the legendary Soviet goalkeeper, Lev Yashin. The mural, a colossal depiction of Yashin in his iconic black kit, stands tall as a tribute to the only goalkeeper to win the Ballon d'Or. Created as part of the FIFA World Cup 2018 legacy project, this artwork celebrates Yashin's exceptional skill and enduring legacy in Russian football.



Gabriel Jesus in São Paulo:

São Paulo, a city steeped in footballing heritage, boasts an impressive mural dedicated to the prodigious talent of Gabriel Jesus. Painted on the walls of Jardim Peri, Jesus' hometown, the mural captures the joyous spirit and exuberance of the Brazilian striker. With colourful brush strokes, it honours Jesus' journey from the streets of Jardim Peri to becoming a revered figure in the global football landscape.

Arthur Wharton in Darlington:

Nestled in Darlington, a poignant mural immortalises the pioneering spirit of Arthur Wharton, the world's first black professional footballer. Adorning the wall of the Darlington Railway Museum, the mural pays homage to Wharton's legacy, highlighting his groundbreaking achievements and contributions to the sport, serving as an enduring symbol of diversity and inclusion in football's history.

Diego Maradona in Napoli:

Naples, a city enraptured by the magic of Diego Maradona, boasts an awe-inspiring mural that reveres the Argentine legend. Adorning the streets, the mural captures Maradona's iconic image lifting the UEFA Cup triumphantly, embodying the joy and adulation he brought to SSC Napoli during his illustrious tenure. The artwork stands as a shrine, honouring Maradona's immortal legacy in the hearts of Napoli's passionate football fans.

These football murals transcend mere paintings on walls; they encapsulate the emotions, stories, and reverence associated with the beautiful game, becoming integral parts of their respective communities and serving as perpetual reminders of football's ability to inspire and unite.



4) Discussion - Discuss these questions with a partner.

- 1) If you could have a mural of any player in your city, who would it be?
- 2) Which of the murals mentioned in the article would you like to visit in person?
- 3) How do football murals contribute to the cultural heritage and identity of the communities around them?

